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U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

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| <p>ALEX ABESAMIS DOMETITA; MARIA MARGARITA DOMETITA,</p> <p>Petitioners,</p> <p>v.</p> <p>ERIC H. HOLDER Jr., Attorney General,</p> <p>Respondent.</p> |
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No. 07-72278

Agency Nos. A099-035-822
A099-035-823

MEMORANDUM*

On Petition for Review of an Order of the Board of Immigration Appeals

Submitted January 11, 2010**

Before: BEEZER, TROTT, and BYBEE, Circuit Judges.

Alex Abesamis Dometita, and his wife, Maria Margarita Dometita, natives and citizens of the Philippines, petition pro se for review of the Board of Immigration Appeals' ("BIA") order dismissing their appeal from an immigration

* This disposition is not appropriate for publication and is not precedent except as provided by 9th Cir. R. 36-3.

** The panel unanimously concludes this case is suitable for decision without oral argument. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 34(a)(2).

judge's decision denying their application for asylum and withholding of removal. We have jurisdiction under 8 U.S.C. § 1252. We review for substantial evidence, *INS v. Elias-Zacarias*, 502 U.S. 478, 481 n.1 (1992), and we deny the petition for review.

Substantial evidence supports the BIA's conclusion that petitioners failed to establish the threats Dometita received from the Abusayaff group were on account of a protected ground. *See Bolshakov v. INS*, 133 F.3d 1279, 1280-81 (9th Cir. 1998) (denying petition for review because petitioners did not establish that extortion was on account of an enumerated ground); *see also Parussimova v. Mukasey*, 555 F.3d 734, 740-41 (9th Cir. 2009) (a protected ground has to be "one central reason" for persecution). Accordingly, because petitioners failed to demonstrate that they were persecuted or fear future persecution on account of a protected ground, their asylum and withholding of removal claims fail. *See Barrios v. Holder*, 581 F.3d 849, 856 (9th Cir. 2009).

PETITION FOR REVIEW DENIED.