

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION )



15 MAY -6 P5:25

SENATE  
PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION **1325**

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

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Introduced by **SENATOR FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.**

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**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE  
TO CONDUCT A FULL REVIEW OF THE EXPANDED ANTI-TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS  
ACT OF 2012 OR REPUBLIC ACT 10364, AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THE INTER-  
AGENCY COUNCIL AGAINST TRAFFICKING (IACAT), IN LIGHT OF THE MARY JANE  
VELOSO CASE AND OTHER SIMILAR CASES INVOLVING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND  
ILLEGAL DRUGS;**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines has been in the Tier 2 category of the United States Trafficking in Persons Report since 2011, where said category includes countries that have shown significant but not overwhelming progress in the fight against human trafficking;

**WHEREAS**, cases of human trafficking and illegal recruitment continue to persist despite government efforts to curb the same, as well as constant reminders to overseas job applicants to follow the legal route towards overseas employment;

**WHEREAS**, the number of convictions arising from trafficking-in-persons cases from the year 2005 to 2015 is at 182 with 204 persons convicted, with most cases involving domestic trafficking compared to those involving cross-border trafficking of persons;

**WHEREAS**, it is important that the Philippines show firm, consistent and unquestionable resolve in protecting the welfare of migrant Filipino workers and ensuring their safety when seeking jobs abroad, from time of recruitment to onsite services, as well as towards future reintegration and reunification with their families back home;

**WHEREAS**, the case of OFW Mary Jane Veloso who was illegally recruited by her neighbor, Ms. Maria Kristina Sergio, also known as Mary Christine Gulles Pasadilla, and deployed for a fictitious job as a domestic worker in Malaysia on April 22, 2010 clearly involves the crimes of human trafficking and illegal recruitment;

**WHEREAS**, upon her recruiter's instructions, Mary Jane Veloso packed her clothes in a suitcase provided for by a foreign national only known as "Ike" whom the Presidential Drug Enforcement Administration suspects to be part of an African Drug Syndicate (ADS);

**WHEREAS**, Veloso was apprehended by the Customs and Excise Authorities at the Audisucipto International Airport in Yogyakarta, Indonesia upon her arrival from Malaysia due to alleged possession of 2.6 kilograms (2,600 grams) of heroin found in her luggage;

**WHEREAS**, in her five years of incarceration, it took the recent surrender of her illegal recruiter, Maria Kristina Sergio, for the wheels of justice to turn with the case reaching only the first phase of an excruciatingly long judicial process;

**WHEREAS**, the day before the scheduled execution, the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia transmitted the letter of Justice Secretary Leila M. De Lima requesting Indonesian Attorney General Dr. H. Muhammad Prasetyo, and Minister of Justice and Human Rights Yasonna H. Laoly to suspend execution of the death sentence of Ms. Veloso in view of the materiality and importance of her testimony to the case filed against Ms. Maria Kristina P. Sergio, Mr. Julius Lacanillao and an individual known as "Ike" invoking the ASEAN Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in the process;

**WHEREAS**, the Indonesian government granted a last-minute reprieve to OFW Mary Jane Veloso on the basis of said legal proceedings with a caveat that the death sentence remains and would still be carried out at an appropriate time;

**WHEREAS**, it is important to revisit this chronology of events considering that the Philippines has enough laws to prevent human trafficking and illegal recruitment, with a full-time secretariat backing the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), which receives annual funding from the General Appropriations Act;

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgency to this proposal for a thorough review of the expanded anti-trafficking law considering that there are 92 other Filipinos on death row in other parts of the world for various reasons, and some of them may also have been victims of trafficking in persons;

**WHEREAS**, it is also necessary to review IACAT's performance with the aim of enhancing it further particularly in the area of victims' assistance and protection to encourage more trafficking survivors to speak up and seek the help of the government;

**WHEREAS**, in this light, a full review of Republic Act 10364 or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking Act of 2012 as well as the performance of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking is not only timely but also critically important, to ensure that OFW Mary Jane Veloso's case would be an isolated one and the last of its kind;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved**, to direct the appropriate Senate **Committee to conduct a full review of the Expanded Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act of 2012 or Republic Act 10364, and the performance of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) in light of the Mary Jane Veloso case and other similar cases involving human trafficking and illegal drugs.**

Adopted,

  
**FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.**