

## **For daddy**

*Mayhang Reblando Zainal*

Dad, a lot of images were running in my head every time I speak your name,  
Without you in my life feels like things will never be the same.  
What happened to those days when I was still a child;  
When my life is captivated by your love, your smile, and your heart that is so kind?

I constantly hear you say that I'll forever be your "little girl,"  
And I want you to know that for me you are my entire world.  
You were my father, my hero, and a best friend;  
That will always remain until the end.

When I was in trouble I could run to you and you would always see me through,  
Even if I'm hard headed and wouldn't listen to you.  
You never fail to let me feel that I am so much loved,  
And you alone is enough that I have.

Dad, who will I seek for answers when life doesn't make sense?  
Who will be there to hold my hand when I feel so tense?  
My life seems incomplete without you by my side,  
Just like a rider without his ride.

My heart breaks each day that goes by,  
But I'll be strong for you and keep my head up high.  
Because that is what you've taught me,  
To be strong, hopeful, and just believe.

I hope that you are always looking down on me;  
And when life gets hazy, I hope you will help me see.  
Help me as I move on and face the world,  
And remember that I'll always be a "**Daddy's little girl.**"

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This poem is written by the daughter of Alejandro Bong Reblando, to mark his 2<sup>nd</sup> death anniversary. Bong was murdered together with 32 journalists in the Maguindanao massacre. For more information on the massacre, please see <http://www.humanrights.asia/campaigns/mm> and for more information on Bong, please see <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-ART-065-2009/>.