

CASE BRIEF

This case brief outlines the key events on the libel and cyberlibel cases filed against Dr. Walden Bello, his subsequent arrest, and temporary release on bail.

- 1) On November 6, 2021, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) conducted a drug raid in the Province of Davao de Oro. It was [reported](#) by some of those arrested during the raid that Jefry Tupas was present in the event that was raided but was allowed to leave. The PDEA [has not made any clarification](#) on this issue.
- 2) On November 9, 2021, in a [statement](#) released in the Davao City government's Facebook page, then-Mayor Sara Duterte referred to Tupas as "the former City Information Officer" who was "involved in a drug raid" and stated that "Jefry signified his resignation and on the same moment he was informed that he is terminated from work with the City Government of Davao."
- 3) On March 7, 2022, Tupas [filed](#) a 10-million peso (~US\$192,000) cyberlibel lawsuit against Dr. Bello over statements made by the latter during the electoral campaign.
- 4) On March 20, 2022, during the televised vice presidential debates where Dr. Bello then participated as one of the candidates for the 2022 Philippine National Elections, he [questioned](#) why Tupas was exonerated and freed despite his alleged involvement in the November 2021 drug bust in Davao.
- 5) On April 20, 2022, Dr. Bello filed a [counter-affidavit](#) on the cyberlibel case.
- 6) On August 8, 2022, a [warrant of arrest](#) was issued at around lunchtime in Davao—where the case was filed and where Dr. Bello was indicted—and was electronically transferred through email to the Quezon City Police District (QCPD).
- 7) The warrant was [served](#) a few minutes past 16:00 and Dr. Bello was arrested in his residence in Quezon City. With less than an hour before the official closing time of government offices, Dr. Bello's legal team was unable to post bail despite bail money being already at hand.
- 8) Dr. Bello was then brought to the Quezon City Police District - Police Station 8 but was later [transferred](#) to Camp Karingal, and detained at the headquarters of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD).
- 9) On August 9, 2022, after some reported bureaucratic delays on the posting of bail and the issuance of order of release, Dr. Bello was temporarily [released](#) at around 17:30 late in the afternoon.