

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
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SENATE  
P.S. Res. 389

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**Introduced by Senator Villar**

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**RESOLUTION**

**RECOMMENDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) THE IMMEDIATE DOCUMENTATION, VALIDATION, PERFORM THE NECESSARY DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION AND REPATRIATION OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) WHO ARE DETAINED AND STRANDED IN KUWAIT, JORDAN AND THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA INCLUDING FILIPINO DRIVERS ILLEGALLY RECRUITED AND FORCED TO DRIVE FROM KUWAIT TO IRAQ**

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution is known for its strong social justice provisions that included guarantees advocating protection to overseas Filipino workers:

1. "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare." (Art. II, Sec. 18);

2. "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" (Article XIII, Section 3);

Whereas, the constitutional provisions are complemented by statutes, labour conventions and special treaties which are being implemented to protect the OFWs, e.g., the Migrant Workers Law, the POEA and OWWA charters providing overseas fund and medical care fund to OFWs, the Special Protocol on Migrant Workers, among others;

Whereas, the OFWs are most potent partner of the government in achieving economic development with their remittances accounting as a substantial 15 % of the country's Gross Domestic Product;

Whereas, around two million Philippine OFWs are in the Middle East working as technical professionals, as nurses and those engaged in allied medical profession, as teachers and one-third (1/3) are unskilled workers;

Whereas, as of the latest information (April 28, 2008), of one of the country's known crusaders in the cause of OFW protection, Migrante:

- Eleven (11) Filipinos in Dubai requiring immediate repatriation as the OFWs are pure victims of illegal recruitment;
- More 100 Filipino drivers are hired in Kuwait and forced to drive from Kuwait to Iraq;
- At least seven (7) Filipinos are innocently detained in Kuwait;
- A total of 108 women OFWs are still stranded in the Filipino Workers Resource Center in Jordan and one of the women was physically assaulted by an employer resulting to a fractured spinal column;
- 44 women are stranded in Abha, Saudi Arabia

Whereas, the immediate assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is needed in providing legal assistance, medical help in the case of ill OFWs housed in the OFWs centers within their jurisdiction, documentation and repatriation;

Whereas, the government must prove that beyond simple lip service to the accolade that the OFWs are the "bagong bayani", they should be accorded speedy and efficient humanitarian aid: Now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To recommend to the Department of Foreign Affairs the immediate documentation, validation, perform the necessary diplomatic representation and repatriation of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who are detained and stranded in Kuwait, Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia including Filipino drivers illegal recruited and forced to drive from Kuwait to Iraq.

Adopted,



**MANNY VILLAR**