



## LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

### QUICK NOTES

*Second Regular Session, 19<sup>th</sup> Congress*

#### **Public Hearing of the Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality**

**Chairperson: Sen. Risa Hontiveros**

**23 January 2024, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m., Sen. Recto Room, Senate**

**Re: I. Privilege Speech delivered by Sen. Risa Hontiveros on December 11, 2023**

**II. Inquiry in Aid of Legislation on the reported cases of KOJC Leader Apollo Quiboloy**

**P. S. Res. No. 884—Sen. Risa Hontiveros**

#### **Background**

- The Conventions on the Rights of the Child and on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women emphasize the protection of women and children from sexual abuse. Governments and organizations must enact laws, policies, and support systems to address these issues, raise awareness, and eliminate social stigmas.
- In November 2021, the leader of Kingdom of Jesus Christ Apollo Quiboloy was indicted by a federal grand jury in the United States District Court in California for conspiracy to engage in sex trafficking by force, fraud and coercion and sex trafficking of children; and sex trafficking by force, fraud and coercion, among others.
- On December 11, 2023, Sen. Risa Hontiveros filed PSR No. 884 and, thereafter, delivered a privilege speech highlighting an alleged systematic sexual abuse of women and children by Quiboloy.

#### **Highlights of the Privilege Speech of Senator Hontiveros**

- Senator Hontiveros emphasized that the offenses attributed to Quiboloy are ongoing and involve the abuse of women and children within the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Victims have reported physical assaults, including beatings, lashings, and injuries from being forcefully slammed into walls. There is also an affidavit detailing sexual abuse by Quiboloy on a minor. Additionally, preachers have revealed information about his wealth accumulation and concealment methods.

- These allegations extend beyond the Philippines, indicating an international dimension to Quiboloy's alleged criminal activities. Senator Hontiveros calls for immediate action to stop these abuses, protect children, and empower victims who live in fear.

### **Highlights of P. S. Res. No. 884 Authored by Sen. Risa Hontiveros**

- The resolution highlights provisions in the Expanded Anti-Trafficking Act that penalize recruitment and exploitation of individuals, especially minors, for the purpose of trafficking. It outlines alleged methods used by Quiboloy to maintain strict obedience within the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, including brainwashing and threats of eternal damnation.
- The resolution also points out the existence of a group called "pastorals" within KOJC, allegedly involved in performing personal tasks, including sexual acts, for Quiboloy. Some of these pastorals were purportedly minors, raising concerns about exploitation.
- Additionally, it describes instances where Quiboloy allegedly coerces KOJC members, including minors, into exploitative activities like begging and soliciting money, with severe consequences for those who cannot meet quotas.
- The resolution notes a 2021 indictment by a Federal Grand Jury in California against Quiboloy and KOJC officials for sex trafficking. Given that these crimes fall under the Philippine jurisdiction, the resolution emphasizes the urgency of conducting an investigation to address the ongoing alleged offenses.

### **Possible Points for Discussion**

- Status of the cases/charges against Quiboloy. It is essential to determine whether these cases have progressed and if there have been any verdicts or developments in the legal proceedings.;
- Current state of the alleged victims of Quiboloy, and the imperative need to protect them to ensure justice.
- The credibility and consistency of testimonies from victims, preachers, and other witnesses play a significant role in building a case against Quiboloy. Evaluating the veracity of these accounts and their alignment with other evidence is essential in pursuing legal actions;
- Evaluation of whether the updated human trafficking laws in the country can effectively cover large-scale and systematic trafficking within a religious organization. If gaps still exist, legal reforms may be required to ensure comprehensive coverage and enforcement.