

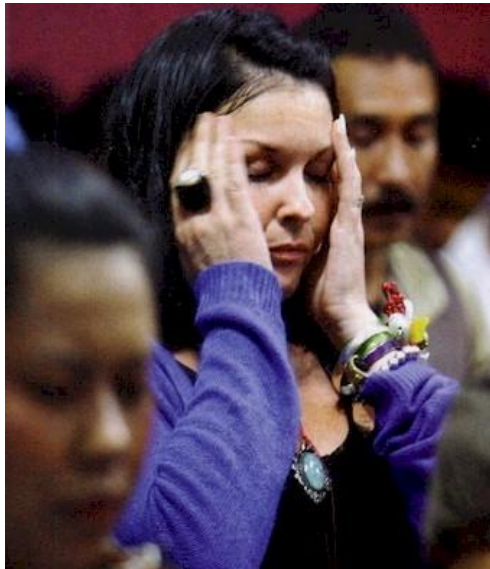
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Independent Report

Schapelle Corby's Deteriorating Health



"She is in the deepest of pain and her personal world is coming apart"

"Even if Schapelle got really good medical treatment in jail the place itself would destroy her, given her now precarious condition"

"She is now helpless, hopeless, feels useless, she feels alienated, she feels removed from the rest of humanity"

"She is hanging on by a thread"

Diagnosed by Associate Professor Jonathan Phillips, former President of the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists

The Expendable Project
www.expendable.tv

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1. INTRODUCTION

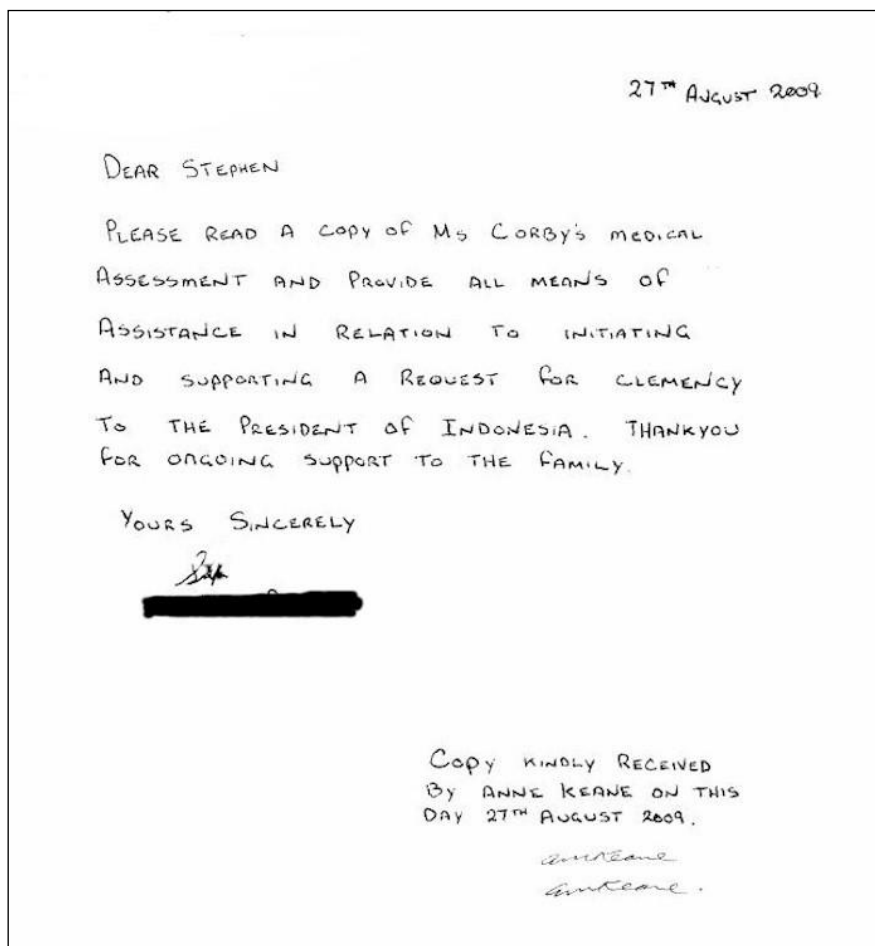
Schapelle Corby is mentally ill, and continues to deteriorate. Despite this, and in breach of her human rights, she remains incarcerated in a squalid prison cell.

In August 2009, a psychiatric report was produced by one of Australia's most eminent psychiatrists, Dr Jonathan Phillips, MB BS FRANZCP:

Jonathan Phillips MB BS FRANZCP Consultant Psychiatrist	
13 August 2009	
PSYCHIATRIC REPORT, MS SCHAPELLE CORBY AGE 33 YEARS	
Jonathan Phillips MB BS, FRANZCP Consultant Psychiatrist	
ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITAE 2009	
1.	Jonathan Phillips is an independent mental health consultant in his professional role as a psychiatrist. He is Associate Professor at the University of New South Wales, Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Adelaide, Associate Professor at James Cook University, Chairman of the Specialist Medical Review Council, a Past Director of Mental Health South Australia, a former Chairman of the Committee of Presidents of the Australian Medical Colleges, a former President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP), and a former member of the Australian Medical Council. He has been involved in numerous RANZCP educational activities over the years, including Chair Committee for Training and Chair Fellowships Board of the College. Additionally, he has represented the RANZCP in various medico-political activities, including the position of Chair of the Strategic Planning Group for Private Psychiatric Services.
2.	Jonathan Phillips is a graduate in Medicine from the University of Melbourne. He is a fellow of the RANZCP. In March 2009, Jonathan Phillips was appointed as a member of the Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences.
3.	Currently Jonathan Phillips is involved in three significant professional activities: consultant advice to health services and other bodies, clinical psychiatry and medicolegal psychiatry. He has been a World Health Organization (WHO) short term health consultant and consultant to the New Zealand Ministry of Health, he has held the locum position as Head Department of Psychiatry at the Repatriation General Hospital New South Wales, has been Chair of the Psychiatric Division of the Medical Services Committee of New South Wales and has been guest lecturer and examiner in the School of Postgraduate Studies National University of Singapore. He has lectured in India, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Austria, Hungary, Italy, and Brazil.
4.	Jonathan Phillips is currently involved in the preparation and delivery of the Masters Program in Forensic Mental Health, University of New South Wales.
5.	He was awarded the Grey Ewan Medal of the RANZCP in 1973, the Graham Coupland Medal of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons in 1993 and the Arthur E Mills Medal of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 2000.
6.	Jonathan Phillips is a member of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and the Medicolegal Society of New South Wales.
7.	He is certified by WorkCover New South Wales and Motor Accidents Authority New South Wales as trained in the Evaluation and Assessment of Permanent Impairment in mental and behavioural disorders, for purposes of reporting to the two organisations.
Level 6 • 65 York Street Sydney NSW Australia 2000 • Tel 612 8221 0741 • Fax 612 8221 0742 Jonathan Phillips Pty Ltd (Inc in NSW) Provider No 118864T ACN 003 092 153 ABN 63 003 092 153 GPO Box 715 • Sydney NSW 2001	

[Introduction]

Copies of the psychiatric report were provided to the government by a multitude of means, including through a diplomatic bag to the then Prime Minister Rudd. It was also directly handed to Foreign Minister Smith's office as indicated below (Ms Keane subsequently confirmed that she personally handed it to Stephen Smith MP on the following Sunday, as soon as he arrived back from Chile). Despite countless follow ups, and references to it in the media, the government failed to formally confirm receipt until May 2010.



At the time of production of this report, in 2011, despite the visible deterioration of Schapelle Corby, and the regular reports of shocking and harrowing incidents resulting from her mental illness, in such brutal circumstances, the Australian government have continued to evade their responsibilities stemming from the psychiatric issues documented.

NOTE: The contents of the psychiatric report are deeply disturbing, but have been withheld from this report for privacy reasons.

2. SCHAPELLE CORBY'S MENTAL ILLNESS

2.1 SCHAPELLE CORBY'S SUFFERING

Schapelle Corby is now mentally ill, and due to the strong medication she is taking for this, she is also physically deteriorating.

The article below is extracted from a letter written by a well known advocate and supporter. It was sent to every Australian MP and Senator in June 2010. Less than ten of them replied, and all but a couple of the responses were copy/pasted from prepared text.

SCHAPELLE CORBY'S MENTAL ILLNESS

It is impossible to properly articulate the trauma and suffering Schapelle Corby has endured. The turmoil has been such that it has rendered her mentally ill and at serious risk of short term death.

People have no idea what her reality actually is, as a mentally ill Australian woman in a squalid foreign prison. What her deteriorating mental illness means in practice. What it means in her daily life in her situation.

They don't know about the maltreatment and abuse. They haven't seen the Dr Phillips' report, and what he actually had to say about her shocking condition and chances. They have little comprehension of the depths of psychosis she endures every hour of every day.

Nor have they considered the physical aspect of suffering severe mental illness in that environment. That she is childlike and totally exposed to criminal exploiters and others. What that REALLY means.

About how she struggles to look after herself. What her sister sometimes has to do for her, to function as a human being. How she is defenceless, and how she is treated every day of every week in what is already a frightening and terrible place.

People really should think about these things. If they did, and understood what is now shocking cruelty, they would weep, as I do.

HANGING ON

Schapelle has remained strong for so long: holding on day after day in hope and belief that justice and truth would prevail. Bewildered, confused, but keeping faith in humanity and clinging desperately to past memories and the love of her family.

[Schapelle Corby's Mental Illness]

But year after year it has become harder and harder, as her mental strength has been worn down. Freedom is so far away that it is not even on the radar, yet she has been in the squalid overcrowded unbearable heat of that cell for what will seem like an absolute eternity.

A RECENT VISITOR

Let me tell you what a visitor reported recently:

"When she wasn't staring into space and rocking from side to side, or looking around intently seeing cameras everywhere and who knows what other demons, she was making frequent references to suicide and death. From time to time the Schapelle I remember would resurface from the depths, but this occurred infrequently. From other comments she made, and intense references to her dead father, I fear I may not see her again."

"Schapelle now thinks she is ugly and this could very well be attributed to the media. She also thinks she is stupid, which is probably due to bullying and taunts like the white monkey ones. Her defences are gone and she is vulnerable and open to everyone and anyone."

"When we left the prison and were being driven back to our hotel in a cab, we were both crying for most of the journey."



A couple of recent true stories I have also picked up:

- Schapelle pulled all the eyes off her soft toys and handed them to her mum, telling her "Take the cameras away". Then the visitor above took her a soft toy, a tiger. She hid it because she fears its eyes watch her. Then, of course, the media are allowed in with their cameras.
- Schapelle asked her mum if she was REALLY her mother. She told her that people can be made up to look like her mum with makeup. She kept asking, "Are you really my mum?"
- Last time her uncle went, she sat there with tears streaming down her face, because she couldn't make him understand what she meant. It was something to do with his watch. She couldn't comprehend and sobbed for the full hour.
- Then again, just a few weeks ago she was begging her mother to let her kill herself after an AUSTRALIAN media crew burst into her cell and confronted her. Can you imagine how her mother felt when she left her behind? Channel 9 basically told people who complained that she is *fair game*.

I could go on and on, and this just scratches the surface. This is what she has become after what they have done to her, and by they, I mean people in Australia too. I mean Australian politicians.

Australia has an innocent mentally ill woman dying in a foreign hell hole and has simply watched her deteriorate, even allowing its own media to continue its onslaught with intrusion and malicious reporting. She should have been in a hospital a year ago, but instead she is being mentally tortured, and no-one lifts a finger to help her.

2.2 COMMENTS

Some comments from those who have seen her recently illustrate this further:

"At one stage she sat on the floor with my daughter's stuffed frog that plays tunes and she was there holding it for 90 minutes without moving."

"Schapelle was a strong minded person then, determined not to crumble and determined to prove her innocence. Now she's like a timid little child who cowers when I scold her for doing silly things, like climbing the water tower." "She thinks she can hop up and go, she'd just start to get ready. She'd change her clothes and say 'let's go'. We'd have to say, 'No Schapelle, you can't'." "She's always talking about being better off dead. I'm really concerned for her. She's definitely not sane any more. She talks about "going down" which means down into a grave. She says she would be better off dead."

"According to her cellmates she doesn't sleep at night," Kerobokan jail doctor Agus Hartawan said. "Sometimes she is blank. Sometimes she just hangs around the cell, sometimes she forgets about things. Sometimes she forgets to look after herself." "On this occasion she was dishevelled, was not looking after herself properly and was paranoid, believing someone was spying on her through a hold in the ceiling of her jail cell." "She has this thing about climbing the water tower, all the time. She's done it many times and I always have to go out and talk her down. She tries to refuse sometimes but always obeys me in the end – either willingly or forcefully. I just insist in a firm way until she gives in. She never defies me." "Schapelle Corby is so traumatised by her time in jail that she has lost all touch with reality."

DOCTOR JONATHAN PHILLIPS

The comments from Dr Jonathan Phillips, a former president of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, who examined her directly, are even starker:

- *"She is now helpless, hopeless, feels useless, she feels alienated, she feels removed from the rest of humanity."*
- *"Schapelle has now cut herself quite severely and many times over on two occasions."*
- *"By any normal definition of insane, Schapelle is sadly in that category."*
- *"She is in a situation where she could easily move forward to kill herself."*
- *"She is hanging on by a thread."*

PSTCHIATRIC NURSE KIM BAX

Kim Bax, a psychiatric nurse, explains Schapelle's condition (see the YouTube interview on www.expendable.tv):

Question: You are a psychiatric nurse aren't you?

Kim: *Yes I am*

Question: Can you describe what Schapelle condition is?

Kim: *Schapelle is a very very sick girl. At the moment she has a severe psychotic depression, very high risk of suicide, and is at high risk of harming herself. She is quite delusional. She is believing things that are untrue she is probably hearing things that are untrue. She is quite out of touch with reality.*

If she was in this country she would be in hospital, she would be having regular medication supervised by qualified nurses and doctors. She would probably have a nurse allocated to her 24 hours a day, at least for the first 2 or 3 weeks to get proper treatment, because she is at such high risk of suicide and such high risk of harming herself

Question: Is her condition really that desperate or urgent?

Kim: *Absolutely. People with Schapelle's condition kill themselves all the time or end up with severe injuries. They are out of touch with reality, and so desperate that they can't bear to be alive. People in Schapelle's condition are walking a tightrope.*

In August 2009, [New Idea Magazine](#) published an interview with Dr Jonathan Phillips, which starkly described the seriousness of Schapelle Corby's condition.



I mprisoned in her own private hell, Schapelle Corby is now completely insane, according to a leading Australian psychiatrist who examined her only days ago.

Associate Professor Jonathan Phillips warns Schapelle – who has already slashed her arms in the hope of bleeding to death – will not survive to see the end of her 20-year sentence unless she is removed from Bali's Kerobokan jail as a matter of urgency.

TERRIBLE CONDITIONS

Lost and afraid, she is suffering from a severe psychotic illness accompanied by delusions, hallucinations and a thought disorder. At times, her fragile mind and body shut down completely and she sinks into a catatonic state seldom seen in Australia, where early intervention and treatment are available.

The doctor, a former president of the Royal Australian And New Zealand College Of Psychiatrists and a past director of Mental



"I'm appalled that other prisoners take responsibility for giving Schapelle her medication," Dr Phillips says.

After a shocking new report into Schapelle Corby's mental state, her family is begging for urgent action to save her life

Health South Australia, is convinced Schapelle cannot recover while she remains in the 'toxic environment' of prison – especially with other inmates doling out her medication.

Shocked and deeply moved by his private lengthy consultation with Schapelle, the specialist cautions: 'I really fear for her. I know from experience that her illness will not get any better in the current situation, and will probably worsen with the risk of a calamity. Whether she's innocent or guilty, her needs are medical.'

'Jail is a tough environment and I'm appalled that other prisoners take responsibility for giving Schapelle her medication.'

'I've never known a similar situation before and the things that might go wrong are beyond reckoning. Schapelle is extremely vulnerable to exploitation, particularly by fellow prisoners higher in the pecking order.'

MENTAL BREAKDOWN

Dr Phillips is speaking out with full consent from the Corby family, who arranged his visit

to Bali with the assistance of Sane Australia and backing from New Idea. He thought he knew what to expect in Denpasar, but frankly admits that the reality shook his preconceptions.

As he describes it: 'Schapelle is hanging on by a thread. She knew who I was and why I was there and the purpose of our discussion. She was pleased for me to offer advice. However, beyond that she is lost in her own bewildering world where fantasy, hallucinations and bizarre ideas dominate her mind.'

In the depths of her terrifying psychosis, the 32-year-old former beautician has lost all touch with reality and has told friends and family she believes:

- Her family lives underground, coming up for air.
- Other people control her thoughts by means of microchips implanted in her teeth.
- Birds outside her cell speak to her in code.
- Numbers and letters have eyes and noses.
- Her tears have power to cause the death of others.
- She has been drugged with ant poison.

'Schapelle is trapped in a harsh environment in a country where she has relatively poor



language skills and where she is surrounded by people who can be very tough, very threatening and very manipulative,' explains the doctor, who's exchanged notes with Dr Denny Thong, the local psychiatrist who also visits Schapelle.

'The prison environment is toxic for a person who's mentally ill. It makes the situation far, far worse and risks a catastrophe. Even if Schapelle got really good medical treatment in jail the place itself would destroy her, given her now-precarious condition.

'But specialised mental health services are just not available in Kerobokan. If it wasn't for the goodwill and financial support of her family, she would not be seeing a psychiatrist at all. She has responded only partly to medication and sees no hope in the future. She fears she may not be alive to see the end of her sentence. Do I need to say more?

'It's accepted practice almost

everywhere these days to treat prisoners with mental illnesses in a hospital setting. Nothing short of this will do Schapelle any good.

'According to Dr Thong, she has become far worse over the past few months, and this process will continue unless she is moved.

'How different her situation would be in Australia. We must never forget that Schapelle is an Australian citizen, and we would hope that she would get the

same treatment as an Australian citizen in any other setting.'

This week the Corby family will submit the doctor's report on Schapelle's condition to the Prime Minister's office, Foreign Minister Stephen Smith, Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull, Queensland

Premier Anna Bligh, Beyondblue and Sane Australia.

There are critics who claim Schapelle is faking madness to gain public sympathy, but Dr Phillips is certain her illness is all too horribly genuine.

'Let me make it clear, I have been a psychiatrist for many years and I approach my work with proper clinical scepticism,' he stresses. 'She is not putting this on. She is in the deepest

of pain and her personal world is coming apart.

'Her mind is now playing dreadful tricks on her. She can get no peace because she is sure she is being filmed at all times for bizarre purposes. She sees highly personalised and critical

messages in books, on television and in videos, and she is sure that others are conspiring to end her life. She is in huge trouble.'

NO TIME TO WAIT

Last week, to celebrate Indonesia's Independence Day, Schapelle was given a four-month remission on her sentence. But with around 15 years' imprisonment still looming like a dark tunnel in front of her, she is alienated and increasingly desperate.

The deaths of her father and stepfather in 2008, plus the loss of her final appeal, seem to have sparked her initial decline around 18 months ago. Hospitalised twice in the past 12 months, she's been given very limited treatment and sent back to prison.

Yet throughout the long ordeal of her trial and conviction for smuggling 4.2kg of cannabis into Bali, and the ongoing torture of her life behind bars, Schapelle has always maintained her innocence.

Sadly, however, the woman who vowed to stay the same age as when she was arrested in 2004, has regressed to a childhood world of teddy bears and dolls.

‘I don’t doubt that she’d make a determined effort to kill herself’

At first Schapelle – whose 32nd birthday on July 10 triggered her latest mental crisis – greeted Dr Phillips with suspicion, checking walls and furniture in the drab prison office where their interview took place.

Later, she warmed to the man she soon nicknamed 'Mr Squiggle' and words and scrambled thoughts poured out 'in a torrent'. Girlish and adult by turns, she drew mystifying diagrams to explain the true meaning of numbers and letters.

She said she'd recently climbed the eight-metre water tower near her Kerobokan cellblock just to 'get some air', not because she was 'showing off'.

She whispered she hoped to 'bleed to death' and leave others to clean up the mess. Then, seeing her big sister Mercedes start to cry, she tenderly told

her to leave the room, as she hated her to be upset.

In that affection, Dr Phillips says, lies a glimmer of hope.

'Despite all her problems, Schapelle can clear her mind temporarily and talk about the support she gets from her sister, mother and brother,' he says. 'The family are her lifeline. Without them, we can all forget her.'

Thoughtfully, he adds: 'Everybody seems to have preconceived ideas about Mercedes, and they're totally untrue. Everybody loves to hate her, and that's just awful.'

'I found her to be a strong and resourceful woman with her sister's welfare as an issue of absolute importance in her life. I was enormously impressed by the way she manages to support her sister every day of the year. That's rare indeed.'

WHAT IS PSYCHOSIS?

'Psychosis' refers to a severe mental illness where the person loses touch with the reality we all share. Characteristically, the person's thoughts become fragmented and sometimes impossible to follow. They'll hear voices, see visions and develop strange ideas, such as paranoid delusions, that they are about to be persecuted or killed.

'There is nothing more terrifying than a psychosis,' Dr Phillips says.

To treat someone with the illness:

- Move the patient out of their destructive, toxic environment.
- Arrange regular, competent medical assistance.
- Medicate with antidepressants and/or anti-psychotic drugs for as long as necessary.
- Ensure good ongoing support from family and friends.

A FAMILY'S ANGUISH

Somehow, mother-of-three Mercedes finds the time to visit Schapelle almost daily. She pays for her sister's needs, from food to medication, and also runs her own Bali-based swimwear business.

But it's a constant struggle and, caring for her sister as she does, it's emotionally crushing for her to read Dr Phillips' report.

'I guess it's everything I already knew,' the 35-year-old says sadly. 'It didn't surprise me,

because I've seen her at her worst, but it's really, really sad to see it all written down in black and white.

'It makes me feel helpless. The government has been aware of her condition from the beginning – the Consul reports back – but nothing seems to happen. Because she looks physically healthy, people thinks she's OK, but her mind is a total mess,' Mercedes says.

'Now, with help from Dr Phillips, I hope we can get some action at last. We have to get her

ABOUT DR PHILLIPS

Dr Jonathan Phillips is an independent mental health consultant in his professional role as a psychiatrist and has been involved in many high-profile cases including that of Cornelia Rau. He's Associate Professor at the University Of NSW and James Cook University and Clinical Associate Professor at the University Of Adelaide. He is also chairman of the Specialist Medical Review Council, a past director of Mental Health South Australia, a former chairman of the Committee Of Presidents Of Australian Medical Colleges and a former president of the Royal Australian And New Zealand College Of Psychiatrists. He's been a World Health Organisation consultant and has lectured in many countries including India, Singapore, Thailand and Italy.

out of prison to a place where she can be properly looked after.'

And that, says the doctor, is the only thing that can save Schapelle.

'The best option, given inter-government discussion, would be for Schapelle to be transferred as a prisoner to Australia, and treated in a

secure hospital setting,' he says.

Failing that, she should be moved to a secure psychiatric facility in Bali, close to family support. It would be disastrous, he believes, to send her to a women's jail in Java where her isolation would be complete.

'I don't doubt that she'd make a determined effort to kill herself if such a decision was reached,' he emphasises. 'Even in the

best of custodial circumstances, Schapelle has a moderately high risk for self-destructive behaviour and suicide.'

IT'S TIME FOR ACTION


Finally, Dr Phillips reaches a sobering conclusion: 'Schapelle is likely to be the only Australian

citizen suffering a major mental illness who is serving a very long sentence within a prison in another country.

'She is completely deprived of the support and treatment available to other Australian citizens. The tragedy of her life is obvious,' he says. 'She has no hope; her treatment is inadequate and cannot work in the current environment. She

is condemned to a private hell which is hard to contemplate and will probably end in death.'

As he left Schapelle behind the razor wire of Kerobokan, she ran after him and asked forlornly: 'Do you think anybody is going to do anything to help me?'

Still moved by her simple question, the doctor recalls: 'I was stuck for an answer, but in my heart I know that something can be done, assuming there's the will to accept that she doesn't have to have a mental illness, in addition to everything else.' 

By Jenny Brown

Pictures: Lisa Saad

HAVE YOUR SAY

Send New Idea your letters of support for Schapelle. We guarantee we'll pass them on to the Prime Minister's Office and the Queensland Premier Anna Bligh. Email mirella@newidea.com.au, or write to us at New Idea, Private Bag 9960, North Sydney, NSW 2059.

2.4 THE AUTHOR'S ACCOUNT

Author, Kathryn Bonella, describes Schapelle Corby's short hospital stay, in 2009, in her book, *Hotel K*:

Australian inmate Schapelle had been fighting off depression since she'd entered Hotel K five years earlier. She'd desperately tried to stay positive, forcing herself to wear makeup, dress neatly and continually replace negative thoughts with positive ones. But it was exhausting and lonely. The long, dark stretch of twenty years in jail was terrifying. She'd been caught at Ngurah Rai Airport with over four kilograms of marijuana in her boogie board bag. She swore she did not put it in there. She swore she was innocent. But she lost her final appeal. In quick succession, she also lost her beloved father and stepfather to cancer. She didn't get to say goodbye. It broke her heart. The loss of hope threatened her fragile grip on sanity.

After spending two weeks at Sanglah Hospital, she was returned to Hotel K on heavy medication. But with only fifty cents a year spent on each prisoner's healthcare, she got little medical help once back inside. Her family did what they could from the outside, but they could not ensure she took the medication. Other inmates, such as Australian Renae Lawrence, dispensed her pills, but they all had problems of their own and were unreliable. Schapelle quickly slipped back into the same poorly state she'd been in before she went to Sanglah. She grew disorientated and deeply paranoid, hearing voices and seeing things. Regularly at night she'd imagine someone spying on her through a hole in the ceiling, and would try to climb up to look. Subtitles on TV or writing on a magazine cover, she believed, were secret and cryptic messages sent especially for her to decode. She would spend hours manically trying to work them out. She swung from this hyper manic state to being almost catatonic, barely able to speak or look after herself.

On her worst days, the jail boss let her sister, Mercedes, go into Block W to wash and feed her sibling. She'd spoon food into Schapelle's mouth like she was a baby, even physically moving her jaw until Schapelle remembered she was meant to be eating and started to chew.

On the brink again, Schapelle soon returned to Sanglah Hospital for her second stint within a year. She spent those days like a child, clutching a doll and resting her head on her mum's lap. She was improving. But after twelve days, authorities unexpectedly arrived late at night to take her back. Schapelle and her mother, Ros, were asleep. Schapelle woke up and became hysterical. She flew into the toilet and locked it. Crying and desperate not to go back to her pitiful concrete cell, she slashed her wrists and arms with a compact mirror. Ros was distraught. There was nothing she could do to help her baby girl. When TV cameras started pushing into the room to film, Ros lashed out screaming, aware she was being filmed, but unable to control her frustration and anger over her total lack of power to care for her daughter. A short time later, Schapelle walked out to a car, wearing her pyjamas and clutching a pillow.



Without proper monitoring, Schapelle slipped back to her psychotic state almost as soon as she returned to jail. It was a vicious cycle. She couldn't get better in Hotel K. She was back to hearing voices and was found trying to climb the water tower. She spent her days dosed up on psychiatrist prescribed anti-psychotic pills, often walking around in a daze, confused about where she was, thinking she could walk out and go home. But freedom was still a long way off. Her first six years inside Hotel K had already changed her indescribably. The vibrant girl she once was had vanished and she was losing her will to live. She twice sliced up her arms in suicide attempts or cries for help. She didn't care who had to clean up the blood. Her desperate family lived in fear she would die in Hotel K. They will keep fighting to get her clemency, and to get her out of Hotel K before they lose her altogether.

Life in Hotel K was very hard. It was not unusual for women inmates to become mentally unstable from the sheer hell of living in Block W; the ceaseless noise, the fighting, the lack of sleep and filthy conditions.

Despite a significant number of serious incidents and medical traumas in her prison cell, Schapelle Corby has never since been allowed the hospital treatment she so desperately needs.

The Australian government have been notified of her situation on a number of occasions.

2.5 A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT

Robert McJannett, former Kerobokan prisoner, describes Schapelle Corby's deteriorating condition from his first hand experience.

Question: Can you describe your first meeting with Schapelle Corby?

Robert McJannett: *It was a bit of a shock. It certainly wasn't what I was expecting after seeing all the pictures of her as some sort of beauty queen the media had been portraying.*

I knew she had a hard time, and had an unfair trial, from what I had seen in the media, even though a lot of it was not correct. You could tell something wasn't right.

But when I saw her, I was shocked. She looked much older, and she did look ill, and was certainly not what I was expecting.

Question: Can you explain some of the conversations with Schapelle?

Robert McJannett: *Yes. Because I had heard about her mental problems, I went straight to her. Being a person that has done a lot of negotiations over the years, with a lot of people, I think I can pretty well put questions to people and get the answers I'm looking for. So I posed a few direct questions to her at our first meeting, to see what response I got. And just from those responses, from those questions, I knew straight away that something's not right. That she is a sick person.*

Question: Did you see any bullying or mistreatment of her?

Robert McJannett: *I saw that regularly. She gets bullied; she gets treated like no other prisoner in there. There were something like 800 odd prisoners in the prison, when I was in there, including the women's prison, and she gets treatment like no other prisoner.*

Question: Does she get support from other Australian prisoners?

Robert McJannett: *She basically gets no support from any other Australian prisoners, and that's one thing that really cut deep with me. I couldn't get my head around that.*

Question: You mentioned earlier about the commotion around her. Can you describe and explain that?

Robert McJannett: *Whenever she is around, there are always other Indonesian prisoners following her, or somebody shouting out her name, or the media tracking her. She never gets any peace, it is a wonder that she has survived as long as she does.*

Question: Did you witness the press approaching her at all?

Robert McJannett: *Yes constantly. Whenever the press came into the prison, usually because there was independence day celebration or some other reason they might be in there for, the media would get in, and as soon as they are in there they say lets go for Corby.*

They weren't in there for the other reasons at all. They were in there solely to harass Schapelle Corby, and get pictures of her, and sell to the media back in Australia. But there was a constant approach to Schapelle Corby. No doubt about it.

Her surroundings in the women's section of the prison are worse than the men's. I think because it's a Muslim country. The women's block is more dilapidated than the men's. It's more over crowded, and she is stuck in with prisoners, 10 to 13 other women. She didn't have the advantage of her own cell like I did, which I had paid for of course. I know she was getting harassed by other prisoners in her cell.

For her the torment never ends. It's 24 hours a day.

Question: What do you think will happen if she is left there?

Robert McJannett: *I think she will die, for sure. In fact, I'm surprised she has even lasted this long.*

3. THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE

There has been no formal response at all. Despite provision of the full medical report in August 2009, and many times thereafter, the government have not even acknowledged its contents. Note that acknowledgement brings responsibility.

Shun Hatton, Schapelle Corby's Uncle:

"I have visited Schapelle in the Kerobokan prison when she was so severely traumatised that she didn't know who I was, she wasn't able to comprehend what was being said to her and she couldn't put a coherent sentence together.

On that very morning, less than an hour before my visit with Schapelle, consular staff had visited her and reported that she was: 'fine, a little depressed but otherwise fine'."

On its website, the Australian government's own *Human Rights Commission*, states clearly that:

"Prisoners, just like all other people, are entitled to enjoy their human rights.

The United Nations Human Rights Committee has made it clear that prisoners enjoy all the rights in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), subject to 'restrictions that are unavoidable in a closed environment'. (General Comment No.21)

One right of special importance to prisoners is the right to be treated with humanity, dignity and respect while in detention. This human right is set out in articles 7 and 10 of the ICCPR, article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and in the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)."

It would appear that, as far as the Australian government is concerned, these lofty statements and objectives do not apply to Schapelle Corby.

"Schapelle Corby is suffering a slow and torturous death, devoid of human rights, and devoid of any protection by her government."



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