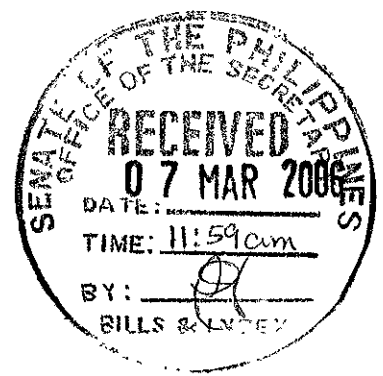


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS }
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
Second Regular Session }



SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 466

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN, AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RELEASE FROM DETENTION OF ALLEGED CHILD TRAFFICKER AND PEDOPHILE HARTMUT JOOST WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING STRONGER LEGAL MEASURES TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS INVOLVING ALLEGED OFFENDERS OF CHILD PROTECTION LAWS

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being," thereby mandating the government to give immediate attention to issues that may hamper the well-being and development of our youth;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a signatory to various international instruments for the protection and promotion of children's rights, specifically the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and is hence compelled by the precepts of international law to exert all measures to comply with its obligations under the said instruments;

WHEREAS, while the Philippines is considered as one of the most child-friendly nations for having crafted legislation that addresses the vital needs of the youth, rampant violations of children's rights continue to persist, foremost among which is the proliferation of pernicious activities such as child trafficking and child pornography;

WHEREAS, it is most unfortunate that violators of children's rights are able to go scot-free by reason of poor implementation of the law, particularly by circumventing the provisions of existing laws which render the various law enforcement agencies of the government unable to take or maintain custody over suspected offenders;

WHEREAS, a case in point is that of *Harmut Joost*, an alleged child trafficker and pedophile who had been detained at the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation but was subsequently released by the said agency amid reports that his release was allegedly obtained due to "negotiations" with certain officials of the agency


and the alleged failure of the National Bureau of Investigation to provide the necessary reports to ensure his prosecution;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to look into the reported release of Mr. Joost and other suspected offenders for the protection of our children who may be in peril because of the continued stay of undesirable aliens who manage to circumvent the law;

WHEREAS, trafficking of children and child pornography are matters of immediate and primordial concern that must be curbed, if not totally eliminated;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the release from detention of alleged child trafficker and pedophile Hartmut Joost with the end in view of formulating stronger legal measures to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents involving alleged offenders of child protection laws.

Adopted.


M.A. MADRIGAL