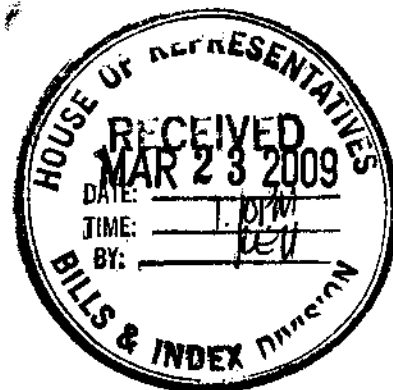


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1059



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Introduced by

Gabriela Women's Party-list Representatives Liza Largoza-Maza and Luzviminda C. Ilagan,  
Bayan Muna Party-list Representatives Satur C. Ocampo and Teodoro A. Casiño and  
Anakpawis Party-list Representative Rafael V. Mariano

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**A RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CASE OF FIVE WOMEN OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS WHO HAD BEEN PHYSICALLY AND SEXUALLY ABUSED, AND SOLD AS SEX SLAVES BY THEIR ARAB EMPLOYER IN RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA, AND RECOMMEND MEASURES TOWARDS THE IMMEDIATE PROVISION OF NECESSARY ASSISTANCE INCLUDING IMMEDIATE REPATRIATION OF THE VICTIMS AND THE PROSECUTION OF THEIR ABUSIVE EMPLOYER AND TOWARDS COMPREHENSIVE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO ERADICATE TRAFFICKING OF FILIPINO WOMEN**

**Whereas**, on February 18, 2009, Gabriela Women's Party-list received a copy of a letter sent by migrants alliance group Migrante-Riyadh to Labor Attaché Resty Dela Fuente, head of Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Riyadh, seeking assistance for the repatriation of five Filipino women in the Saudi Arabian capital;

**Whereas**, according to Migrante-Riyadh, the five women were among the 30 domestic workers recruited by an agency named C.Y. DUBAI/AI Fais Agency. Instead of doing household chores, they were sold as sex slaves by their employer, Abu Aggaf, to Saudi Arabian nationals;

**Whereas**, Abu Aggaf allegedly sexually abused two of the women and impregnated one of them;

**Whereas**, the victims were also physically abused by their employer. Some of the women who sought the help of Migrante-Riyadh sustain bruises all over their bodies and were not given proper medical assistance;

**Whereas**, the women were not given their monthly compensation and were barred from using their cellular phones, preventing them from contacting their families or seeking outside help;

**Whereas**, financial and legal impediments such as the requirement for migrant workers to first obtain a certification from their employers before they are issued exit visas by the Saudi Arabian government, prevent the victims from the returning to the Philippines;

**Whereas**, Section 23 of Republic Act 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act provides mandatory services to trafficked persons to ensure their recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration into the mainstream of society and that concerned government agencies shall make available to them emergency shelter or appropriate housing, counseling, free legal services, medical or psychological services, livelihood and skills training and educational assistance to a trafficked child;

**Whereas**, Section 25 of the same Act provides that the Department of Foreign Affairs in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment and other appropriate agencies shall

have the primary responsibility for the repatriation of trafficked persons regardless of whether they are documented or undocumented;

Whereas, despite the passage of R.A. 9208, trafficking in women continues in increasing number with impunity;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committees on Foreign Affairs and on Overseas Workers Affairs conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the case of five women overseas Filipino workers who had been physically and sexually abused, and sold as sex slaves by their Arab employer in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and recommend measures towards the immediate provision of necessary assistance including immediate repatriation of the victims and the prosecution of their abusive employer, and towards comprehensive government's response to eradicate trafficking of Filipino women.**

Adopted,

  
LIZA LARGOZA-MAZA  
Gabriela Women's Party

  
LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN  
Gabriela Women's Party

  
SATUR C. OCAMPO  
Bayan Muna Party List

  
TEODORO A. CASIÑO  
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RAFAEL V. MARIANO  
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