

United States Senate

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April 24, 2007

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to request that you raise the issue of international parental child abductions during your April 27-28 meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

As you know, Japan is the only G-7 industrialized country which is not a party to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. The Convention has been adopted by more than 70 countries and is an important tool for those seeking access to and/or the return of children abducted across international borders.

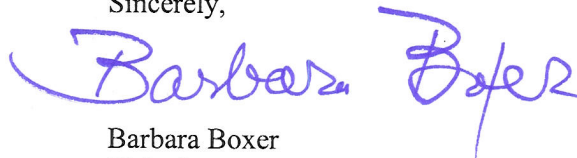
There have been several documented cases of such abductions from California. On March 16, 2006, Ryoko Uchiyama took her one-year old daughter, Melissa Braden, to Japan while she was involved in a custody dispute with the child's father. A federal arrest warrant was issued on May 15, 2006 by the United States District Court, Central District of California, after Uchiyama was charged with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. Unfortunately, there has been no progress in the case to date.

In another case, on July 13, 2005, Reiko Nealy took her now seven-year old daughter, Niko Nycole Nealy, out of California and fled to Narita, Japan. A warrant was issued for her arrest on March 1, 2006. However, as in the aforementioned case, no progress has been made in returning the child to her legal parent in California. In both cases, the suspects and children are believed to be residing in Japan.

I am very concerned over Japan's lack of assistance in these cases and urge you to insist that Japan cooperate fully with the United States and other countries on international parental child abductions. Furthermore, I hope you will press Prime Minister Abe to support ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and to implement a formal two-parent signature requirement for obtaining passports for minors.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator