

A 9-year-old girl from Lunzuran, this city who went missing for two days was found in Dipolog City yesterday.

Lunzuran barangay chairman Joel Jose told DZT that Jasmin Kate Marcelino, an elementary pupil living with her older brother left home around 2 a.m. Wednesday and failed to return.

The incident was reported to the barangay office and was immediately acted upon by barangay officials led by Jose.

It was learned that on Wednesday at dawn, the girl went to the house of Carlos Vloria, a 50-year-old whom she was known with for a long time and sought his assistance to bring her to the Integrated Bus Terminal as she wanted to go to Dipolog City to her grandparents, claiming she was being maltreated physically by her older brother.

Jose quoted Vloria as saying the girl asked him to bring her to the terminal in Divisoria.

Vloria who was said to be not in his right mind, brought the girl to the terminal and assisted her to board a bus bound for Dipolog City.

The girl reportedly took a front seat and was given discount on her ride.

Jose said that during verification yesterday at the terminal, they were informed by personnel that the girl boarded a bus for Dipolog City and they found out that she was already in the custody of DSWD-Dipolog City as her grandparents were no longer staying there.

Meanwhile, Jose said that Vloria was beaten by some of the girl's relatives and some residents after learning what happened.

Missing Lunzuran girl traced in Dipolog City

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Jose added that he will personally go to Dipolog City to fetch the girl and bring her back to her older brother. – Dan Toribio