

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Fourteenth Congress

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 683



Introduced by:

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Gabriela Women's Party Representatives Luzviminda C. Ilagan and Liza L. Maza  
Bayan Muna Partylist Representatives Saturnino C. Ocampo and Teodoro A. Casino; and Anakpawis  
Partylist Representative Rafael V. Mariano

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**RESOLUTION**

**CALLING ON THE COMMITTEES ON OVERSEAS WORKERS' AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ONGOING MASSIVE AND ALLEGED INHUMANE CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGALLY STAYING FILIPINOS IN MALAYSIA AND ITS EFFECT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF AFFECTED FILIPINOS AND IMMEDIATELY RECOMMEND MEASURES TO ENSURE THEIR HUMANE REPATRIATION AND PROVISION OF DECENT SOCIAL SERVICES AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES ONCE THEY ARRIVE HOME.**

**WHEREAS**, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak in June had announced anew a massive operation to flush out illegal immigrants in Sabah in answer to recent criticisms from Sabah politicians that the Federal Government has failed to tackle the long-standing problem. He said the government had deported 300,000 illegal migrants in the state so far;

**WHEREAS**, Zamboanga City, which has become a transit point for deportees, is bracing for more deportees from the Malaysian state of Sabah following the arrival of 250 last July 12, 2008. The deportees are mainly from Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. The DSWD has recorded some 35,000 deportees from Sabah during the last 2 quarters of the year. These, along with other "illegal migrants" of other nationalities are allegedly hired for seasonal work in logging concessions, palm plantations, and construction work, hopping from one job to another. They are also reportedly allowed to vote during elections, and then deported when they are no longer needed, said Regional Director of the Building and Wood Workers' International Ambet Yuson;

**WHEREAS**, based on reports, Sabah is expected to deport more than 200,000 illegal Filipino immigrants, most men, a number of women and children, and a very high number of asylum seekers and refugees who had fled from the conflict-ridden provinces of Mindanao. Filipino Muslims who were deported said they had been forced to work illegally in Sabah because the Philippine government failed to provide them livelihood opportunities back home;

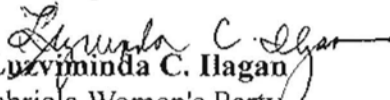
**WHEREAS**, Amnesty International has expressed fear that the Federal Government's plan to crack down on irregular migrants in Sabah may result in serious human rights violations, and instead suggests that the issue be studied and acted upon with great care. It has raised concerns over risks of mass expulsion without examining the individual circumstances of undocumented migrant workers and stateless people, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment during arrest, detention and through punishment under the Immigration Act; and risk of all detainees suffering from other human rights violations, including adequate health care access denial. A report in 2002 showed the process of mass deportations of undocumented migrants led to the deaths of children, due to dehydration and disease in detention centers in Sabah;

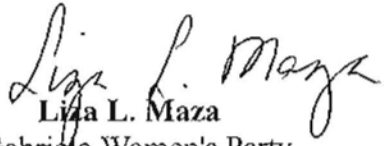
**WHEREAS**, Migrante International said above-mentioned fears have already materialized. Migrante has reported and condemned the inhumane deportation and human rights violations against Filipinos such as detention in poorly maintained jails, lack of food and health care. A woman deportee even gave birth inside a Malaysian jail. Even if she were an undocumented migrant, she should have received medical attention. Newspapers in Sabah and the deportees themselves confirmed Malaysian authorities' abuses including beatings, manhandling and illegal detention of men, women and children alike;

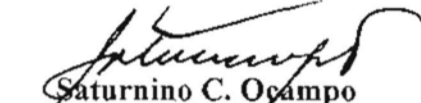
**WHEREAS**, Migrante is urging the Arroyo government to create a task force or a crisis management team that is dedicated to ensuring that Filipino citizens' rights will NOT be violated in the course of Malaysia's reported brutal crackdown and deportation of undocumented workers,;


*Therefore, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved, that the Committees on Overseas Workers' Affairs and Foreign Affairs conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the said crackdown's effect on the human rights and welfare of affected Filipinos and immediately recommend measures that will ensure their humane repatriation and provision of decent social services and job opportunities once they arrive home.*


Adopted,

  
Luzviminda C. Hagan  
Gabriela Women's Party

  
Liza L. Maza  
Gabriela Women's Party

  
Saturnino C. Ocampo  
Bayan Muna Partylist

  
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