

KUWAIT VOWS TO BRING JOANNA'S KILLERS TO JUSTICE AS MURDERED OFW MAKES FINAL JOURNEY HOME

15 Feb 2018 - As murdered Filipina overseas worker Joanna Demafelis makes her final journey home today, Kuwaiti authorities again assured the Philippines they will get her killers and bring them to justice.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said officials of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated the assurance in their meetings with Philippine Ambassador Rene Villa.

"We have again been assured by Kuwaiti authorities that they will do everything to find those responsible for the death of Joanna and bring them back to Kuwait so they could face justice," Ambassador Villa said at the Al-Sabah Hospital where he witnessed the sealing of the casket containing the remains of Demafelis.

The envoy said he conveyed the assurance to Demafelis's family in the Philippines in a telephone conversation on Wednesday evening.

"Kuwaitis authorities want to let us know that they, too, were shocked, outraged, and saddened by Joanne's murder and that they will make sure justice is served," Ambassador Villa said.

According to the diplomat, Kuwaiti authorities said they are working closely with Interpol to locate Demafelis's Lebanese employer and his Syrian wife who are the principal suspects in the murder. The two are believed to be either in Lebanon or Syria.

The frozen remains of the 29-year old domestic worker from Sara, Iloilo, were discovered last week by authorities inside a freezer at an apartment that has been abandoned by its tenants for more than a year.

The DFA Office of Migrant Workers Affairs said Demafelis's remains will be repatriated at 3:00 p.m. on board a Gulf Air flight via Manama and arrive in Manila at 11:15 a.m. on Friday. The remains will be transferred to a Philippine Airlines flight that will arrive in Iloilo at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Sarah Lou Arriola said the DFA is shouldering the repatriation of the remains to Iloilo and is providing P50,000 as assistance. END



14 Feb 2018 - Amb. Renato Villa and Mr. Carlito Dizon inspects the remains of the late OFW Joanna Demafelis at the mortuary of Al Sabah Hospital to ensure that the remains will be shipped the following day.



15 Feb 2018 - Amb. Renato Villa scripting the name of the late OFW Joanna Demafelis on her casket.



15 Feb 2018 - Filipino nurses of Al Sabah Hospital and Jahra Hospital, with Amb. Renato Villa, Labor Attaché Alejandro Padaen and Mr. Anthony Villanueva say their prayers over the casket of the late OFW Joanna Demafelis at the mortuary of Al Sabah Hospital.



15 Feb 2018 - Amb. Villa, Labor Attaché Alejandro Padaen and 2 other Embassy personnel help load the casket of the late OFW Joanna Demafelis in the ambulance that will bring her to the airport.