



Latino Policy Coalition

May 23, 2012

VIA E-MAIL, PARCEL DELIVERY, and
FACSIMILE

Dr. Navanethem Pillay
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

RE: Request for United Nations Writ of Habeas Corpus Action: Misappropriation of the Children of Undocumented Immigrants in the United States of America.

Dear Dr. Pillay:

On behalf of tens of thousands of children who have been separated and removed from the custody and care of their detained and deported undocumented immigrant parents; and who have been scattered throughout the foster care system of many jurisdictions within the United States of America (USA); **we respectfully request your immediate assistance and action through the issuance of a United Nations Writ of Habeas Corpus.**

These children are victims of abuses of human rights perpetrated by the United States Government and its agents, as detailed in the Submission of the Latino Policy Coalition to the United Nations Human Rights Commission Regarding the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Right Record of the United States, which was received and acknowledged by your office on April 27, 2012.

The Latino Policy Coalition is also sponsoring an online Petition to the OHCHR to Reunite Tens of Thousands of American Children Taken From Their Deported Parents.¹

For the parents of 5,100 children officially reported, and the estimated 48,486 children in this situation, the clock is ticking.² They are at constant risk of being separated forever from their parents – in violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the United States Voluntary Human Rights Commitments and Pledges.

¹ This Petition can be accessed at: <http://www.change.org/petitions/sign-petition-reunite-tens-of-thousands-of-american-children-taken-from-their-deported-parents>

² *Shattered Families, The Perilous Intersection of Immigration Enforcement and the Child Welfare System*, Applied Research Center, November 2011. Linked at <http://arc.org/shatteredfamilies>



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Removal procedures against the 5.5 million children of undocumented immigrant parents in the United States are accelerating at an alarming pace. Undocumented immigrant parents are often removed with little regard for the welfare of their children. In effect many of these children “disappear” with little chance of reunion with their parents.

Also many infants have been placed up for adoption, and have been adopted, despite the fact that these children's biological parents are available and willing to raise their own children.

The urgency of this matter requires immediate attention and action by the OHCHR.

Delaying action until the issuance of the 2015 Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Record of the United States of America would continue to place over 5.5 million children in the United States of America at risk.

The Latino Policy Coalition respectfully requests that your good office submit for immediate action, by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the attached United Nations Writ of Habeas Corpus to establish a national reunification registry and locate children who have been, and continue to be, separated and removed from their undocumented immigrant parents by the authority and actions of the United States of America.

The United Nations, acting as the preeminent universal guardian of human rights and the rights of children has the moral and legal authority to act now to end these senseless human rights violations.

No one has the right to separate a child from the parent they love. Nobody.

Thank you for your special assistance and action.

Sincerely,

Jim Gonzalez

Chair

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Attachment:



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Suggested United Nations Writ of Habeas Corpus

Cc's:

Honorable Susan E. Rice
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