

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED PROBABILITY THAT SOME
IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS ARE ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL HUMAN
TRAFFICKING

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

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

WHEREAS, the ABS-CBN News website reported on 19 October 2008 the possibility that some immigration officials are in collusion with illegal traffickers;

WHEREAS, the article reported that House Representative Liza Masa of Gabriela alleged during the International Assembly of Migrants and Refugees that the problem of rampant human trafficking, particularly sex trafficking of women may be caused by the collusion of some immigration officials with syndicates; citing an ongoing case, she alleged that victims were trafficked to Singapore using the normal channel;

WHEREAS, it was reported that around 400,000 victims are illegally trafficked inside the country, while around 800,000 victims are trafficked abroad;

WHEREAS, Maza reportedly said that since 2003, only 11 illegal traffickers have been arrested and only eight of them were convicted because of several factors that include the victims’ loss of confidence in the justice system and the long process of filing a complaint;

WHEREAS, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act seemingly lacks implementation since only a small number of violators have been put to justice;

WHEREAS, it was also reported that prostitution chooses no age; such as Mae’s case, which was cited in the report;

WHEREAS, Mae was already 40 when she was peddled in Singapore as a prostitute; she noticed that something was amiss when they were briefed on what to say in case immigration officers asked questions, later finding out that she was only holding a tourist visa;

WHEREAS, the State should focus on preventing human trafficking by establishing a mandatory seminar to Filipinos about to work or travel overseas; the seminar should cover the perils of illegally working overseas, the definition and possibilities of human trafficking, how to recognize human trafficking scenarios, and who to contact to in case such happens to them;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of the legislation, on the alleged probability that some immigration officials are engaged in illegal human trafficking.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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