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SENATE
P. S. Res No. 396

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO STUDY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, THE UNITED NATIONS OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF
CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT WITH THE INTENTION OF
STRENGTHENING IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPROVING LEGISLATION ON
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

WHEREAS, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, provides that, "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth"¹;

WHEREAS, Article 1 of the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, that came into effect on 12 February 2002, provides that, "States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take a direct part in hostilities"²;

WHEREAS, recruitment and deploying of children as soldiers by militant forces is becoming a norm in our country;

WHEREAS, in an article from GMA News Online dated 27 May 2017, a police officer involved in the clearing operations in Marawi City reported encountering 10 to 16-year-old Maute warriors armed with M-16 baby armalite rifles involved in the ambushes during the armed conflict in Marawi City in the province of Lanao Del Sur³;

WHEREAS, militant forces recruiting and deploying children as soldiers do not only rob these children of their rights but their future as well;

¹Unicef website, DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, http://www.unicef.org/barbados/spmapping/Legal/global/General/declaration_child1959.pdf

²United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed on conflict <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPACCRC.aspx>

³GMA News Online: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/612366/maute-group-using-10-year-old-child-warriors-in-marawi-city/story/>

WHEREAS, the Philippine Government must take immediate action to protect the Filipino children's rights and welfare;

WHEREAS, the purpose of this resolution is to strengthen implementation of the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict as well as to improve legislation on children's rights and raise awareness that extra measures are needed to further protect the children of our land;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper Senate Committees to study, in aid of legislation, the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict with the intention of strengthening the implementation and improving legislations involving children's rights.

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY