

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 258

HC	REPRESENTATIVES
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Introduced by **HONORABLE ZAJID G. MANGUDADATU**

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO
CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED
CASE OF 177 INDONESIANS USING PHILIPPINE PASSPORTS TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE HAJJ PILGRIMAGE IN MECCA, SAUDI ARABIA**

WHEREAS, on 19 August 2016 at around 12:30 in the morning, 177 Indonesian nationals were arrested by the Immigration authorities for disguising as Filipinos as they attempted to leave the country to participate the Hajj pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia;

WHEREAS, the Indonesians were about to board Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight PR 8969 bound for Madinah, Saudi Arabia when Immigration personnel stopped them, along with five Filipinos who were supposed to accompany them in their trip;

WHEREAS, Bureau of Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente said that all of the Indonesians were found in possession of genuine Philippine passports that were apparently obtained through fraudulent means and allegedly provided by their Filipino escorts who organized the pilgrimage for \$6,000 to \$10,000 each person;

WHEREAS, the passengers' identities were revealed as they could not speak Tagalog, Maranao, Cebuano or Maguindanao language when interviewed by an immigration officer and could only converse in English;

WHEREAS, based on the initial investigation, the Indonesians were given Philippine passports to enable them to join the Hajj pilgrimage, which will run from September 9 to 14, using the quota reserved for Filipino pilgrims by the Saudi government. The organizers said that there were no more available Hajj slots for Indonesians, hence they used the quota intended for our Filipino Muslim brothers and sisters;

WHEREAS, the Indonesians reportedly arrived in the country individually as tourists a few weeks before their scheduled pilgrimage and gave Jolo, Sulu as their address;

WHEREAS, Commissioner Morente ordered the immediate filing of violation of immigration laws against the Indonesians for reportedly misrepresenting themselves as Filipinos and for being undesirable aliens;

WHEREAS, the indiscriminate act of granting Philippine passport to non-Filipino nationals is a violation of Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the Philippines Passport Act of 1996. The government officials involved in such act must be dealt with accordingly;

WHEREAS, the acquisition of the Indonesian nationals of Philippine passport sparks a lot of questions regarding apparent violations of our immigration laws and other related laws;

WHEREAS, the issue is in fact a threat to our national security;

WHEREAS, it is but proper that the Committee on Foreign Affairs invites the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), National Security Adviser (NSA), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Immigration (BOI) and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) during the investigation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Committee on Foreign Affairs conduct and investigation, in aid of legislation, on the reported 177 Indonesians using Philippine passports to participate in the Hajj pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia;

Adopted,


HON. ZAJID G. MANGUDADATU
2nd District, Maguindanao