

## Michelle Malkin joins frantic search for a missing relative

Written by Special to the Filipino Reporter

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**MISSING: Eighteen-year-old Marizela “Em Em” Perez.**

Popular conservative Filipino-American blogger and political pundit Michelle Malkin has appealed for public help in a nationwide search to find her missing teenage cousin from New Jersey, who disappeared two weeks ago in Seattle, Washington.

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Marizela “Em Em” Perez, an 18-year-old University of Washington freshman from Egg Harbor Township, N.J., left the Rainier Beach neighborhood in Seattle at about noon of March 5 and was likely headed for a light rail station and then eventually on to the UW Seattle campus, according to Mark Jameson of the Seattle Police Department.

Her parents Edgar and Jasmin Perez have flown from New Jersey to help in the search of their only child, who lives with her aunt and uncle while attending UW, a cousin told the **Filipino Reporter**.

Family, friends and volunteers have been trying to reach her for two weeks now.

She apparently never made it to campus and has not been heard from by phone/Internet, reports said.

The teen was last seen at the University District Safeway on 4732 Brooklyn Avenue NE in Seattle, where she appears on security camera video at around 2:20 p.m.

The family filed a missing report at 11:20 a.m. on March 6, said Jameson, adding that there is nothing in the teen’s disappearance to indicate foul play.

Hospitals have also been alerted, family members said, and bus and train routes have been checked.

Malkin wrote about her missing cousin on her widely-followed website and sent out a message via Twitter, in hopes that one of her over 150,000 followers may help generate a lead in the case.

“The King County Search and Rescue division has been alerted, but cannot launch an official

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search mission until law enforcement receives more information and leads on where Marizela went after she left the Safeway,” Malkin wrote in her blog on March 14.

Perez is described as Asian, 5-feet-5-inches tall, 110 pounds, with a thin build and a “bob” haircut.

She was wearing jeans and brown suede boots, and may have been wearing green contact lenses.

She has a tattoo on her left inner arm with words in Tagalog, “Lahat ay magiging maayos” (Everything will be fine).

Her parents said she has history of depression and has been taking anti-depressants.

But it is out of character for her to just disappear, they said.

A relative said she was born in the Philippines.

“We are concerned about Marizela’s safety, health and well-being,” her parents stated in their appeal for help.

“She is in a vulnerable state of mind and it is urgent that we find her and bring her home safely as soon as possible.”

“This has been a heart-wrenching time for us and for all of Marizela’s friends, family, and supporters,” they added.

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“We appreciate the public’s continued thoughts, prayers, and help in locating Marizela.”

Perez is a graduate of Egg Harbor Township High School in New Jersey.

For tips leading to Perez’s whereabouts, call the Seattle Police District Missing Bureau at 206.683.5582.



**MICHELLE MALKIN**