Ariel: First court appearance

Dear Presiding Judge,

I am writing to you today regarding a deeply tragic situation in our small family of four. My son, Ariel Jacques, is suffering from mental illness. For several years, we suspected that something was wrong. We tried to persuade him to seek psychiatric help, but like many who struggle with mental health issues, he refused to acknowledge the problem.

At the beginning of last year, when the war broke out, Ariel's condition worsened dramatically. His behaviour became increasingly erratic and irrational. Those who know him closely confirmed this alarming change. Unfortunately, this was not the first time Ariel displayed such behaviour—he has experienced similar bouts of irrationality in recent years.

Unable to manage his condition or cope with the stress it caused, we felt compelled to distance ourselves from him. This decision brought us months of quiet suffering and emotional pain.

In April, a truly horrifying incident occurred. Ariel came to our home, but he was not himself. He broke in and attacked us unexpectedly. It was a terrifying experience. The police intervened and arrested him, and throughout the subsequent investigation, we repeatedly informed both the police and the prosecutors that Ariel needed psychiatric care.

For the first four months after the incident, we refused to speak with him. However, as time passed, we learned that Ariel has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder—a diagnosis that unfortunately aligns with the troubling behavior we have witnessed over the past decade.

In just six months, Ariel lost everything he had built over ten years. He now has no place to live, no means of transportation, no income, no relatives other than us, no friends, and no money. On top of that, during his manic episodes, he accumulated $30,000 in debt by spending on things that made no sense.

Ariel is now on prescribed medication, and he has come to realize the severity of his actions. He has expressed deep regret and has sincerely apologized to us multiple times. We believe that, for the first time, Ariel understands that he is mentally unwell and must adapt his life accordingly.

Unfortunately, the medical facility where he is currently receiving treatment is severely understaffed. From what we’ve learned, patients receive minimal care. Similarly, the hostel where Ariel lived after being released from jail is filthy and overcrowded, filled with drug addicts and alcoholics. These conditions are not conducive to his recovery. Ariel is fragile, and he cannot recover or survive on his own under these circumstances.

We are a very small family. There are only four of us. My husband and I are retired, and my eldest son is constantly occupied with work. Nevertheless, we want to bring Ariel home. We have a separate room prepared for him, and we are committed to ensuring that he continues his medical treatment while also helping us as we grow older and weaker.

We pray that such an incident will never occur again. We are elderly and have limited time left in this world. Please allow our son to come home and be by our side, where we can support him in his recovery and ensure his continued care.

Sincerely,

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