

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

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SENATE
Resolution No. 515

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION
ON THE PLANS AND RESOURCES OF CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
FOR THE REPATRIATION OF OFWS IN LEBANON**

WHEREAS, the Philippines has about two million Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) all over the world and whenever situations that endanger the life and limb of our countrymen present themselves, the government is always hard-put to effect contingency plans;

WHEREAS, there is an estimated 34,000 OFWs in Lebanon whose lives are under threat due to the war;

WHEREAS, protection and assistance by Philippine government agencies, particularly the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) are mandated under RA 8042, the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995; and the OWWA, in coordination with appropriate international agencies, is tasked to undertake the repatriation of worker in cases of war, epidemic, disasters or calamities, natural or man-made, and other similar events;

WHEREAS, the Senate is interested to know the exact status of our countrymen in Lebanon and whether there are open communication lines between concerned agencies here in the Philippines and in Lebanon;

WHEREAS, its is necessary to coordinate with the international community and tap international organizations to help our countrymen in Lebanon;

WHEREAS, the International Organization of Migration has evacuating overseas workers and foreigners in Lebanon and to date nineteen governments including the Philippines have asked them for help;

WHEREAS, this representation has already called upon the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the relevant National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to lend every possible assistance to our OFWs in Lebanon;

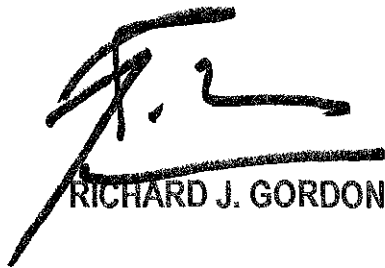
WHEREAS, this representation recommends that ships may be a more cost-effective means of evacuating our countrymen to safer territories such as Cyprus, Turkey or Greece

before flying them via commercial flights to the Philippines, instead of chartering flights to bring them directly to the country.

WHEREAS, the Senate seeks to be informed of the action plan of the concerned government agencies regarding the plans and availability of resources to repatriate Filipinos currently in Lebanon;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to call for an inquiry in aid of legislation on the plans and resources of concerned government agencies for the repatriation of OFWs in Lebanon.

Adopted,



RICHARD J. GORDON