

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

6 JAN 23 2006

SENATE
P S R. No. 018

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE 88 IRAQ-BOUND
OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS STRANDED IN DUBAI

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 18, declares that "the State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare;"

WHEREAS, the Philippine government is continuing to impose a ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq since July 2004, and the policy will remain in force until it is ensured that the safety and well being of Filipinos will not be compromised if they traveled in Iraq;

WHEREAS, it was reported in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* and *Philippine Star* last 13 December 2005 that 88 Filipinos were stranded in the Dubai International Airport in the United Arab Emirates after air traffic controllers barred their chartered plane from touching down at the Baghdad International Airport in Iraq because of the deployment ban;

WHEREAS, in his report to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Consul Vicente Vivencio T. Bandillo of the Philippine Consulate General in Dubai noted that one of the Filipinos were recruited in the Philippines to work in Iraq by Tierra Mar Services, Inc. in Paco, Manila;


WHEREAS, the report also mentioned that a local recruitment industry leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity, claims to have received information that 119 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) entered Iraq onboard a chartered plane from Dubai a few weeks ago;

WHEREAS, the presence of our OFWs in Iraq, despite the government's deployment ban, manifests grave inconsistencies and inefficiencies in the enforcement and implementation of our foreign policies;

WHEREAS, in order to protect our countrymen, stringent and immediate steps should be taken to prevent these incidents from happening; there should be an investigation on how OFWs gain access to Iraq-bound chartered flights, and how such operations elude government supervision;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, that the proper Senate committee shall conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the 88 Iraq-bound OFWs stranded in Dubai.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/ptmt