

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

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

I am **MARITESS VELOSO-LAURENTE**, 35 years old, married, currently residing at Brgy. Caudillo, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with the law, do hereby depose and say:

1. That I am the elder sister of Mary Jane Fiesta Veloso (MARY JANE). Mary Jane is the youngest among five siblings and our parents are Cesar Sanchez Veloso and Celia Balones Fiesta;

2. That Mary Jane attended elementary school at Caudillo Elementary School, Barangay Caudillo, Cabanatuan City and Mayapyap Elementary School in Mayapyap, Cabanatuan City, and finished her studies in 1997. She thereafter started taking up high school at the Mayapyap National High School, but she was not able to complete her first year due to poverty;

3. That Mary Jane helped us plant and harvest onions, separating the rotten and the rejects from the fresh ones and placing them in a red bag weighing about 25 to 30 kilos, for which we were paid P3 each. We frequently transferred residence, moving from Angeles City, Pampanga to Sta. Barbara in Baliuag, Bulacan;

4. That in 2001, she was married at the young age of 16 to Michel Santos Candelaria of Esguerra Village, Talavera, Nueva Ecija, who is poor like us. They had two children. They relied on our parents for support because her husband did not have a stable job. To help out, Mary Jane went from house to house, selling ice candy, soup and spaghetti. Her married life became miserable as her husband gambled his small earnings as a tricycle driver. Mary Jane left him when their eldest child was only four years old;

5. That in 2009, Mary Jane thought of working as a domestic helper in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in order to uplift her family from poverty and support our parents. According to Mary Jane, her salary was only about P9000. She left the Philippines for Dubai in February 2009;

6. That Mary Jane's experience in Dubai was horrendous. In the same year, her employer attempted to rape her while a housemate tried to stab her. Fortunately, she was able to evade the attack with her arm. Our family urged her to come home. On December 31, 2009, she decided to return to the Philippines;

7. That three months later, she met MARIA KRISTINA 'TINTIN' P. SERGIO (TINTIN), a resident of Esguerra Subdivision, Talavera, Nueva Ecija, who had just arrived from overseas. Tintin is a native of Bicol and Mary Jane's "godsister" (partner of the son of Mary Jane's wedding sponsor/godfather). They became friends;

8. That on April 18, 2010, Tintin offered Mary Jane a job as a domestic helper for her friend in Malaysia. Her salary would be about P25,000 a month, which, according to Mary Jane, was an amount big enough for her to send her two children to school and ease our parents' burden;

9. That after five days, or on April 22, 2010, Mary Jane and Tintin flew to Malaysia. Mary Jane brought with her only two pairs of clothing in her child's backpack because Tintin told her that her employer would provide her with personal belongings when she got there. Tintin also said that she would buy Mary Jane a new luggage when she announced that she would be working in Indonesia instead;

10. That on April 27, 2010, Tintin arrived in Talavera, Nueva Ecija. Our parents immediately went to Tintin to inquire about Mary Jane. She told them that Mary Jane was fine and showed pictures of them in Malaysia. We believed that Mary Jane was safe and sound;

11. That on May 9, 2010, our father's birthday, Mary Jane called us. She sounded in good spirits as she greeted him "happy birthday";

12. That on May 11, 2010, Mary Jane sent us a sad and cryptic text message which prompted us to call her several times that day. When we were able to reach her, she admitted that she has been in jail since April 26, 2010.

13. That in our conversation, she narrated the following events which led to her imprisonment:

a. When they arrived in Malaysia on April 22, 2010, she was told by Tintin that her friend had already employed another domestic helper. Tintin promised that she would find for her another job. They stayed at the Lagoon Hotel and spent three days in Malaysia. Tintin toured Mary Jane around, shopped clothes for her and took pictures of them;

b. After a few days, Tintin went back to the hotel and, based on my recollection, informed Mary Jane that she got her a job in Indonesia. She said that she had no money for a plane ticket but Tintin assured her that she would take care of it. She also told Mary Jane not to worry as she has called up her boyfriend, a man named "Prince", to buy a luggage for her. They went to the parking lot of the hotel in order to get it. Mary

Jane was given the new luggage and noticed that it was heavy. She asked Tintin about it and was told that luggage in Malaysia are really like that. Mary Jane opened the luggage, inspected its pockets and found nothing inside. She was given USD500 as pocket money and a cellphone. Tintin told her to pack at once and depart for the airport immediately. Tintin accompanied her to the airport where they went their separate ways;

c. Based on what I remember from our conversation, the x-ray machine at the Jakarta Airport emitted a sound when Mary Jane's luggage went through it. The airline personnel immediately opened the luggage, inspected its contents but found nothing unusual. The luggage was once more fed through the x-ray machine, which again beeped. Mary Jane was then told that her luggage would be destroyed. Thereafter, 2.6 kilograms of heroine were discovered inside. Mary Jane was instantly investigated and imprisoned;

14. That enraged, our family – our mother, father, and siblings Darling and Lea – confronted Tintin on May 11, 2015. Tintin told us not to worry and raise a ruckus. She also said that they were willing to pay millions in order to help Mary Jane and asked us to give them three to five months to work on Mary Jane's release. Because of Tintin's assurances, we kept quiet for three months;

15. That when three months passed without anything happening, we decided to seek help from local government officials. We first approached Mayor Julius Cesar Vergara of Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. He told us that if drugs were involved, there was nothing he could do about it. A councilor of Brgy. Caudillo asked us to write a statement and a letter to President Aquino, whom he said was his classmate. We also went to Mayor Neri Santos of Talavera, Nueva Ecija to seek financial help for our trip to Manila where we would seek audience with President Aquino. We were able to raise a small amount;

16. That in August 2010, Mayor Santos lent us a vehicle so we could travel to Manila. Accompanied by Mary Jane's in-laws, we approached a media network but were refused help because Mary Jane did not go through an agency when she was recruited to work overseas. We also went to Malacañang and were directed to an office where I was asked to write a statement on Mary Jane's case twice. We were assured that the statement would reach President Aquino;

17. That in the same month, we went to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and were referred to Patricia Jean Oliver Macam, the case officer assigned to Mary Jane's case. She said that they would do everything they could to help Mary Jane. We were given a document on the

case of Mary Jane and told that we would be contacted should there be any updates;

18. That the document given to us by the DFA was unfortunately destroyed when a typhoon hit our province and inundated our house;

19. That in October 2010, Ms. Macam called us to say that there was a document that she wanted us to read. She said that I had to go to Manila personally as the document is confidential. At the DFA, she read the document to me. It said that Mary Jane has been sentenced to death. Ms. Macam told us not to worry because the judgment could still be appealed;

20. That our parents and Mary Jane's eldest son Mark Danielle were able to visit Mary Jane in Indonesia on June 5, 2013. It was Mary Jane's inmates, police officers and friends who spent for Mark Danielle and our parents' passport application and air fare in the amount of P82,000, as well as their food, lodging and other needs. They stayed there for 21 days and returned, to my knowledge, on June 29, 2013;

21. That before our parents and Mark Danielle went to see Mary Jane, I instructed them to get a statement from Mary Jane about what happened to her. They were not able to do so;

22. That I called Mary Jane and told her to send us her statement via courier. Her handwritten statement arrived after a few months. I had it encoded so that we would have our own copy;

23. That in January 2015, we were deeply disturbed when Mary Jane called us, crying and saying that she was about to be hanged. She told us to go to anyone who might be able to help her. I immediately called the DFA and talked to Violet Ancheta, the new case officer assigned to Mary Jane's case. She said that they did not receive any news of her execution and that she would first call the Philippine Embassy. They were not able to report any news to us.

24. That before we went home to the Philippines, Chito from the Philippine Embassy in Indonesia asked for the handwritten statement of Mary Jane because they needed it. I gave it to him since I already had a copy;

25. That we learned from Mary Jane that she had already filed an appeal and that she was awaiting the court's decision;

26. That on February 18, 2015, I, our mother, father and Mary Jane's two sons travelled to Indonesia to visit her. The DFA arranged our visit. We were joined by Violet and other personnel from the embassy. We returned to the Philippines on February 22, 2015;

27. That on March 3 to 4, 2015, Mary Jane's appeal was heard by the Indonesian Supreme Court;

28. That on March 26, 2015, news that Mary Jane's appeal was denied by the Supreme Court broke out. I called the DFA to confirm it but I was told that they do not know about it. This prompted us to bring Mary Jane's ordeal to the media. From then on, we were able to receive news of Mary Jane's case from Mary Jane herself.

29. That on March 30, 2015, the organization Migrante offered to help us. Since then, they have been with us in our fight to save Mary Jane's life.

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

MARITESS VELOSO LAURENTE  
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me, notary public for and in Quezon City, Philippines on April 17, 2015, affiant exhibited to me her COMELEC Voter's Identification Card with VIN 4903-0366B-A1980MVL20000 issued in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija.

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