

Luz María's Story

Luz María Tarazona was born April 2, 1998 in a rural town in the Dos de Mayo Province. She is 15 years old, and she is in her sixth year of primary school. Luz María is an orphan. Her mother and father both have passed away due to illnesses. After the death of her parents, Luz María was forced to move to a distant town in the district of Panao to live with her half-brother, Faustino Tarazona Cori. Luz María sadly remembers how Faustino promised to take care of her, including provide her basic needs, help her go to school, and protect her. However, he far from fulfilled his promise. He bought school supplies for his children, but, when it came to Luz María, he said there was not enough money. She had to wake up early to cook the family lunch and clean the house before going to school. Often, her chores took any time she had for doing homework.

She tragically remembers how her half-brother's sixteen year old son sexually abused her, starting when she was only twelve years old. He raped her on multiple occasions. When they were all alone in the house, he would yell, harass, and hit her, and then he throw her on the floor and rape her. When Luz María told his mother, her sister-in-law, what was happening, she said that Luz María had to endure being treated this way.