

April 29, 2015

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Re: Nan-Hui Jo (A 098 906 641)

Dear Secretary Johnson:

As non-profit organizations dedicated to protecting immigrants' rights and supporting survivors of domestic violence, we write to express our concern about immigration enforcement actions taken against Ms. Nan-Hui Jo, a Korean immigrant who is a survivor of domestic violence and mother to a six-year-old U.S. citizen child. Ms. Jo has been detained at Yolo County Jail in Woodland, CA, and separated from her child for more than nine months. After her sentencing for a misdemeanor conviction, she was taken into custody by ICE in Sacramento, contrary to the parental interest directive. She will face permanent separation from her child if she is removed. We urge you to drop the immigration hold request against Ms. Jo, and release her from detention.

Ms. Jo's case highlights the vulnerable and marginalized situations that undocumented people and survivors of domestic violence face. From 2007 to 2009, Ms. Jo was involved in a volatile relationship with her former partner. They had a child together in 2008. Twice in 2009, Ms. Jo called the police in Sacramento after incidents of domestic violence. Ms. Jo also had received a letter from the government asking her to leave, as she was out of status. After the second call to the police, Ms. Jo feared for her safety and fled to her home country, South Korea, with her child. When Ms. Jo left her child's father, he reported her for kidnapping. In July 2014, Ms. Jo returned to the United States and immediately was arrested and extradited to Yolo County to await trial on charges of alleged child abduction. Although her first trial ended in a hung jury in December 2014, the District Attorney decided to retry the case and Ms. Jo was convicted of child abduction on March 3, 2015. Ms. Jo's sentencing is scheduled for later this month.

We ask you to consider the unique circumstances present in this case. Ms. Jo still is engaged in an ongoing custody dispute, and could be permanently separated from her child if your agency picks her up on the detainer request. Moreover, Ms. Jo has a U Visa application pending, for which an authorized law enforcement agency has verified her status as a victim of a crime.

As a coalition of organizations dedicated to protecting and advancing immigrants' rights and providing support to survivors of domestic violence, we especially are concerned about Ms. Jo's case, given her status as an immigrant, domestic violence survivor, and mother. We ask that the Department of Homeland Security drop the immigration hold request against Ms. Jo. and release her from detention.

Sincerely,

유상근, 한국 (Republic of Korea)

18MillionRising.org, Oakland, CA
21 Progress, Seattle, WA
Adoptee Solidarity Korea – Los Angeles (ASK-LA), Los Angeles, CA
AF3IRM – Boston, MA
AF3IRM – Central Coast, CA
AF3IRM – Los Angeles, CA
AF3IRM – New York, NY
AF3IRM – Orange County, CA
AF3IRM – National, Los Angeles, CA
AF3IRM – San Diego, CA
AF3IRM – SF/Bay Area, CA
AF3IRM – South Bay, CA
All Power to the Imagination Conference Organization, Saratoga, FL
Anakbayan – East Bay, Oakland, CA
Anakbayan – Inland Empire, CA
Anakbayan – Long Beach, CA
Anakbayan – Los Angeles, CA
Anakbayan – San Diego, CA
America's Voice, Washington D.C.
API Chaya, Seattle, Washington
API Equality – LA, Los Angeles, CA
API Equality – Northern California, San Francisco, CA
Apna Ghar, Inc. (Our Home), Chicago, IL
Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC)
Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, Phoenix, AZ
Article 25, Boston, MA
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), NY
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus (ALC), San Francisco, CA
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC, Washington D.C.
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Chicago, IL
Asian American Advancing Justice – LA, Los Angeles, CA
Asian Family Support Services, Austin, TX
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA), Washington D.C.
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance – Los Angeles (APALA-LA), Los Angeles, CA
Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), Oakland/Richmond, CA
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (API-GBV), San Francisco, CA
Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project, Washington D.C.
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach Youth Advisory Council
Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON), Los Angeles, CA
Asian Pacific Women's Center (APWC), Los Angeles, CA
Asian Students Promoting Immigrant Rights through Education (ASPIRE), San Francisco, CA
Asian Women's Shelter (AWS), San Francisco, CA
ASISTA Immigration Assistance, Des Moines, IA
ASPIRE – LA, Los Angeles, CA
AYPAL: Building API Community Power, Oakland, CA
BAYAN USA – Northern California, Bay Area, CA

BAYAN USA – Southern California, CA
Bluestockings Magazine, Providence, RI
Brown Asian Sisters Empowered – Brown University, Providence, RI
California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC), Oakland, CA
California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance (CIYJA), Los Angeles, CA
Casa Esperanza, New Jersey
Cedar Valley Friends of the Family, Waverly, IA
Center for Constitutional Rights, New York City, NY
Center for the Pacific Asian Family, Los Angeles, CA
Center for Political Education, San Francisco, CA
Center for the Pacific Asian Family, Los Angeles, CA
ChangeLab, Oakland, CA
Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), San Francisco, CA
Chinatown Community for Equitable Development, Los Angeles, CA
Chinese Progressive Association, San Francisco, CA
Community Youth Center, San Francisco, CA
Conversations with Friends, Minnesota
Crisis Intervention Services, Oskaloosa, IA
Cycles of Change, Oakland, CA
Dari Project, New York, NY
D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Washington D.C.
Detention Watch Network, Washington D.C.
Desis Rising Up & Moving (DRUM), Jackson Heights, New York
Domestic Abuse Intervention Program (DAIP), Duluth, MN
Domestic Violence Consortium (DVC), San Francisco, CA
Durebang, Uijeongbu, South Korea
Dream Team LA, Los Angeles, CA
Eastlink, Culver City, CA
Eastlink, Los Angeles, CA
Eclipse Rising
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities, Los Angeles, CA
End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Enlace, International
Fearless Asians for Immigration Reform (FAIR!), Seattle, WA
Filipino Migrant Center, Long Beach, CA
GABRIELA – LA, Los Angeles, CA
GABRIELA USA, Washington D.C.
Grassroots Leadership, Austin, TX
Green Hope High School Asian American Student Association, Cary, NC
Habi Arts, Los Angeles, CA
Hella Organized Bay Area Koreans (HOBAK), Oakland, CA
Historical Memory Project (HMP), New York City, NY
Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence, Boise, ID
Immigrant Rights Coalition, Portland, Oregon
Immigrant Youth Coalition, Los Angeles, CA
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Springfield, IL

INCITE! Women, Gender Non-Conforming, and Trans People of Color Against Violence
Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Indianapolis, IN
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Des Moines, IA
Japanese American Citizens League, San Francisco, CA
Justice Uniting in Creative Energy (JUICE), Los Angeles, CA
Kabataang maka-Bayan (KmB), Pro-People Youth, San Diego, CA
Kabataang maka-Bayan (KmB), Pro-People Youth, Los Angeles, CA
KAN-WIN, Chicago, IL
Know Your IX, Washington D.C.
Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA), Los Angeles, CA
Korean American Coalition to End Domestic Abuse (KACEDA), Oakland, CA
Korean American Family Service Center (KAFC), Flushing, New York
Korean American Family Services (KFAM), Los Angeles, CA
Korean American Forum of California, Los Angeles, CA
Korean American Resource and Cultural Center (KRCC), Chicago, IL
Korean Community Center of the East Bay, Oakland, CA
Korean Resource Center (KRC), Los Angeles, CA
Maine Coalition To End Domestic Violence, Presque Isle, ME
League of Filipino Students – San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC), Los Angeles, CA
Los Angeles Femmes of Color Collective, Los Angeles, CA
Maternal Child and Health Access, Los Angeles, CA
Migrant Collective, Portland, Oregon
Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, St. Paul, MN
Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA), Oakland, CA
Muslim American Women's Policy Forum, Washington D.C.
My Sister's House, Sacramento, CA
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), Washington D.C.
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), New York, NY
National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health, Chicago, IL
National Council of Jewish Women – Sacramento Section (NCJWSac), Sacramento, CA
National Latin@ Network, St. Paul, MN
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC), Washington D.C.
National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), Washington D.C.
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA), Washington D.C.
NCF Students Targeting Oppressive Powers (STOP), Sarasota, FL
New College of Florida Students Targeting Oppressive Powers (STOP), Saratoga, FL
No Country For Women (NCFW), India
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates, Washington D.C.
Ohio Domestic Violence Network, Columbus, OH
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Portland, OR
Oregon Dream Activist, Portland, Oregon
Our Harvard Can Do Better, Cambridge, MA
Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES), TX
RAISE: Revolutionizing Asian American Immigrant Stories on the East Coast, NY

Real Food Challenge, Boston, MA
Rhode Island Jobs with Justice, Providence, RI
Sahngnoksoo, Seattle, WA
Sanctuary for Families (SFF), NYC, NY
School of Unity and Liberation (SOUL), Oakland, CA
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Networks (SIREN), San Jose, CA
Social Organized Oppression-Breaking Anti-imperialist Koreans (SOOBAK), Los Angeles, CA
Sojourn, Los Angeles, CA
Southeast Asians Furthering Education (SAFE), UC Davis, CA
South Asian American Leaders Together (SAALT), Takoma Park, MD
South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI), Chicago, IL
South Asians for Justice – Los Angeles (SAJLA), Los Angeles, CA
Student/Farmworker Alliance, Immokalee, FL
Student Recruitment & Retention Center (SRRC), UC Davis, CA
Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC), Los Angeles, CA
Tuesday Night Project, Los Angeles, CA
Turning Point, Inc., Woodstock, IL
UAW2865, Berkeley Unit, Berkeley, CA
United Students Against Sweatshops, Washington D.C.
Unspoken Voices, Morris, MN
VACOLAO - Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations
Viet Unity, Bay Area, CA
Viet Unity-LA, Los Angeles, CA
Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, Richmond, VA
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Seattle, WA
We Belong Together – National
West Coast Asian Pacific Islander Student Union, CA
Women of Color Collective at Harvard – T. H. Chan School of Public Health (WOCC),
Cambridge, MA
Women of Color Network, Harrisburg, PA
Xicano Moratorium Coalition, Oakland, CA

CC: Sarah Saldaña, Director, ICE
Esther Olavarria, Senior Advisor to the Secretary
Serena Hoy, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary
Manar Waheed, White House DPC
Craig Meyer, ICE- San Francisco Field Office