

Testimonies

**Note identifying details have been changed to protect our clients*

Nur, from a South Asian Country.

Nur never received any schooling, but worked her family farm as was custom. Her family arranged her marriage to a boy from another village when she was 13.

Nur's husband was a teacher. He was accused by the local rebel group of spying for the government. One night, when Nur was 17, rebels came to their house and took him away. Nur was sick with worry for weeks and could find no information about her husband's whereabouts. Eventually he returned, a broken man. He had been tortured in detention. Nur continued operating the farm and caring for their children to maintain the family's survival.

Nur's husband resumed his work. Before long rebels again accused him of "spying" activities. He disappeared one day and never returned. Rebels came to their home one evening and accused Nur of hiding her husband. When she protested she was beaten unconscious. Her children witnessed the event.

Nur recovered in a local hospital. Just before she was discharged, she received word that a friend of her husband's had visited her parents. He sought to warn Nur not to return home because rebel soldiers continued to search for her. Furthermore, he had news that her husband had been killed.

She knew it was no use filing a complaint with the police because they were powerless against the rebels.

Eventually she was helped by family to flee to Hong Kong. With the help of the Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre, she filed a claim for refugee status.



Tara, from a Central African Country.

Tara was orphaned during civil war in her home country. Her parents died fighting for a better regime, one that cared about the well-being of its citizens rather than the interests of its cronies. In a twist of irony, years later Tara herself became an outspoken critic of the new government, the one her parents had believed in and fought for.

She spoke out against corruption and human rights abuses which were common under the new regime. In response, the government labeled her and her colleagues enemies of the state. The government's crackdown only served to strengthen her convictions. Tara stood firm and spoke with a brave voice, telling all of her plights and the doings of the government, opposing them openly.

Eventually government agents came knocking on her door and searched her house. They pushed her around in front of her children, and ominously told her they "would eventually find what they were looking for." She was followed during her daily activities and threatened with death.

Several of her family members and many of her colleagues in the democracy movement had disappeared or been falsely charged with offences after evidence was planted in their homes by government agents. Now, persecuted by the very people her parents once supported with great loyalty, her life is at risk should she ever return.

She heard about the HK Refugee Advice Centre shortly after arriving in Hong Kong. With the help of our volunteers who gathered evidence in support of her claim and helped her explain all the details of her story, she was granted refugee status. Tara is awaiting resettlement to the U.S. where she will seek to be reunited with her children.

① For more information, please contact us:

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