



October 30, 2017

Ms. Ivanka Trump
Advisor to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Trump,

On behalf of Amnesty International, a Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization with more than seven million supporters around the world, I am writing to follow up on my letter of June 7, 2017¹ regarding the desperate situation of children, mothers, and fathers held in Berks County Residential Center, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Pennsylvania.

Enclosed are more than 33,000 signatures from Amnesty International supporters worldwide who signed personalized postcards and petitions inviting you to visit the Berks family detention center and urging you to advocate with the Administration for an end to the cruel policy of detaining children and parents who are simply seeking refuge and safety.

I would be honored to deliver the petitions and postcards in person and tell you more about Amnesty's experience on the ground with the resilient families seeking humanitarian protection in the United States while jailed.

A recent victory I would like to share with you: the mobilization of our 33,000 Amnesty International supporters helped free four families who had been detained for nearly two years at the Berks family detention center. The youngest, Josue*, was three years old when released. He learned to walk and talk in detention. Another child, Carlos*, was freed just a few days before turning five years old. He had spent his past two birthdays behind bars.

¹ Attached is a copy of the June 7, 2017 letter for your convenience.

While these families were freed, new families continue to be locked up every day simply for asking for protection from the violence and persecution they face in their home countries. Currently, there are more than 60 fathers, mothers, and children detained at Berks. The harsh detention regime undermines access to asylum and traumatizes families who have already endured violence and psychological harm in their flight from human rights abuses. There are, however, successful community-based alternatives to detention that exist.

Family detention is inhumane, expensive, and undermines this country's long history as a beacon of hope for people seeking safety. Children and their parents should be treated humanely and should be able to access protection when they arrive at U.S. borders, but are instead detained in prison-like conditions, despite their valid claims for asylum.

As our supporters have so passionately expressed, we would like to invite you to visit Berks County Residential Center and witness firsthand the senseless detention of children and their parents. The concerns you have expressed over the situation of working mothers and children across this country gives us hope that you will intervene.

Amnesty International is fighting to ensure that people with asylum claims are given a fair hearing and humane treatment. We must do everything we can to ensure protection for people who are fleeing violence. I invite you to join us in this fight, and thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Huang", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Margaret Huang

Executive Director, Amnesty International USA