


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

7 AUG 16 2011

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 76

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED RAPE OF FILIPINA
OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKERS SUCH AS "MELISSA," TO PREVENT SUCH CASES
IN THE FUTURE

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 11, states that "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

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

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 3(1), further states that "The State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8042, otherwise known as the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipino Workers Act of 1995, Section 2(a), provides that "the State shall, at all times, uphold the dignity of its citizens whether in country or overseas, in general, and Filipino migrant workers, in particular";

WHEREAS, RA No. 8042, Section 2(e), further provides that "it is imperative that an effective mechanism be instituted to ensure that the rights and interest of distressed overseas Filipinos, in general, and Filipino migrant workers, in particular, documented or undocumented, are adequately protected and safeguarded";

WHEREAS, in the past, there appears to have been many cases of sexual abuse committed against overseas Filipina domestic helpers by their employers or members of their employers' family;

WHEREAS, it has recently been reported that an overseas Filipina domestic helper in Saudi Arabia known as "Melissa" had allegedly been raped by her employer's son;

WHEREAS, to cause "Melissa" greater personal dishonor and humiliation, a video was reportedly taken of the deplorable act;

WHEREAS, the perpetration of such sexual abuse, not only against "Melissa" but also against all other female overseas Filipino workers, should not be allowed to continue;

WHEREAS, it appears that vulnerable overseas domestic helpers like "Melissa" receive inadequate protection from our consulates abroad when they are raped;

WHEREAS, procedural measures must be taken to ensure the safety and honor of all present and future overseas Filipina workers;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the case of "Melissa," and other Filipinas similarly situated, in order that the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Labor and Employment could jointly establish mechanisms in Philippine consulates abroad for receiving rape complaints, assisting Filipina victims, and ensuring that sexual abuse will not be tolerated in the foreign countries where they serve.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/rgs