

Republic of the Philippines  
City of Davao  
**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**  
Series of 2009

**A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING IN STRONGEST TERMS THE RECENT ABDUCTION OF THE THREE RED CROSS WORKERS – ANDREAS NOTTER, EUGENIO VAGNI, AND MARY JEAN LACABA – BY SUSPECTED ABU SAYYAF BANDITS IN JOLO LAST JANUARY 15, 2009 CALLING THE ACT A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY**

**WHEREAS**, last Thursday, January 15, 2009 – *Andreas Notter*, a 38-year old Swiss worker, *Eugenio Vagni*, a 62-year old Italian water and sanitation engineer and *Mary Jean Lacaba*, a 37-year old Filipina field officer, all of the International Committee of the Red Cross Office in Zamboanga City – were headed to the airport after visiting a jail in Patikul town in Jolo, Sulu when seized by suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits;

**WHEREAS**, this is the latest in a string of kidnapping incident in Sulu where last year, almost 10 persons composed of humanitarian workers, businessmen, students, and children were abducted in separate occasions;

**WHEREAS**, once again, the Philippines is on the world map this time for a very negative image – the abduction of three workers of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

**WHEREAS**, these three kidnapped Red Cross workers are humanitarian workers who carry out their essential work in delivering aid to the victims of war and under international humanitarian law, personnel, installations and means of transport protected by the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems must be respected and their safety ensured;

**WHEREAS**, Red Cross humanitarian workers like Notter, Vagni and Lacaba are there only to help the people of Mindanao, especially the starving evacuees, without expecting anything in return and they are doing their “mission of mercy” without any tinge of partially, remorse and discrimination;

**WHEREAS**, they are protected by international humanitarian law and international treaties under the Geneva Convention and for this, they do not deserve to be abducted or kidnapped for they;

**WHEREAS**, we condemn this kidnapping and the kidnappers for committing this war crime, this act against humanity, a crime against the International Humanitarian Law;

**WHEREAS**, *Richard Gordon*, Chairman of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) and a governor of the International Federation of the Red Cross expressed overwhelming censure of the incident because apart from violating domestic law and the right to liberty and security of persons, the abduction is an affront to neutral parties that give assistance to people regardless of political, religious or cultural affiliation and it is an attack against a humanitarian group that has nothing to do with any political or security agenda;

**WHEREAS**, humanitarian workers all over the world, governments who proclaim equality for everyone, local entities and organizations, private citizens, church leaders and every-freedom loving citizens condemn this violation of humanitarian law and personal freedom;

**WHEREAS**, we join our voices together with them to denounce the perpetrators of this act in the strongest possible way;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that this Body pass a resolution voicing its condemnation in strongest term against the recent abduction of the three Red Cross workers by suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits in Jolo last January 15, 2009 calling such act as a crime against humanity.

**PILAR C. BRAGA, PhD**  
City Councilor

January \_\_\_\_, 2009 Regular Session (Suspended Rules)