



TV

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## PARAGUAY: JORGE AND JULIO'S STORY

### VIDEO

JULIO AT HIS CELL

JULIO WAKES UP

JORGE AT HOME

JULIO'S GRANDMOTHER  
MAKING A FIRE

SINFOROSA ON CAMERA

JULIO'S BLACK & WHITE

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

For the last 15 years, Julio Rotelo has been waking up behind bars. He's only 23 – his crime? To have a severe form of a little understood condition – autism. His sentence – to be locked away from a society that didn't know what to do with him. (19")

Twenty-four-year-old Jorge Bernal is also profoundly autistic. He too was locked away as a little boy. But for all they have in common, their stories have turned out very differently. (12")

When Julio's mother abandoned him as a baby, his grandmother, Sinfiorosa Dominguez was left to raise the severely mentally-disabled two-year-old. (8.5")

#### SINFOROSA DOMINGUEZ: (Guarani) **F**

*"I loved him very much. I saw him grow but I suffered a lot during that time when he had his attacks. One day he fell in the bath and*

PHOTOS

*crashed his head. Things were always happening to him ....” (12.78”)*

NARRATION

SINFOROSA AT THE KITCHEN

Struggling to cope, she resorted to tying Julio to a tree to keep him from escaping. (5”)

FOOTAGE OF JULIO AT SEVEN YEARS OLD

At seven years old, Julio was taken away from her and was put into the state’s only psychiatric Hospital. At first, he was cared for individually by Nurse Lucila Contreras, as seen in this footage shot at that time. (13.8”)

LUCILA CONTRERAS, JULIO’S FIRST NURSE ON CAMERA

LUCILA CONTRERAS: (Spanish) **F**  
*“He was such a tense boy, hyperactive. He’d cry, he’d shout, he used to break everything. He used to hit himself against the wall... When he used to run to a corner shouting and crying, I’d say ‘Come here, Juli, my baby, come here to my arms’, and he’d come and put his head on my lap and he’d calm down. I would stroke his head and pet him until he was calm. We’d spend hours like that...” (25”)*

FOOTAGE OF YOUNG JULIO WITH LUCILA

FOOTAGE OF YOUNG JULIO INSIDE THE CENTRE

NARRATION

When the funding set aside for his care ran out, everything changed. He was taken from Lucila and put into the men’s section where, for his own safety, he was locked up alone. (11.5)

JORGE WITH HIS MOTHER AT HOME

Jorge Bernal's story began in another poor house-hold in Asuncion. Like Julio, Jorge has an extreme form of autism. For some, this condition makes them unable to relate to the world or communicate with people around them. For others, like Julio and Jorge, it can reduce them to a state of lonely despair and agitation. (23.8")

JORGE'S MOTHER SWEEPING THE YARD

After his mother, Blacida Arevalo, gave birth to her sixth child, she could no longer cope with Jorge, who used to run away constantly. In desperation, she turned to the authorities for help. The only solution, they told her, was to put Jorge in the institution. (17")

BLACILDA AREVALO, JORGE'S MOTHER, ON CAMERA

BLACIDA AREVALO: (Spanish) **F**  
*"They told me there was no help available but that I could go and visit him when I wanted. Because your son is never going to be useful to society, they said."* (9.78")

HOSPITAL STAFF BRINGING JORGE INTO HIS CELL

NARRATION  
In 1996, 12-year-old Jorge was also admitted to the Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, and put in the cell next to Julio. For 23 hours a day, they were locked away alone, in filthy, cramped cells. This is where Alison Hillman, from the organization Mental Disability Rights International, found them in 2003. She shot this footage of them. (27")

FILTHY WALL

JORGE INSIDE HIS CELL

ALISON HILLMAN, MENTAL  
DISABILITY RIGHTS INT'L, ON  
CAMERA

ALISON HILLMAN: (English) **F**

*"They slept and ate and resided in the very same space where they defecated and urinated. They were taken out of their cells to be hosed off... When people are locked away from society, they're really invisible."* (18")

MANFRED NOVAK, UN SPECIAL  
RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE.

NARRATION

Manfred Nowak is the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture. (3.20")

MANFRED NOVAK ON CAMERA

MANFRED NOWAK: (English) **M**

*"It is very, very important that all those who are excluded, persons with disabilities, but also the poor and others, are integrated into normal life. That is a major principle of human rights in general."* (11.75")

ALISON WITH OTHER STAFF  
ATTENDING TO JULIO IN HIS  
CELL

NARRATION

In response to the human-rights violations uncovered by Alison, conditions in the hospital have improved. But although the authorities are looking for an alternative, Julio remains in a cell today. (11.5")

JULIO WITH CLOTHES ON

JULIO DRAGGING HIS  
MATTRESS/BLANKET

ALISON HILLMAN: (English) **F**

*"I think that mostly it's been a lack of resources and a lack of knowing what to do. People with disabilities have the right to be in the community and to receive the services and support that they need to live in the community."* (11")

ALISON HILLMAN ON CAMERA

JULIO BEING FED FROM  
OUTSIDE HIS CELL

NARRATION

While Julio's future depends on money being found to pay for new community-based care for him, Jorge's torment ended 18 months' ago. After nine years in the institution, his mother was finally able to bring him home. Jorge has blossomed and relearned the social skills he lost during his years in isolation. (21")

JORGE AT HOME WITH HIS  
MOTHER

BLACIDA AREVALO, JORGE'S  
MOTHER, ON CAMERA

BLACIDA AREVALO: (Spanish) **F**

*"I feel really good because it's like it was before ... I've been living with the guilt of having put my son in there. But he came back, and for me, that was the absolute best! What I want now is to be able to give him the life he wants ..."* (4.5")

JORGE PLAYS WITH HIS  
MOTHER

NARRATION

UN LOGO

This report has been prepared by Gill Fickling for the United Nations. (4")