

November 30, 2018

Sean Gallagher
Field Office Director
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
180 Ted Turner Dr. SW, Suite 522
Atlanta, GA, 30303

Dear Mr. Gallagher:

The 75 undersigned national, local, and state organizations, concerned about the treatment of immigrants, asylum seekers, and survivors of domestic violence, ask that you immediately release Vilma Viviana Carrillo Carrillo from your custody.

Vilma is a mother from Guatemala who suffered from years of severe domestic violence at the hands of her husband. Now, she is also the victim of a cruel and painful separation from her 11 year-old daughter, Yeisvi. [Their story was featured in the New York Times on Friday, November 23, 2018.](#)

After years of enduring beatings from her husband, Vilma decided to take the risk of fleeing Guatemala with Yeisvi. The violence in her home had intensified, and included her husband throwing hot coals at her and knocking out her front teeth. Yeisvi begged her father not to kill her mother. Seeking safety, Vilma and Yeisvi fled Guatemala for the U.S., but on arrival in May 2018 they were separated from each other under the administration's "zero-tolerance" policy. Vilma is currently detained at Irwin Detention Center, in Georgia, while her U.S. citizen daughter is in foster care in Arizona.

Because her mother is in detention, the courts have filed dependency proceedings against Vilma which may lead to the termination of her parental rights. The state's only reason for taking Vilma's daughter is her current detention. ICE has refused her attorneys' requests to release Vilma despite knowing all that is at stake for the mother and her daughter. If Vilma is not released, her parental custody will be terminated and her daughter will be a ward of the state, instead of being in the loving care of her mother, where both can begin to heal from the years of abuse they have experienced.

It is unconscionable and a betrayal of our values as a nation to keep Vilma and Yeisvi apart, especially given the trauma they have experienced. We urge you to facilitate their reunification immediately.

Sincerely,

Al Otro Lado

American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children

Apna Ghar, Inc. (Our Home)

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

ASISTA Immigration Assistance

Asylee Women Enterprise

Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture

Center for Gender & Refugee Studies

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Children's Advocacy Institute

Church World Service

Coalition on Human Needs

DASH Inc.

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence

DC SAFE

Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa

DV LEAP

End Domestic Abuse WI

Faith in Public Life

Family Law Practice Clinic, CUNY School of Law

Family Shelter Service

First Focus

Futures Without Violence

Gabriela Matthews & Associates, PA

Hispanic Federation

HOPE of East Central Illinois

Human Rights First

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Immigrant Families Together

Justice in Motion

KAN-WIN

Law Office of Peggy J. Bristol

Law Office of Shara Svendsen

Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

Migrant and Immigrant Community Action (MICA) Project

Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Mujeres Latinas en Accion

Mutual Ground, Inc.

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

National Alliance of Children's Trust Funds

National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

National Association of Counsel for Children

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

National Domestic Violence Hotline

National Domestic Workers Alliance

National Immigrant Justice Center

National Immigration Law Center

National Network to End Domestic Violence

National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault

National Women's Law Center

Neopolitan Lighthouse

New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence

New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Riverview Center

Sarah's Inn

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy

South Suburban Family Shelter

Stopping Woman Abuse Now

Tahirih Justice Center

Texas Council on Family Violence

Turning Point, Inc.

Ujima Inc: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community

United We Dream

Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violen

Violence Free Colorado

Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern IL

Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV)

We Are All America

Women's Refugee Commission

Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

YWCA of the Sauk Valley