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<NAME OF PERSON YOU ARE SENDING THIS TO>  
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Dear Senator / Congressman, <PICK ONE AND ADD THEIR NAME>

The recent heart-rending documentary "Abduction: The Megumi Yokota Story" is about a 13-year-old Japanese girl who was abducted by North Korean spies in 1977. But what the film does not mention is that since then, Japanese citizens have abducted many more children than North Korea ever has, and still hold them in Japan at well known locations. There are many US arrest warrants out for these Japanese citizen abductors, some of them listed on the following web page. Yet Japan refuses to extradite them, claiming that **Japanese parental abduction of an American child is not a crime**. Japanese courts up the Supreme Court of Japan refuse to recognize foreign court orders for custody and return children to their non-Japanese parents.

<http://www.crnjapan.com/japanesewarrants.html>

Further, Japan refuses international calls to sign the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*. This widely signed treaty requires a country to return abducted children to their country of habitual residence -- the same thing Japan is asking of North Korea!! Japan is the only member of the G7 that has not signed this treaty. You can get more background information on this topic from the following website.

<http://www.crnjapan.com>

In a December 2005 meeting with Maura Harty, the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, Ichiro Komatsu, Director General of the International Legal Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, asked for help in resolving cases of parental abduction to Japan and in getting Japan to sign the Hague Convention. The State Department reported that, ***The Director General gave the expected responses, none of which indicated a willingness to be forward leaning and helpful. He pointed out that the Diet would have to agree to the Convention and that from a sociological and political point of view there is no Japanese constituency for such a move.***

Since Japan shows no inclination to improve, I strongly request that you investigate the following options to help ensure that ALL our American children are guaranteed frequent, meaningful and continuing contact with both parents, regardless of citizenship, marital status or gender.

- Enact a law requiring the State Department to add information on international parental kidnapping by Japanese and other family law abuses to the *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* for Japan, which is submitted on a yearly basis to Congress.
- Enact a law requiring the State Department and the Federal District Attorney to issue federal arrest warrants for any parent violating a state custody or visitation order while residing in Japan or in any country outside the United States. This law should also require the State Department and the Federal District attorney to list these and other federal arrest warrants for parental kidnapping with Interpol and to request extradition directly from Japan, despite the fact that Japan does not consider parental kidnapping a crime.
- Enact a law requiring the State Department to come up with a bilateral "Memo of Understanding" (MOU) indicating that Japan will sign and ratify the *Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* within a well specified time frame. This MOU should also indicate that Japan will modify domestic laws to enable enforcement of related Japanese court decisions and enable a child to be removed from the "physical custody" of an abducting parent or relative and returned according to the Convention. This MOU should also immediately setup a bilateral commission to facilitate contact between any US parent and their child in Japan with whom they are being denied contact, regardless of whether the child was abducted from the United States or was residing in Japan and then simply "cut-off" from the American parent by the Japanese parent. This commission should attempt to find case by case individual solutions which allow the American parent to maintain frequent, meaningful and continuing contact with his or her half child in Japan.

- If Japan will not agree to the MOU or does not act within the agreed timeframe, enact the following sanctions. (Although one might initially consider penalizing relatives to be unfair, these abductions to Japan are almost always possible only with the active support and participation of relatives, and often at the insistence of relatives in the first place. So conversely, sanctions which do not apply pressure to relatives also may not be effective at all.)
  1. Mandatory fines against US subsidiaries of companies employing a parent in Japan with an outstanding arrest warrant for parental abduction, or any relative by blood or marriage of such a parent;
  2. Mandatory refusal of all types of US visas for a parent in Japan with an outstanding arrest warrant for parental abduction, or any relative by blood or marriage of such a parent;
  3. Mandatory freezing of all US assets of a parent in Japan with an outstanding arrest warrant for parental abduction, or those of any relative by blood or marriage of such a parent.
- Request the State Department to initiate contacts with high level counterparts in the Japanese government so that American parents with children in Japan can personally meet high level government officials in Japan, especially those in the Foreign Ministry and Justice Ministry, much in the way the families of the Korean abductees were able to visit and meet with high level Cabinet and Congressional leaders in the U.S.
- Enact a law implementing exit controls at US airports and other ports so that court ordered travel restrictions against Japanese parents can be enforced. These exits controls must be connected with a centralized list of children and parents who have abducted a child. Allow law enforcements agencies to add names of suspected international parental abductors onto these lists within hours if not minutes, in a way similar to the Amber Alerts.
- Enact a law that requires notarized written permission from both parents to allow a minor to travel to a country that has not signed or does not enforce the Hague Convention, even if the child is a citizen of that country. (Dual nationality children have multiple passports.)
- Amend the US passport law that requires both parents to sign for a passport, such that if a parental abduction warrant has been issued against one parent, the other parent may get the child's passport without consent of the abducting parent.
- Enact a law requiring the State Department to produce documents testifying to Japan's practices of depriving American children of their legal rights and of Japanese courts' record in protecting Japanese parental abductors. Website information is not admissible in many courts of law. This law should also require the State Department to testify to these facts when requested by a parent of an American citizen during divorce, custody or other child related trials involving a Japanese parent.
- Enact a law requiring the State Department to formally request Japanese embassies and consulates in the US to cooperate with US court ordered travel restrictions on dual American/Japanese citizen children and to establish a well known channel and procedures for a court to inform the embassies and consulates of these court orders. In particular, advise them that issuing "same day" travel documents to such parents, or re-issuing a passport covering a child under court ordered travel restrictions may make them accomplices in a local or federal crime. Repeat these notifications on a yearly basis.

We cannot sit idly by while Japan violates American family values, laws and international norms of behavior.

Sincerely,

<Sign Your Name>

<Print Your Name>

<Return address>

<Optionally, other contact information such as phone.>