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<DATE>

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

*“... You know, one of the most meaningful moments of my presidency came when a Japanese mother came to the Oval Office to talk about what it was like to have her daughter kidnapped by North Korea. You can imagine what that was like. It broke my heart. And it should break everybody's heart. But it speaks to the nature of the regime.” -  
--Excerpt from your speech October 11, 2006.*

**Mr. President, I know first hand what it is like to have my <son/daughter> “kidnapped” and held by a foreign regime. Except the foreign regime is not North Korea, it is Japan!** My heart has been broken for <LENGTH OF TIME> and so are my children's. Japan has become known as a “**Haven for International Child Abduction**”; Japan sanctions International Child Abductions.

<CHOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO PARAGRAPHS>

You can see specific details of my case at the following web site:

[www.crnjapan.com/people/<MYCASE>](http://www.crnjapan.com/people/<MYCASE>)

You can see examples of cases like mine at the following web site:

[www.crnjapan.com/people/](http://www.crnjapan.com/people/)

Japanese citizens have abducted many more children than North Korea ever has, and still holds 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, however, Japan refuses to extradite them, claiming that **Japanese parental abduction of an American child is not a crime**. Japanese courts up to the Supreme Court of Japan refuse to recognize foreign court orders for custody and return children to their non-Japanese parents.

[www.crnjapan.com/japanesewarrants.html](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:

[www.crnjapan.com](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.

- Direct 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.
- Direct 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. Then direct 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.

- Direct 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.
- Direct 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.
- Direct 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. Direct 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.
- Direct 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.

It is inconceivable that this issue is not currently on the forefront of the U.S. Government’s agenda. I would like to present to you, Mr. President, this opportunity to right a huge injustice to the United States of America and all of its affected citizens, especially our children?”

**Mr. President, This should not happen to another child. It can be prevented. I want my children and all children to have access to both parents!**

<<IF YOU ARE GOING TO THIS, ADD THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH , ELSE DELETE>>

I will be in Washington on Capital Hill Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at a conference on 'International Child Abduction and Custody Trends Around the World' with speakers from the Embassies and CRC chapters in UK, Canada, Australia and other countries. For more information please go to [www.crckids.org](http://www.crckids.org). If you are available, I and other 'left behind' parents would like to meet with you after the conference.

<<END OPTIONAL PARAGRAPH>>

If you have any questions or I can be of assistance, please contact me at the address/contact information listed above.

I would greatly appreciate your reply.

Sincerely,

<YOUR NAME>

(Father of <name of children>)