Firstly, may the blessing of God be with you and your family, Fr John.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am Bolivian, was detained on 15-9-2016 at HK Int’l Airport, under the Dangerous Drugs ordinance. This letter has the intention of supporting your campaign “No to Drug Trafficking” and “No to a Journey without returning Home”.

What happens when a person makes a mistake? What makes a person decide to act contrary to his/her principles? From where comes the last ‘push’ which brings her to the abyss of a bad decision?

There are many reasons, for me there was only one – love. It may be difficult to understand but love for one’s family can bring us to lose the vision of our limits. What is the greatest love? It is that of a mother for her children and family, a love which brings her from sacrifice to sacrifice, with the sole object of securing their welfare.

The love which I have for my daughter and my family is so big, that my objective was to secure her welfare, future and happiness. I am a lady of 25 years of age who began a journey with no return on the 12.09.2016, which was the last day I saw my beloved family and my most precious treasure – my 6 year old daughter, as I left my country for Sao Paolo, Brazil. From there I transited to Dubai and then to Hong Kong. From Hong Kong I went to China by train; I thank God that I am alive, because in the PRC, there is the death penalty.

I went to China to take part in a fair which takes place twice a year, where people buy decorations for events, given that I am a Decorator and Organiser for events such as weddings, special birthdays etc. I started preparing my journey 2 months in advance, trying to get a cheaper ticket from a travel agency where I knew an Argentian man. He also gave me a contact in the Chinese Embassy who would speed up my visa; then she recommended a shop where I could buy a suitcase at good price. He offered to accompany me and seemed very kind, made sure they gave me a discount. I wanted to buy a pink suitcase, but he suggested a black one – so that other members of my family could use it in the future. At this point I didn’t suspect anything, he seemed so kind. When I bought the suitcase and looked inside, it was spacious and had nothing out of the ordinary, so I brought it home and kept it til the day of my departure.

I want my story of how I was tricked to be an example of the need to take precautions and not confide in the recommendations of strangers, like I did, which has resulted in me being deprived of my freedom and my daughter, waiting to be judged by the harsh laws of HK by people who do not know me. I ask God to give me strength to endure this punishment and to have mercy on me, as I ask mercy from you – the the authorities and inhabitants of Hong Kong. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.