

Date _____



Acting Director Tony Pham
U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536
Email: tony.h.pham@ice.dhs.gov

Dear Acting Director Pham,

I am deeply concerned about the safety and wellbeing of Ana and Victoria, Marilyn and Yuniar, Juana and Norma, and all other families detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) who came to the United States seeking protection from violence and persecution.

With at least 130 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in family detention, families face grave complications and even death if they contract the virus. Families continue to report credible, consistent, and disturbing accounts of dangerous conditions that put them, facility staff, and surrounding communities at risk.

Ana (22) and her daughter Victoria (4) fled Honduras after repeated threats against their lives after Victoria's father was killed because of his political beliefs. ICE was informed multiple times that Victoria is asthmatic and particularly at risk for COVID-19 but refuses to release them. Ana has been suffering from ovarian cysts that have pained her daily for months and has not received the appropriate medical care. Victoria now has anxiety attacks, nightmares.

Marilyn (31) and Yuniar (11) escaped years of violence in Honduras from Marilyn's ex-partner and a criminal organization. Yuniar developed a stomach infection in detention and lost so much weight he now weighs less than he did a year ago. Marilyn has high blood pressure and chest pains.

Juana (45) and Norma (4) fled Honduras with Juana's other daughter Paula after gang members threatened them with rape and murder. They were separated at the US border. Paula was sent to Mexico under the unlawful "Remain in Mexico" policy, while Juana and Norma were thrown into detention. The uncertainty of Paula's fate weighs heavily on Juana. Juana suffers from joint pains and high blood pressure. The stress of it all had made her lose a significant amount of weight. Four year old Norma has grown despondent and depressed.

I call on you to release all the families together and follow US national detention standards that require them to process family members together and maintain family unity.

ICE has violated national immigration detention standards by failing to prioritize and facilitate family unity in these cases. I choose to stand against unlawful cruelty to children and I ask you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Address _____

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