

# Priest in sex soliciting case asks DOJ to dismiss trafficking raps

By VIRGIL LOPEZ, GMA News

Published September 22, 2017 7:59pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/626846/priest-in-sex-soliciting-case-asks-doj-to-dismiss-trafficking-raps/story/>

The priest accused of soliciting sex from a 13-year-girl has asked the Department of Justice (DOJ) to junk the human trafficking charges against him.

Monsignor Arnel Lagarejos was a no-show at the closed-door hearing called by Assistant State Prosecutor Karla Cabel, but his lawyer submitted a motion to dismiss which the prosecutor considered as his counter affidavit.

Details of Lagarejos' motion in relation to the the complaint for two counts of human trafficking filed by the girl and her mother are not immediately available.

Lagarejos' four co-respondents, on the other hand, submitted their respective counter affidavits.

Hearings were set for September 29 and October 9, respectively, for the submission of reply affidavit of the counsel for the complainants, the Public Attorney's Office, and rejoinder affidavit of Lagarejos.

Lagarejos, who is now under the government's immigration lookout bulletin, was arrested at a motel in Marikina City on July 28 while in the company of the victim, who was allegedly pimped by a 16-year-old friend.

The 55-year-old priest has already been removed by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines from his post at St. John the Baptist Parish in Taytay, Rizal and as president of the Cainta Catholic College.

He is currently on bail in the separate human trafficking case pending before the Marikina Regional Trial Court. —**NB, GMA News**