

AI Translation:

I am 41 years old. I am subject to a drug-trafficking case. I am from Indonesia.

In 2015 I came to Hong Kong to work as a foreign domestic helper. When I decided to come and work in Hong Kong, I left behind three children. I asked my relatives to take care of them because my husband had passed away.

I worked for one employer for almost four years. For the first three years there were no problems. But in the fourth year, I had to stop working for them before my contract expired, because my employer ran into financial difficulties.

At that point I needed to find a new employer. I was only allowed to remain in Hong Kong for two months. However, I failed to find a new employer, so I chose to become an overstayer.

I did not dare go back to my home country, because if I returned, how would I meet my family's financial needs back home? As I was unable to work legally, I overstayed and looked for part-time work in Hong Kong. This allowed me to earn money to support my family's financial needs back home. I met my boyfriend, who is Hong-Kong-born.

I was told to work for them as a domestic helper starting October 2021. I worked for them through 2022.

Around June-July, I received news from my family back home that one of my children had been in an accident and was hospitalised. My mother called and informed me about my child's condition. The severe leg injury my child had suffered worsened and required an amputation.

All these medical costs were very expensive. Upon hearing this news, I tried to ask my employers for help. I told them I needed money for my family emergency back home. I asked whether I could borrow money and said I would repay it month-by-month out of my salary.

However, my female employer said she had no spare money. But her husband wanted to speak with me. A few days later, her husband (my male employer) came to me and asked about my request to borrow money.

He told me that if I agreed, I could help them pack goods (narcotics). He would give me extra money, and I could use that money to pay off or repay the debt.

I accepted that offer because I had no other way to pay for my child's treatment and medicine. I trusted what my employers said. I thought they would not harm me, and therefore I took up their offer for this additional work.

I regret my conduct and truly feel guilty for what I did. I ought not to have taken shortcuts to earn money easily.

During my time in prison, I have endured much pain and hardship. I am unable to get news from my family. I do not know how my children back home are faring right now. There is nobody to look after them, and I am completely incapable of covering their living costs. Instead, I have become a financial burden to my elderly parents.

Frequently, almost every night, I cry and feel deep longing for them. I miss celebrating festivals with my children. I miss the guidance from my parents. I long to be reunited with them. At times I feel sorrowful and envious when I see other prisoners receiving visits to meet with their family or relatives.

Sometimes I constantly imagine being able to meet my children, and for my parents to be able to see their faces again, even if only through a mobile phone call. Yet all of this is nothing but fantasy, as I am here with no internet and no freedom to contact them back home.

I hope my friends on the outside — those who are working for their families or striving for their own futures — can learn lessons from my experience. Do not earn money through easy ways. To all my friends, whether abroad or those currently struggling for their families: never make decisions or take action to accept job offers that promise easy or instant money. Because jobs that offer easy money often come with risks. Regret always arrives after everything has gone wrong. Be prudent in your relationships and be careful when making every decision.

During my time here, I have learned a great deal about the meaning of patience, sincerity and honesty. I have also learned to value things and to be grateful. From this experience, I can learn to be more careful and thoughtful when making decisions and taking up work. I do not wish to get entangled with the law again and bear a criminal record.

I am fighting for my children and my parents. If one day I regain my freedom and can return to them, I want to live a better life. No matter how difficult life may be, I will no longer take shortcuts to earn easy money.

I give thanks to God for all the lessons I have received and for keeping me in good health. I give thanks to my friends who always send me encouragement. I also give thanks to all the missionaries who take the time to visit us inside this prison. I am grateful for all the prayers that have been offered for us.

Yours faithfully