

Republic of the Philippines )  
Quezon City ) s.s.

**SWORN STATEMENT**  
(Unofficial Translation from Filipino)

I, **CESAR SANCHEZ VELOSO**, 59 years of age, married, currently residing at Brgy. Caudillo, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, after having being duly sworn to in accordance with law, do hereby depose and say:

1. That I have five (5) children and Mary Jane Veloso is my youngest;

2. That my children grew up in poverty. Our primary source of livelihood used to be rice farming. I also worked in Hacienda Luisita cutting sugarcane and loading them on delivery trucks. However, I was forced to stop working as such in 1979 when I fell from a truck and was pinned down by sugarcanes.

3. That since then, I hopped from job to job and place to place, bringing along my family in order to provide for them. We experienced scavenging for bottles and plastic on the streets, working at a piggery as a helper, harvesting calamansi, and selling fish, *pandesal* and ice drop;

4. That due to poverty, it was difficult for us to send our children to school. They were only able to finish elementary education and the first year of high school.

5. That nevertheless, our children grew up to be upright people, especially Mary Jane;

6. That Mary Jane is a good person. Because of her kindness, her teachers provided her what she needed in school. At times, she would come home with new school uniforms and shoes given by her teachers. They would also let Mary Jane sleep over at their homes because where we lived was far from the school she was attending;

7. That Mary Jane is God-fearing. She always reminded us to say our prayers before and after meals and before going to bed;

8. That she is also a thoughtful and generous daughter to her parents and sister to her siblings;

9. That life was hard for Mary Jane even when she got married. For a living, her husband drove a tricycle not his own while Mary Jane sold ice candy, soup and other food from house to house;

10. That their poverty worsened when her husband quit working as a tricycle driver and started loitering with friends and playing basketball. Mary Jane decided to leave him, taking their children with her to live with us in Barangay Caudillo;

11. That in her desire to provide a better future for her children and support us, Mary Jane decided to work abroad as a domestic helper in Dubai;

12. Mary Jane left for work in 2009 in Dubai. However, after just ten months, she returned because a housemate hurt her and her employer attempted to rape her;

13. That upon her return, she went to Esguerra Village, Talavera, Nueva Ecija where she left her two children under the care of her mother-in-law;

14. That on April 18, a certain Ma. Cristina Sergio (Tintin for brevity) talked to Mary Jane and offered her a job in Malaysia where she would receive a salary of P25,000 a month. The offer delighted Mary Jane because the pay would be significantly bigger than what she received in Dubai. She thought that this was her opportunity to provide a better future for her children;

15. That I did not approve of her desire to work abroad again because I did not want her experience in Dubai to be repeated. Also, the quick process of Mary Jane's recruitment – she and Tintin were set to leave for Malaysia only after five days – seemed suspicious to us. We did not lend Mary Jane the P6,000 that she would need as payment to Tintin;

16. That in the following days, Mary Jane persisted in her desire to work abroad. She said that she would just mortgage the motorcycle that we gifted her and her husband if we did not lend her money. We pitied her and saw how desperate she was to work overseas so we agreed to give her a loan;

17. That she was no longer able to say goodbye to us before leaving for Malaysia as she had very little time to do her preparations. We just learned that Mary Jane and Tintin were already heading to Malaysia when we called Mary Jane's mother-in-law in Talavera;

18. That on April 27, 2010, we learned that Tintin returned safely from Malaysia. We immediately went to see her in Talavera to ask how Mary Jane was doing. She told us that her employer, who is kind and generous, bought her new clothes, a cellphone and some milk for her son, Darren. We thanked Tintin for helping our daughter.

19. That Mary Jane cheered me on my birthday on May 9, 2010 when she called us and sang for me "Happy Birthday" on the phone. She asked how we, especially her two children, were doing;

20. That the next day, Mary Jane sent a text message to her sister Darling, telling her to always keep an eye on her children and take care of them as if they were her own;

21. That the following day, May 11, 2010, Mary Jane sent us a cryptic message where she seemed to be saying her last goodbye. When we called her, she tearfully told us that she was in prison and asked us to seek help from the government and the President. She narrated what happened in Malaysia and how she got imprisoned in Indonesia;

22. That we went to Tintin's house in Talavera the next day. Tintin gave us a hug and told us not to make any noise, ask help from anybody and go to the media, or else, they would target our family one by one and put Mary Jane's life in danger. She also said that she is a part of an international syndicate and promised that they could get Mary Jane out of prison;

23. That because of Tintin's threats and assurances, we decided to keep silent;

24. That when nothing happened in the next three months, we decided to go Manila. In August 2010, our family went to the DFA to seek assistance. My wife and daughter Maritess were the ones who went inside the building. Later, they came out infuriated because a certain Patricia told them that Mary Jane would be sentenced to death due to the amount of drugs she was trying to smuggle into Indonesia. Patricia nonetheless assured them that they would do everything they could to help Mary Jane;

25. That we called DFA almost every day thereafter. Most of the time, no one would answer, and if someone picked up, we would only be told that Patricia was not around. We frequently went to the DFA to personally talk with Patricia about Mary Jane's case but they failed to give us any updates. We were repeatedly promised that they would do everything they could;

26. That at this time, we went to other government agencies including the Malacañang and the Office of Vice-President Binay. We also sought help from the local government. All of them pledged to help and get in touch with us, but no one really did;

27. That we also went to PDEA where we met Joseph. He was able to help us by coordinating with Patricia of the DFA. He was the one who contacted Patricia for updates when the latter did not answer our calls;

28. That we sought assistance from the NBI in Cabanatuan as well as the local police and some lawyers. They advised us that we would need sufficient evidence to charge Tintin and that a statement from Mary Jane was necessary;

29. That we tried to ask Mary Jane for her statement. She mailed it to us thrice but each parcel we received from her contained only pictures;

30. That in the two years since Mary Jane was arrested, we were able to communicate with her regularly over the phone. She would tell us that she was doing fine and that she made a lot of new friends. She was also given spiritual guidance by a priest who regularly visits her;

31. That in those two years, the government offices that we had gone to for help all failed to assist Mary Jane in proving her innocence and to work on her release and repatriation to the Philippines;

32. That on October 11, 2012, we received a call from Mary Jane. She was crying as she told us that she had been sentenced to death and placed on death row;

33. That aboard a rented jeep, our family and relatives travelled to Manila to bring the dreadful news to the DFA and plead for them to save our daughter from death row;

34. That my wife and daughter Maritess were able to talk with Patricia. According to them, Patricia said that what Mary Jane told us was false and that she was not sentenced with death penalty. We went home that day feeling relieved;

35. That when we were able to talk with Mary Jane the following day, she insisted that the news was true and was in fact already being reported by the media in Indonesia;

36. That when we contacted her again, Patricia apologized to us and confirmed Mary Jane's news. She said that they had already hired a lawyer and a translator to assist Mary Jane;

37. That we learned that our government had appealed Mary Jane's case and that her execution had been postponed. For a time since then, we would not have any communication with the DFA;

38. That in April 2013, Mary Jane told us to secure our passports because she wanted us to visit her in Indonesia. Her friends in prison raised money for us to travel to Indonesia;

39. That with the help of mayoral candidate Manalo, our passports were processed in DFA Pampanga;

40. That when we went to DFA Pampanga to claim our passports, we learned that Patricia had put them on hold. Still, DFA Pampanga released our passports, seeing no reason why they should be withheld from us. We immediately secured a travel permit from the DSWD for Mary Jane's son Danielle;

41. That when we got home, Patricia called to tell us that we still could not depart for Indonesia because we had no invitation from the Indonesian government as well as the means to afford the trip. We ignored her and proceeded to buy our tickets using the money sent by Mary Jane;

42. That on June 5, 2013, my wife, Danielle and I flew to Indonesia and stayed there for almost a month. We were happy to see Mary Jane every day. We also met her friends;

43. That, Mary Jane's police officer friends Puri and Bitu also toured us around Indonesia. All of our expenses were paid for by Mary Jane's friends – fellow inmates, police officers, a priest and a judge. We are very grateful for their kindness;

44. That we were able to return to the Philippines on June 29, 2013;

45. That we were able to have peace of mind as we regularly communicated with Mary Jane by phone and knew that she was happy in the company of her good friends in prison;

46. That in February 2015, a certain Violet from the DFA called and asked us to go to Manila because someone wanted to personally meet us. She told me to bring my wife and Mary Jane's two children. On the same day, we went to Manila;

47. That Violet introduced us to DFA Secretary Albert Del Rosario. We agreed when he asked us if we wanted to go to Indonesia to visit Mary Jane. We were told that our passports would be immediately processed, including Danielle's, so that all five of us could go;

48. That we flew to Indonesia on February 16, 2015 accompanied by Violet. Upon our arrival in Jakarta, we were met by Chito and others from the Philippine Embassy in Indonesia;

49. That on our first day in Indonesia, we met with a judge. She told us that she did not sign the decision sentencing Mary Jane to death because she believed that Mary Jane was innocent. The judge, Chito, Violet, and a priest carried on with the conversation but we were not able to understand it because they spoke in English and Bahasa;

50. That in the following day, we visited Mary Jane in prison. We were glad to spend the whole day with her and her friends whom we have already met from our first visit;

51. That before we flew back home, Chito introduced to us a certain Indonesian who said that he is the counsel of Mary Jane. He told us through the translator that he had won a case in court similar to Mary Jane's. He assured us that he would do his best in order to set Mary Jane free;

52. That a few days after our return from Indonesia, we saw from the news on TV that Mary Jane's appeal was rejected. We were shocked and deeply saddened;

53. That we called Mary Jane to confirm the news. Like us, she was shocked and did not know that we lost the appeal. She tried to contact Violet and others but no one responded to her calls;

54. That since then, different media outlets, local and national, started arriving at our house;

55. That we lost communication with the DFA again. We tried several times to contact Violet but her phone was always "out of coverage."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2015 at Quezon City, Philippines.

**CESAR SANCHEZ VELOSO**  
Affiant

**SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO** before me, notary public for and in Quezon City, Philippines on \_\_\_\_\_, affiant exhibited to me his COMELEC Voter's Identification Card with VIN 4930-0011D-E1056CSV1000000-6 issued in Talavera, Nueva Ecija.

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