

CASE STUDY

ALFREDA DISBARRO

TORTURED & JAILED FOR BEING ACCUSED OF POSSESSING & SELLING ILLEGAL DRUGS

Alfreda Disbarro is a single mother from Philippines who has been charged under Sections 5 and 11 of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act.

Alfreda was jailed on 3rd October 2013 after two policemen and a police auxiliary approached her in an internet shop and accused her of being a 'drug dealer'. She was immediately handcuffed and was kicked and beaten repeatedly. She sustained serious injuries as a result. There was no warrant or caution for her arrest, just an initial accusation.

There was no evidence of any illegality on Alfreda's part. She was searched and officers found nothing. Yet, her hands were tied with black plastic/nylon cord, a plastic bottle was placed on her head for a lengthy duration, she was beaten with a wooden baton, she was hit numerous times in her face and was forced to admit that she was a drug dealer.

Throughout Alfreda's ordeal she was not allowed to see any of her family members.

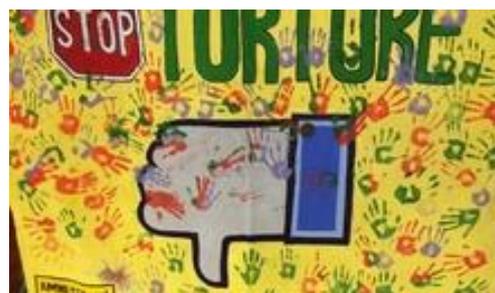


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Her family have received death threats and on numerous occasions they have been followed. Subsequently, they were forced to move home.

TORTURE

Amnesty International considers Alfreda Disbarro to be a victim of torture. To torture someone means the action or practice of deliberately inflicting severe pain as a punishment or with the aim of forcing someone to do or say something.



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SOLIDARITY ACTION

Send a postcard or letter to Alfreda Disbarro in prison letting her know that you support her and that you have written to the Public Prosecutor about her case.

Language: English or Filipino

Suggested message: I am writing to you from England. We have heard about the very difficult experience you have had in the hands of Philippine police officers. You are in our thoughts, and we hope that you are safe and no longer experiencing any torture or other ill-treatment where you are now detained.

We will be campaigning for you and we will continue to watch out for any developments in your case. You have been so brave to report your experience. Be strong and continue fighting for justice.

GET CREATIVE



You could also write your message on coloured paper and make an origami butterfly or flower. These are symbols of freedom and support for Alfreda Disbarro.



APPEAL ACTION

Write a letter urging the Filipino Public Prosecutor to immediately investigate the torture and ill-treatment Alfreda Disbarro has suffered. Start your letter or card with 'Your Excellency.'

SEND YOUR ACTION LETTERS AND CARDS TO US AND WE WILL FORWARD THEM ON:

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Don't forget to include your name and the name of your school with your cards and letters (but not on the cards themselves).

Action sheet written by Sandeep Grewal