

# Fil-Am activist names torturers

Roxas mentions 'RC,' 'Dex,' 'Rose,' 'James,' 'Boss'

by NIKKO DIZON  
Inquirer.net



Melissa Roxas

MANILA – The Filipino-American activist who returned from the United States to back her claim of having been abducted and tortured by state agents named her tormentors at a public hearing conducted Thursday by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

For five hours marked by a couple of short breaks, Melissa Roxas, 31, detailed a six-day ordeal in May, mentioning "RC," "Dex," "Rose," "James," and a man whom they referred to alternately as "Boss" or "Sir."

Roxas, a member of the US chapter of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan-USA) and of the Los Angeles-based cultural group Habi Arts, occasionally took long pauses before answering a question, as if gathering courage. At times her voice cracked, or trailed off.

But she said with certainty that she would be able to tag Rose if they meet again.

She said that while she was

as on Friday for the purpose of drawing up sketches of the purported torturers.

"The names could possibly be only pseudonyms. They don't even have last names. But we will ask Melissa to describe them to an artist so we can have a sketch," De Lima said.

"Can we be friends?" Roxas told the commissioners that as though to add insult to injury, the man who called himself RC offered friendship to her and told her to forget the six days of fear and pain.

She recounted that the night before she was told she would be taken home, RC told her: "Can we be friends? You're going to forget this happened."

Rose, on the other hand, identified herself as a member of a church group.

Roxas said the woman helped her take baths and stayed with her in her cell at night.

She said it was James who interrogated her. On another day, she said, he introduced himself

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blindfolded for the most part of her captivity, she had managed to "cheat the blindfold" by peering through the cloth and was thus able to see the profiles of Rose and RC.

CHR Chair Leila de Lima told reporters after the hearing that the commission would conduct a closed-door session with Rox-

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