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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA STATEMENT ON THE DISMISSAL OF THE SENTOSA NURSE CRIMINAL CASE

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) and its affiliate, the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA), is pleased to learn that the criminal charges filed against 10 registered nurses from the Philippines in March 2007 for patient endangerment have been dismissed.

“This is a victory for all registered nurses, because the judge recognized that withdrawal from a deplorable work environment, when done responsibly, as in this case, reflects ethical nursing practice. ANA believes the real patient endangerment lies in the untenable conditions that led the nurses to leave. After exhausting all possibilities to resolve their concerns with the facility and the agency, nurses left without providing two weeks notice. The court’s decision reaffirms what ANA has always known: These brave nurses have deserved the nursing community’s full support because they refused to remain in a situation where patients were being denied the kind of care and staffing they deserved,” remarked ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

ANA has always been a strong supporter of the Sentosa nurses, who say they were brought to New York under false pretenses and denied the rights guaranteed by their employment contract. When the nurses resigned, their employer accused them of professional misconduct before the state Office of Professional Discipline, which dismissed the charges. In April of 2008, ANA and NYSNA filed an amicus brief with the Second Department of the Appellate Division, Supreme Court of New York supporting a motion to drop criminal charges against the Sentosa nurses.

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The nurses had been recruited by the Sentosa Recruitment Agency to work at specific nursing home facilities on Long Island. When they arrived in the U.S., they discovered they actually were working for a staffing agency, Prompt Nurses Employment Agency. Over a period of months, the nurses said, the agency refused to pay them according to the terms of their contracts. They also said they were not properly trained for their new jobs and were required to care for more patients than they believed were safe.

ANA authors the *Code of Ethics for Nurses* and the standards of nursing practices. It also actively promotes patient safety, workplace rights, appropriate staffing, workplace and environmental health and safety, and the public health.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 53 constituent member nurses associations, its 23 organizational affiliates serving 330,000 members of national nursing specialty organizations, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.