



**Jennifer Aresgado Dalquez**

**Nature of Case:** **Victim of Attempted Rape  
Convicted of Murder, Meted with Death Penalty**  
**Occupation:** Domestic Helper/ Clinic and Restaurant Assistant/ Cleaner  
**Country:** United Arab Emirates  
**Local Agency:** MMML Recruitment Services  
**Foreign Agency:** Forsan Gulf Labor Supply  
**Date of Deployment:** December 2011  
**Philippine Residence:** General Santos City



**Timeline of Events:**

September 2011	- Jennifer accepted the job offer of an agent from MMML Recruitment Services Inc. who was recruiting for domestic helpers in the Middle East in their area (General Santos City).
October 2011	- She was instructed by the agency to bid farewell to her family and proceed to Davao City for the processing of her application. She left her two kids to her parents who are still very young at that time (2 years old and 7 months old).
November 2011	- She flew to Manila for the final processing of her application and await her flight to United Arab Emirates which was scheduled on December 3. She was not able to leave copies of her papers (employment contract, overseas employment certificate etc) because the agency did not allow her to get hold of her documents in advance.
March 2012	- While taking a bath, her employer forcibly entered the bathroom and attempted to rape her. Fearing for her life, she asked the wife of her employer to repatriate her. Her woman employer agreed and she was brought to the airport. - While at the airport, she was contacted by an Indonesian friend and offered to help her get a new job. With the future of her children in mind, she accepted the offer. She later on worked as cashier for a restaurant.
2013	- While working in the restaurant, a customer offered work as an assistant for a doctor. She accepted the job because it promised a higher pay.
2014	- Because she was only working for 3 days a week as an assistant, she took side jobs offering cleaning services for households in order to acquire more savings as she is planning to go back to the Philippines for good on January 2015.
December 7, 2014	- An Arab local contacted her to clean their home. The local attempted to rape her at knifepoint. She fought back to defend herself. When she got hold of the knife, she accidentally killed the assailant.
December 12	- Jennifer’s family received a phone call from a Filipina friend and informed them of the unfortunate event and that she was imprisoned in Al-Ain. Fearing for the welfare and security of their child, Jennifer’s parents immediately went to OWWA Regional Office in Koronadal City to report the situation of Jennifer and sought their assistance. The government office said that they still do not have any information about her case. They just promised to communicate with them once they get information.
February 2015	- Since they got no information from OWWA, they went to the DFA in General Santos City and was able to meet OIC Ebrahim Zailon. They also do not have information on the case and just promised that they will communicate with the Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi on the matter.
March 2015	- The DFA contacted the Dalquez family and confirmed the news that Jennifer was imprisoned after being charged of murder. The government office shared to them the communication

	from the Philippine Embassy stating that the incident happened in December 7 and she was arrested by the police on December 12. Since then, they receive updates on the court hearings from the DFA.
May 22	- The Dalquez family was surprised to receive a phone call from Jennifer. She was able to personally share the details of her case and was shocked to hear the decision of the court. She was convicted for murder and was given a death penalty.
May 2015	- Desperate for help, the parents of Jennifer immediately sought the help of the media and publicly plead to save her life. They also approached the staff of DILG Sec. Mar Roxas during his visit to General Santos City. - Upon hearing the news on Jennifer, Migrante UAE immediately went to Al Ain jail to gather information and attempted to personally meet her in prison. Jail authorities did not allow them and advised them that they need permit from the court and that only family members are allowed to visit.
June 2015	- Through information acquired from the media, Migrante was able to contact the Dalquez family and offered support.
June 18	- DOLE Sec. Rosalinda Baldoz visited Jennifer in prison. She reported that Jennifer was “in good condition” and that she is an “emotionally-strong woman.” She informed Jennifer that the Philippine government has provided her a lawyer (Atty. Nasser Al Shamsi) and has filed an appeal for her case. She promised Jennifer that OWWA and DSWD will provide assistance to her family. Sec. Baldoz also reported that Jennifer requested a prison visit of her family particularly her two children.
July 2015	- UK-based organizations lead by the group Justice for Domestic Workers in coordination with Migrante launched a campaign to save the life of Jennifer. They initiated a petition campaign and held solidarity actions.
September 2015	- The DFA in General Santos City informed the family that they plan to bring them to UAE for a prison visit and attend a court hearing. They advised the family to process the application of their passport.
October 17-23	- The parents of Jennifer flew to UAE with a Legal Officer from the DFA in Manila. In UAE, the family first met with Ambassador Grace Relucio-Princesa and Atty. Nasser Al Shamsi. - In the prison visit, Jennifer shared the details of her case and her situation to her parents. She firmly told them that she accidentally killed the aggressor due to self-defense. She expressed grief and told them to get her acquitted as she is innocent and told her parents to take good care of her children. - Before they left UAE, Ambassador Princesa shared to the family the content of a document labeled “confidential.” They advised the family not to share the information to the media and to not approach Migrante for assistance.
2016	- Jennifer regularly contacted her family to give updates on her case. She reported that hearings were always postponed. It was also during this time that she was able to regularly talk to her two children. The kids were always asking for her return.
January 11, 2017	- The Dalquez family received a distressed phone call from Jennifer and informed them that the decision on her appeal will be released soon. The family immediately went out to the media and appealed to President Rodrigo Duterte to save her from the death sentence and bring her back to the Philippines.
February 2017	- Philippine Ambassador to UAE Constancio Vingno Jr. visited Jennifer in prison on February 8 and assured her that the embassy would continue extending all possible assistance. - Migrante visited the family in General Santos City and helped them get assistance from the local government and DSWD to be able to fly to Manila and appeal to the national government in time for the release of the decision on the appeal on February 27.

**Sources:**

- Interviews with the Dalquez Family conducted by Migrante International
- Audio Message of Jennifer Dalquez
- News Articles
- OFW Information Sheet

**\*Prepared by Migrante International**