

Mr. Randy Collins
Managing Director, Bring Abducted Children Home

House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee

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Chairman Smith and committee members, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my story regarding International Parental Abduction to Japan. I am the Managing Director of Bring Abducted Children Home, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to the immediate return of internationally abducted children being wrongfully detained in Japan and striving to end Japan's human rights violations of denying children unfettered access to both parents. We also work with other organizations on the larger goal of resolving international parental abductions worldwide.

I co-authored, along with then California State Senator and now US Congresswoman Mimi Walters, SB 1206, also known as Keisuke's Law, named after my son. It was unanimously passed in the California Legislature in 2012. My ex-wife Reiko Nakata Greenberg Collins has warrants for her arrest by the Orange County Sheriff's Department. She is also on the FBI Most Wanted List for Parental Kidnappings, and has a Red Notice issued by Interpol.

Reiko Nakata Greenberg and I were married on September 1, 2000. On March 3, 2003, at 3:03 PM, a National Moment of Prayer, my first and only child Keisuke Christian Collins was born in Orange, California. My ex wife told me Keisuke meant God's Blessing in Japanese and I chose Christian as his middle name for this special day.

In October 2007 the plot to abduct Keisuke by Reiko, with the help of her parents, began. Reiko's parents, Ken and Miyuki Nakata, made a visit to our home from their home in Japan. In our eight years of marriage, they had only come to visit one time. Reiko's parents are very wealthy. At one time they had ownership of over a million dollars in real estate plus Reiko had mentioned they had millions in bank accounts under other names. Her father, Ken Nakata, was a retired international pilot who flew in and out of Los Angeles numerous times before he retired. Her parents flew back to Japan on January 1st. They returned to our home again just three weeks later. This was very strange but then I was served divorce papers a couple weeks after that. I moved to a house nearby so I could stay close to my son. Whenever I came to pick up Keisuke, Reiko was always so secretive. I never picked Keisuke up at the door. She would always bring him to the car. Window blinds were always closed. This is a house I owned, lived in for 8 years, and was still making the payments on. Looking back on it, she and her parents probably had boxes packed in the house and garage and were getting themselves ready to flee the country with Keisuke.

Once I moved out I finally was able to get the father/son time with Keisuke that his mother would always prevent. I had witnessed first-hand the damage Reiko had done in alienating the father of her daughter from her previous marriage. I was not going to let that happen to me. Keisuke and I were able to finally enjoy some quality time together. We went to his favorite places, the Discovery Science Zone and Disneyland. I taught him how to swing a bat and throw a baseball. We were doing things a father always dreams of doing with his son and we were having a lot of fun doing it. Keisuke's growing bond with me appeared to frustrate Reiko a lot.

In the process of the divorce I needed to get my financial records together. To my surprise, what should have been only \$18,000 on my Home Equity Line of Credit was now up over \$98,000. In going through the bank records I also found monthly checks from our joint account Reiko had made out to her Japan Airlines credit card for exact dollar amounts ranging from \$6600 up to \$11,000 for almost 2 years. Through these cash advances on her personal credit card, and withdrawals of money from our Home Equity Line, she was able to build herself a nest egg of over \$220,000 before she fled the country. She engineered this by encouraging me

to go back to school to finish my degree. She suggested that she could take over paying our bills since I was now working and going to school full time. It never even entered my mind that she would be stealing all the money for herself.

After showing my attorney this new evidence we went to court on June 13, 2008 to stop Reiko from taking Keisuke to Japan for the summer. The judge twice ruled the “minor child not to be removed from the County of Orange, State of California, or the United States of America and turn over the minor’s passport to the Japanese Embassy within 24 hours.” When I called the Japanese Embassy in Los Angeles that afternoon, I spoke to an official about the court’s ruling. He told me “We don’t care about your court orders. We won’t take the passports. They are Japanese citizens and can do what they want.” I said my son was born and raised here in the US. He is an American citizen and I was concerned my son could be kidnapped. He said “I don’t care.”

Two days later was Father’s Day. I picked up Keisuke in the morning. We had a great day. The first thing he mentioned when I picked him up was that he wanted to go to my church to see my pastor. Then we had a Father’s Day lunch at MacDonald’s, and spent the afternoon at his favorite place, the Discovery Science Zone. I took him home at 6:30 PM. I said “Thanks for spending Father’s Day with me Keisuke. Love you. See you tomorrow!” He said “Love you too daddy”. Those were the last words I heard from my son.

A few hours later I got a call from Reiko asking me if Keisuke was feeling ok when he was with me because he had been throwing up since he got home. I said he was great and let’s see how he is tomorrow, as it was my day to have him next. The next morning, June 15th around 11:00 I got a call from Reiko that I had let go to voice mail. Her message was “Hi Randy. This is Reiko. Keisuke is still throwing up. We will make it up another day this week. Thank you. Bye.” I didn’t think anything more of it. I called the next day to see how he was doing but only got Reiko’s voice mail.

On Thursday, June 19th I was to pick him up at 11:00 AM but there was no answer at the door. I called her cell and came by the house numerous times throughout the afternoon. Finally around 4:30 I called a friend of Reiko’s to see if she had heard from her. As I was asking questions, her replies became very strange. When I asked what was going on she said she couldn’t tell me anything more and hung up. I immediately called my attorney who in turn called Reiko’s attorney. A few minutes later my attorney called back to tell me to get to the house immediately. I entered the back door and found everything in the house was gone. I called the local police who came over and took my statement. The police then went to the home of Reiko’s friend who confirmed Reiko had fled to Japan a few days earlier. That call I got from Reiko telling me Keisuke was still throwing up was made from the Seattle Airport. She was able to board a Northwest Airlines flight from Los Angeles, to Seattle, and then on to Narita, Japan. My greatest fears had come true. Reiko had kidnapped Keisuke on June 16th despite two preexisting court orders. It is easy to connect the dots to see that she and her parents planned the whole thing. Her father, as a retired pilot with Japan Airlines, was able to show her how to circumvent the system and escape with my son to Japan.

In November of 2011 I was served papers from a Japanese court notifying me that Reiko filed for full physical and legal custody there. In my reply to Reiko’s petition, I supplied certified copies of both restraining orders, my final divorce decree, which awarded me full physical and legal custody, and that Lameroux Court in Orange, California had jurisdiction of this case. A few months later the Japanese court replied by disregarding

my final divorce orders, stole jurisdiction, and ruled that my two restraining orders which stated “Minor child not to be removed from the County of Orange, State of California, or the United States of America” was too vague. I ask you, what word in that sentence is vague? Nothing is vague. It was crystal clear. As the Japanese Family Courts have proven time and time again, they have a bias against Americans. I will call it for what it is, racism.

On April 1, 2014 Japan became a Hague Abduction Convention signatory, but they refused to add implementing language to give the several hundred pre-existing cases the ability to file a claim for a return order under The Hague. Victimized parents were left to continue to press for the return of our children based on violations of human rights, international law, federal law, local law, and/or Japanese law. The only change is we now could apply for access under Hague Article 21. On March 31, 2014, the day before Japan signed on to The Hague, BAC Home members, family and friends, lawyers, Congressman Smith and members of his staff, hand delivered 30 Article 21 Access applications to the State Department. Though we parents may have applied for access under Article 21, as we were encouraged to do by the State Department, our collective cases remain abduction cases.

Under SEC 3. DEFINITIONS in The Goldman Act, the term “abduction” means a child who is the victim of international child abduction. The term “abduction” means the alleged wrongful removal of a child from the child’s country of habitual residence, or the wrongful retention of a child outside such country, in violation of a left-behind parent’s custodial rights, including the rights of a military parent. The term “abduction case” means a case that---

- (A) has been reported to the Central Authority of the United States by a left-behind parent for the resolution of an abduction; and
- (B) meets the criteria for international child abduction under The Hague Abduction Convention, regardless of whether the country at issue is a Convention country.

My case, and the 70 cases listed with BAC Home, occurred prior to Japan becoming a Hague signatory and by definition under the Goldman Act are abduction cases. Our collective children remain trapped in Japan and cut off from us. They are not resolved, yet the State Department in their initial release of their ICAPRA compliance report unilaterally and without explanation decided to downgrade them to access cases.

To say this report is an insult and a slap in the face of every parent of an abducted child is an understatement. The numbers do not add up in any way you try. What creates an ever bigger problem is this grossly inaccurate report gives potential abducting parents ammunition to go to court and show any judge that Japan is “compliant” with The Hague when nothing could be further from the truth. With no American child ever being returned by the Japanese government, nor any ruling in favor of the victimized parent ever enforced by a Japanese court, Japan is Non-Compliant. Even using State’s own numbers, as ridiculous and ludicrous as they are, Japan is still 57% Non-Compliant which is greater than the 30% standard set in the guidelines of the Goldman Act. Japan is unequivocally Non-Compliant. Period.

Japan’s “Compliance” rating in the report is highly suspect after the release of recent testimony in the Japanese DIET. On May 14th, Takashi Okada, Deputy Director General in the Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said “I think I received [Ambassador Jacobs] understanding about how our country has been dealing with the issue [the Hague Convention]” and “The report has not been released yet. As I explained

earlier [to the DIET Member], because we strived to make an explanation to the U.S. side, I hope that the report contents will be based on our country's efforts [to deal with the issue]"

The annual ICAPRA report is not to take in to account what Japan tells the Ambassador its "efforts" are. The report is supposed to be compiled based on facts and results. There are no facts to support this report regarding Japan. The facts are that no American child has been returned. For anyone to make any sort of assurance or to accept Japan's explanation to give it a favorable rating in the report is outrageous. This report must be amended to show Japan as non-complaint. There have been over 400 abduction cases to Japan registered with the State Department since 1994 and no child has been returned by the Japanese government.

There must be change. Nothing State is doing or has done has created the return of a single child. Case workers who were supposed to be rotated every two years change annually or semiannually. I have had three case workers this year alone and six since my ordeal started seven years ago. We deserve better communication than the infrequent calls from a case worker asking me if I have heard anything new. We need follow up with the Welfare and Whereabouts requests OCI sends out. I stopped asking for Welfare and Whereabouts visits because no one at OCI would follow up with their own request. Since case workers never hear back from the requests they send, they never follow up. What's the use in asking for one if no one from State is going to follow up?

Quite frankly, State's actions, or this case inaction, speak so loudly we can't hear what they're saying. I'd like this committee to insist that OCI and the State Department be far more transparent with congress and with victimized parents. We deserve answers. Simply telling this committee that they are raising our cases means nothing. What are they saying? Who are they saying it to? What are the answers they are receiving? Are they demanding the return of our children or simply begging? Do they drop the issue just because Japan tells them it's too difficult to return our kidnapped children? We have suffered years of secrecy from State regarding our abducted children. It's the perfect definition of insanity, doing the same things over and over again but expecting a different result. The results haven't changed in my seven years. We are still no closer to seeing our children today than we were before Japan joined The Hague Abduction Convention.

The physical and emotional toll this has taken on me, my family, and my friends is harder than you could ever imagine. The only ones who understand what we go through every single day are other parents of kidnapped children. I've sent birthday and Christmas cards for years only to have them returned unopened. I've missed his first day of school, the loss of his first tooth, first time riding his bike, and numerous other things. I've missed them all. I dream of what he looks like today. I haven't seen him since he was 5. He just turned 12 in March.

Imagine if this was your child or grandchild what would you do to get them back? We are all tired of excuses. We are all tired of hearing "we need to give Japan more time." Japan certainly didn't need any more time to get children abducted from Japan back right away since joining The Hague. Yet in this same 17 month period of time the Japanese government, its family court, nor the Japanese Central Authority has ruled to enforce the return of any abducted American child to the victimized parent. The US Government could get our children returned within a year if it truly wanted to. But the plain and simple truth is that the US Government is not willing to use any real and significant political capital to get our abducted children returned from Japan. Why? Are our children not important enough? If any of these 400 children abducted to Japan belonged to the President, Vice-President, senior Cabinet Officials, individuals of great wealth, or titans of industry, I guarantee our government would use its full resources to get them returned immediately. But Keisuke and all the others are just children of ordinary, law-abiding, patriotic American citizens, abandoned by an indifferent US

government. A government more concerned with maintaining good relations with Japan than protecting our most vulnerable citizens, our children.

June 15th of this year was the seven year anniversary of the last time I saw or heard from Keisuke. Today marks 2586 days with absolutely no contact with my son. No more delays. No more excuses. It is time to start holding Japan accountable with public condemnation, implementation of sanctions as outlined in the Goldman Act, and the demand that we have access to, and the return of, our American children immediately. My son, Keisuke Christian Collins, deserves his father and I deserve my son.

Thank you

Randy Collins

Legal Father of Keisuke Christian Collins Abducted to Japan June 16, 2008