

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 26, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to urge you to raise the issue of American children abducted to Japan by a parent or other relative and have yet to be returned to their left behind parent. Specifically, we urge you to raise the case of our constituent, Mr. Jeffery Morehouse, who has not seen or spoken to his son since 2010.

Since 2010, Mr. Morehouse has fought to bring his son, Mochi, back to the United States, his home. Mr. Morehouse was recognized as the sole custodial parent in Washington state in May 2007 and thus travel and passport restrictions were put in place prohibiting his ex-wife from holding a passport for, or leaving the country with, their son. Unfortunately, these safeguards failed to protect Mochi and in June 2010 Mr. Morehouse's ex-wife kidnapped Mochi to Japan. This was the last time Mr. Morehouse saw his son.

As you know, on April 1, 2014 the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction entered into force between the United States and Japan. While a promising step forward in our countries cooperating on these cases, more progress is needed to ensure left behind parents can gain meaningful access to their children and be reunited with them.

As you can understand, this has been a terribly difficult and trying ordeal for Mr. Morehouse, as it is for all Americans affected by this. We ask that you raise this issue with the Japanese government during your travel there, and do everything you can to advocate for Mr. Morehouse and all those parents who seek to be rejoined with their children.

The issue of international parental child abduction affects parents from every state, and every community of our country. Our country signed onto the Hague Convention because we wish to offer the strongest protections possible to those children wrongfully removed across international borders, and provide left behind parents a method by which to obtain access and return of their taken child.

We believe now is the time for Japan to prove they are serious about changing course on the ongoing, and worsening, crisis of international parental child abduction and we urge you to do everything you can to raise this issue with them during your travel there, and in the future.

Sincerely,


Patty Murray
United State Senator


Maria Cantwell
United States Senator