

THE DETENTION

QOSA - A True Story in Qatar

Story and Screenplay

By

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SYNOPSIS

Goran Del Rosario is an "extreme provider" of comfort to his family who lives with him in Qatar as residents under his work visa sponsorship. He works as an advertising executive and together they live a good life. Goran's children always say "life is beautiful". Having a high salary package and a free accommodation, his three sons goes back and forth in Qatar and Philippines to attend universities and vacation in Doha. His eldest daughter attends at Philippine School of Doha (PSD) and the youngest is a baby to take care of. It's not a usual OFW story and lifestyle. They live in a comfortable three bedroom condominium at the heart of Doha's business district, West Bay.

Life changes when he loses job and fails to pay his bank loan. He gets a new job and his wife is forced to work as well as a grade school teacher. Despite his effort to continue paying in installment, the bank filed a case without his knowledge and decision of the court was given is absentia. It can only be cancelled by paying the bank in full a whopping 777,000 Qatari Riyal - Bank loan, credit card usage, over drafts and interests.

The last resort is for his family to go back home for good and for Goran to serve the 5 year jail term. The full amount is impossible to settle and the bank refuses to re-structure despite Goran's new job. A warrant was served and when Goran's Qatar I.D was scanned on a government transaction, the police handcuffed him and was transported into detention to start serving the five year jail term.

Goran's misery starts in prison without a foreign lawyer which he can't afford. Philippine embassy says they can't interfere in check cases. It ends there. No one to help him appeal, pay bail or at least a legal advice or options to lower the sentence. No family who has gone back home to negotiate with the bank.

In five years, Goran learns the ropes of living in detention like a "Big Brother" house reality TV show. Goran succumbs the pressure to survive, becomes a "comfort inmate" for protection and later on abused by unscrupulous inmate sexually and financially.

Through his determination and newly found friends fellow Filipino inmates, Goran survives the solitude. He became a cleaner, a laundryman, food and cigarette vendor and all sort of income generating activities to earn and still send money and comfort to his family back home including selling of his dignity in form of sexual favors.

In the end, he finds way to end it all and finds the luxury of time to do what he does best - advertising campaigns. Before his sentence ends, he has a business concept and an advocacy project for prisoners. This time not comfort to his family but service to co-inmates and soon to be inmates.

His realization is through prayers and meditation by praying the Holy Rosary. He was ready to face outside world. All set to put back his feet on track, no time wasted in five years of jail term. No need to pay the bank. He comes out debt free ready to start a new life with his family in his home country.

THE PITCH

Based on a true story. GORAN Del Rosario, not his real name loses job, fails to pay his bank loan and gets jailed in Qatar where bounced-check is a criminal offence. He is forced to serve a five year sentence and still provide for his family back home. The goal is to gel with his fellow inmates in detention where everyone has a bank loan case to pay in order to be released and live a normal life. But as overseas worker in Doha, How can you pay the loan if you're locked up in jail and jobless away from home? To survive, you need protection and must live the politics of jail.

Problems occur when protection entails servicing the supervisor- a fellow inmate given by jail authority to maintain orderliness inside detention. The service includes massage with pleasure they call "happy ending" a discreet practice in a world of all male cell. If avoided Goran will be a victim of bullying and the absence of income generating activities inside jail. He needs cash to still send remittance to his family in the Philippines. Survival of the fittest. He needs to swallow his pride and dignity for money.

This is a drama documenting the experiences of Doha expatriates on detention. A kind of punishment for a foreign workers who came for a greener pasture and never given another chance to continue working and pay the bank obligation. It's their law and no way out for now. But it's not a win-win situation. The bank gets nothing and the debtors' life stops while in detention.

The movie tackles the government's role in giving legal assistance through a Department of Foreign Affairs mandate called LAF or Legal Assistance Fund.

The Philippine embassy can't pay the bank loans of OFW but can support the check cases for appeal, cancelling or lowering down jail terms and other legal advices. If there is no lawyer, all of these cannot be done. How did Goran Del Rosario and other Filipino inmates survived without the free legal services from the embassy? This is their stories.

The film is a journey of healing that shows how to be positive and productive inside jail and how to fight bullying and discrimination. There is no "gang war" but there are several nationalities from all walks life of different colors, characters, culture, religions and tantrums.

An "eye opener" of a law that criminalizes bounce check and the movie hopes to change it. The victims are real. Their stories are sad and pitiful. Goran Del Rosario meets them all in Detention - the movie. A True Story in QATAR.

DIRECTORS NOTE

QOSA is a social issue film dedicated to Filipino Overseas Workers, (OFW) the so called "modern heroes" of our time. I am one of them and I can speak on their behalf as witness of neglect and incompetence from embassy officials who are representative of our government to assist our needs especially regarding legal assistance fund or LAF. Does it only apply for OFW's in death row? Do we as an OFW need to kill someone and become real criminal for LAF to be extended to us?

QOSA is a true story in Qatar where check cases and bank loans is a criminal offence. Goran Del Rosario's story is just one of hundreds of OFW's in Doha who were jailed and deported because of non-payment of loan. Goran along with other Filipino inmates were deprived of bail, appeal or at least legal advice that could have shortened jail terms. Jobless for months and years away from home.

Qosa is an advocacy film for other OFW's not only in Doha to learn the lessons and choose the next country they wish to work where they would know the language, basic law and culture. It's an eye opener for loan opportunities abroad to somehow tighten belt and live a simple life away from home. Many OFW's succumbs to lifestyle change forgetting the real reason of having their families to earn and not adopt in their host country's extravagance and lavish lifestyle.

Qosa will show to be positive and productive in times of crisis and darkness. Goran's journey and reflections must be a bandwagon and a good example of connecting to our creator. No matter what your religion is, we can communicate to him anywhere, anytime, whatever the circumstance is. Not just in a place of worship, let's hold our beads like Hindus, Mosbah for Muslims and rosary for the Catholics. Let's support Goran's campaign and call to pray at any time.

PARTICIPATING IN THE FOLLOWING FESTIVALS

MIDDLE EAST FILM FESTIVAL:

1. ABU DHABI FILM FESTIVAL
2. DUBAI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
3. AJYAL FILM FESTIVAL DOHA

ASIA FILM FESTIVAL

1. KERALA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
2. MUMBAI INTERNTIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
3. TOKYO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
4. SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
5. BUSAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
6. CINEMALAYA PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
7. CINE MANILA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL QUEZON CITY
8. WORLD FILM FESTIVAL OF BANGKOK

MOVIE THME SONG 1

"KAHIT SAAN"

Lyrics by :

Oscar De Jesus Yema

Verse 1

Kahit saan ako magpunta akoy iyong nasusundan
Kahit anung aking gawin di kita malusutan
Kahit akoy magkamali di mo ako sinumbatan
Kahit sa gitna ng problema akoy nabibigyan ng kasiyahan
Kahit akoy madapa akoy iyong pinapasan

Chorus

Kahit saan! Kahit saan!
Kahit sa paanung paraan!
Pagmamahal nya ay suklian.
Pagmamalasakit nya ay palitan.
Pag-ibig nyang wagas ay gantihan.

Verse 2

Kahit ang buhay ay sadyang masalimuot
Kahit tayo'y laging takot na takot
Kahit na ang mundo'y patuloy na umikot
Kahit maranasan natin ang sandaling kurot
Kahit tayo'y bumagsak dahil nakalimot

Repeat chorus:

Verse 3

Kahit na sa kaunting sandali
Anumang oras, umaga, tanghali at gabi,
Huwag lang sa tuwinang ikaw ay nasasawi
Sakripisyo nya ay walang kauri
Kilos na huwag magbakasakali.

Bridge

Kahi saan, kahit sa anumang oras o paraan.
Kahit sinu ka man, kahit sa kalungkutan.
Kahit sa kulungan kahit sa kagipitan.
Lagi mo syang balik-balikan.
Kapalit ay biyayang walang katapusan.
Lagi kang pupus-pusin ng kaligayahan.

Repeat Chorus

Repeat 1, 2 and 3

Repeat Bridge

Repeat Chorus

Coda

Kahit saan, kahit saan
Kausapin mo sya kaibigan
Lagi kang pakikinggan
Lagi kang kaaawaan
Lagi mo syang dasalan
Kahit saan! Kahit saan!

MOVIE THEME SONG 2

"BEADS IS MY PASSION"

Lyrics by:

Oscar De Jesus Yema

Verse I

In a kingdom far away from home
Before the sun sets they wake up each day
They do the same before noon and afternoon
Before the moon says hello and when darkness comes
They kneel and pray five times a day.

CHORUS

Let's do it the way we want it.
Let's hold it in our hands as we walk.
Let's not be ashamed of it.
Anywhere. Anytime...
Even outside our homes and sanctuary.
Let's count the beads and pray it.

Verse II

Anywhere they go their beads on hand
Anytime of the day they bring it and pray
On the road, on the dessert even on the mall
Talking to their creator practicing their faith.

REPEAT CHORUS

VERSE III

At the end of the day when we all face Him
We came to life with nothing and will leave empty handed.
Except our conscience and pride
That we have served Him through others

REPEAT CHORUS

REPEAT I and CHORUS

REPEAT BRIDGE

REPEAT II AND CHORUS

CODA

Then one day I was in solitude
Locked up in darkness and pain
It became my only companion
My only source of hope
The beads became my friend
It became my passion
Like the others with beads
I will pray to my creator
Anywhere. Anytime.
I will not be ashamed of it
My beads is my passion and fashion
I will hold it.
I will flaunt it.
Anywhere. Anytime.
I will not be ashamed of it.