

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 428

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Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

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**A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TO INVESTIGATE THE PLIGHT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PROPOSING LEGISLATION OR AN APPROPRIATE BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES FOR THE PROTECTION OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS**

**WHEREAS**, more than 300,000 Filipinos currently serve as Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates;

**WHEREAS**, OFWs endure the loneliness of being away from their families, as well as the difficulties of adjusting to a new culture, thereby exposing themselves to the risks and hazards of working in a different nation, in order to provide financial support to their loved ones in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, based on the Semi-Annual Report to Congress of the Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates for the period January to June 2005 (the "Report"), 414 Filipinos in Dubai and 500 Filipinos in Abu Dhabi are in distress and are sheltered at the Filipino Workers Resource Centre and other similar institutions;

**WHEREAS**, an alarming ninety-nine percent (99%) of these Filipinos in distress in the United Arab Emirates are women;

**WHEREAS**, as the party list group Migrante reported last year, at least sixty (60) Filipina domestic workers were maltreated by their employers in Dubai, including a Filipina hospital receptionist, who suffered cuts and stitches on her head when her employer hit her, and who lost her job as a result, while her abusive employer escaped with a mere fine;

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the Filipino workers in distress, 239 OFWs are languishing in detention centers, are under house arrest or are with pending cases in courts in Dubai and Abu Dhabi;

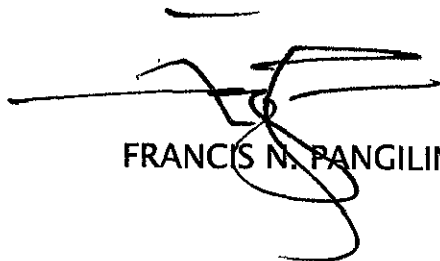
**WHEREAS**, despite the growing number of OFWs in the United Arab Emirates, there is no existing or proposed bilateral labor or related agreement between the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates for the protection of OFWs;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Government cannot turn a blind eye on this miserable plight of the OFWs, the country's modern day heroes, who contribute greatly to the country's economy through their annual billion dollar remittances;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Government cannot wait for another Sarah Balabagan case to happen before it finally acts to protect OFWs who are in extremely vulnerable situations in the United Arab Emirates;

**RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that the Committee on Foreign Relations is urged to investigate the plight of Overseas Filipino Workers in the United Arab Emirates, with the objective of proposing legislation or an appropriate bilateral agreement between the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates for the protection of OFWs.

**ADOPTED,**

  
FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN