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Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 641



Introduced by  
Rep. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA  
TUCP Partylist

HOUSE RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS' AFFAIRS TO INVESTIGATE THE DEATH OF JEANELYN PADERNAL VILLAVENDE, AN OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKER IN KUWAIT, ALLEGEDLY AT THE HANDS OF HER KUWAITI EMPLOYERS, AND CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2018 PHILIPPINE-KUWAIT MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT TO SAFEGUARD THE LIFE AND LIMB OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS**

**WHEREAS**, Jeanelyn Villavende, a 26-year old resident of Norala, South Cotabato and an Overseas Filipino Worker employed as a Household Service Worker (HSW) in Kuwait was allegedly killed by her foreign employers, both Kuwaiti nationals, both of whom are currently detained in Kuwait;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Government and the Government of Kuwait entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the protection of Filipino Household Service Workers in May 2018 after the discovery in a freezer of the body of Joanna Demafelis, who was murdered by her employers;

**WHEREAS**, prior to Jeanelyn Villavende and just a year after the signing of the PH-Kuwait MOA that caused the lifting of the deployment ban, another OFW, Constancia Dayag, also died at the hands of her Kuwaiti employers in May 2019;

**WHEREAS**, these deaths are added to the long list of OFW deaths in Kuwait, which according to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) is now close to 200 in the last four years (2016-2020) and that there are over 280 workers in the embassy shelter in Kuwait due to complaints of maltreatment and contract violations;

**WHEREAS**, it has been reported that the average number of runaway domestic workers in Kuwait exceeds 200 workers a month, surpassing even the number of welfare cases in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia—an alarming study of contrasts, considering the relative sizes of the OFWs deployed to tiny Kuwait and to the much larger Saudi Kingdom;

**WHEREAS**, given these deaths, complaints of maltreatment and high incidence of runaways, an inquiry is necessary on how the concerned government agencies namely, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO), and the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait carried out the terms of the PH-Kuwait MOA and their respective mandates to ensure protection of our OFWs;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the House Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs to investigate the death of Jeanelyn Villavende, the long list of deaths, maltreatments and how the PH-Kuwait MOA was implemented by the Philippine government agencies mandated to safeguard the life and limb of our OFWs, with a view to recommend appropriate legislative reforms;

60 **NOW LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, as it is further resolved, to summon the Department of  
61 Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Philippine Overseas  
62 Employment Agency (POEA), the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO), the Overseas Workers  
63 Welfare Administration (OWWA), and the Special Envoy to Kuwait, Presidential Assistant for Overseas  
64 Filipino Workers Affairs Abdullah Mama-o, to shed light on the case of Jeanelyn Villavende and other  
65 cases, and on the matter of the implementation of the PH-Kuwait MOA and what can be done to protect  
66 the life and limb of Overseas Filipino Workers.

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**REP. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA**  
*TUCP Partylist*