

Diane McGee

Mother of 3 children being unlawfully retained in Japan

House Committee on Foreign Affairs

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The Goldman Act to Return Abducted American Children Ensuring Accurate Numbers and Administration Action

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak today -

I would like to start out by saying that my children are being illegally retained in Japan by Sean McGee currently employed at Nomura Securities. Under the International Parental Children's Kidnapping Act (IPCKA) he has been retaining them outside the US with intent to obstruct the lawful exercise of my parental rights. My children, Brendan, MaryKate, Jack and Megan are all Natural Born US citizens, holding only US passports. Sean and I are also Natural Born US citizens holding only US passports. We are not Japanese. My husband, Sean McGee works for Nomura Securities. He has been retaining my children against my will since December 2012, and has not allowed them to return to the United States in over three years. This is not about a custody dispute this is about my children's rights to be with and loved by both parents. Much has transpired over the three plus years, most notably the fact that after an eight day plenary hearing, Judge Matthew Curry ruled that my children and I are all bona fide residents of NJ – Jurisdiction is in the state of NJ. Why is it so difficult to bring my American children home to the United States?

The State Department, via the Sean Goldman Act, released its first annual report on countries that refuse to return American children who have been abducted or retained by a parent abroad. Conspicuously absent from the list is the worst offender - Japan. Japan has never enforced or issued a return order for any American child being held captive there. This scenario of one parent violating the wishes of another parent by retaining children in Japan has been going on for too many years. Japan is a black hole for child abduction. . All members of the McGee family are American and they are being held hostage by their father in Japan.

Sean has been able to live a very extravagant lifestyle in Japan thanks to his employer, Nomura Securities. He vacations regularly to Phuket, Australia, India, Hong Kong , Korea, London and Portugal. His lavish apartment costs \$14,000 per month. At the same time, our youngest daughter Megan and I were on food stamps for a year, and the gas company, PSEG, shut our power off. Sean has not been following through with the court orders that were required of him. He was court ordered to pay my legal fees. My lawyers are no longer representing me due to his willful neglect in payment. In addition, he was court ordered to pay the mortgage on our family home. Our home is currently in foreclosure due to his willful neglect in payment. Not only do I have no one to represent me, but I had to file bankruptcy as well. Sean is breaking the law on so many levels.

Our family unit has been torn apart physically and emotionally. Not only are they held captive in Japan, but they are now the victims of Sean's mental abuse. His campaign to

alienate them from me and my entire family will cause lasting repercussion. The children are in grave danger due to his alcoholism and lack of supervision. Many nights they are left home alone while he is out drinking in Tokyo. The truth is that the children are struggling immensely in many areas affecting their lives - including academic, mental health, and substance abuse.

Last September, my dad, and my children's grandpa, Vincent Cianciotto died. Sean did not permit them to come home to attend his funeral. The role of their grandpa was one to be admired, for he took on a fatherly role for them their entire life due to Sean's lack of ability in this area.

It pains me as a mother to be so far removed and not be able to comfort them and love them as I have done their entire lives. You cannot imagine waking up each and every day not being able to be with your children. I miss every aspect of their being – their smiles, their laughter and their tears. If there are any parents in the room today, I ask you to close your eyes and envision one day where you wake up and have no idea what is transpiring in the life of your child. That is what I have been experiencing every day for the past three years. A void that needs to be filled. No loving parent should have to experience this.

Japan and Nomura Securities - you are aiding and abetting a child abductor and abuser. Send my children home!

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to tell my personal story. I hope that this helps to bring awareness of the situation in order to return our American children home.