Letters from Fathers Separated from their Children Who Are Currently Detained at the Cibola County Correctional Center in Milan, NM

Submitted by:
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New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
July 13, 2018

For:
Meeting on July 16, 2018
Privately-Operated Prisons in New Mexico with Contracts to House Federal Immigration Detainees
Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee
New Mexico Legislature
Oscas [redacted]

Guatemalan [redacted]

The separation with my son has been the most cruel and very difficult part of my life. I never thought that that would happen and how much I want to have the opportunity to stay together with my son, and to be able to give him the necessities, and to my family we are not bad we are good.

I arrived on June 3 of 2018 with my son, he is 16 years old. When they separated us they told us that I was going to jail and he was going to the youth center.

[signature] 7/10/2018
Signature Date

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATOR

I, Adriel D. Orozco of the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, certify that this document in English is a complete and accurate translation of the attached document in the Spanish language and that I am sufficiently competent in both languages to render such a translation.

Signature: Date: 7/13/2018
La separación con mi hijo ha sido lo más cruel
y muy difícil para mi vida. Nunca pensé que eso
acontecería y cuánto quise tener una oportunidad para quedarme junto a mi hijo, y poder darme lo necesario.

A mi familia no somos malos somos buenos.

Yo llegué el 3 de junio de 2018 con mi hijo, él tiene 11 años. Cuando nos separaron nos dijeron que yo
iba a la cárcel y él a un centro para jóvenes.

Firma

Fecha 07/10/2018
My name is Macedonio [redacted]. My A number is [redacted]. I am a citizen of Guatemala.

On the 1st of June I was detained in El Paso, TX by border patrol. We were in the ice box (CBP holding facility) together—me and my daughter—two whole days. My daughter is named [redacted]. Her date of birth is the 6th of September of 2007. She is 10 years old.

They told me that they were going to take away my daughter, but that she needed to bathe. They asked me to help her, so I did. They told me that they were going to handcuff me, and I begged them not to do it in front of my daughter. They took me behind a wall and handcuffed me. I said goodbye to my daughter and I told another young girl (a little older) who also had been separated to take care of my daughter.

They took me and I saw the tears of my daughter. This was the last time that I saw my daughter. It has been 40 days since I’ve heard anything about her.

 [signature]  
[redacted], Macedonio  
7/10/18 Date

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATOR

I, Adriel D. Orozco of the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, certify that this document in English is a complete and accurate translation of the attached document in the Spanish language and that I am sufficiently competent in both languages to render such a translation.

Signature:  
Date: 7/13/2018
Me llamo Macedonio [nombre oculto]. Mi número A es [número oculto]. Soy ciudadano de Guatemala.


Me dijeron de que me iban a quitar a mi hija, pero que se tenía que bañar. Me dijeron que le bañara, entonces yo le bañé. Me dijeron que me iban a ensayar, y le rogué que no me lo hicieran en frente de mi hija. Me hicieron en frente de mi hija. Me despedí de mi hija, y le dije a otra hija niña (pequeña) y le dije a otra hija niña (mayor) que también fue separada. Le dije que te cuidara a mi hija.
Me llevaron y vi las lágrimas de mi hija. Esto fue la última vez que vi a mi hija. Ya llevo 40 días sin saber de mi niña.

[Signature]

Macedonio

7/10/18 Fecha
Father’s day was the most horrible and painful day of my life and for my children. Being separated by immigration. Never in life had we been separated much less in such an isolated, horrible and inhumane way. They put us in chains around our feet and hands and to have to see my son witness this being done to his father and his sister. But the most horrible part was when we were transferred to a federal jail, to see my beautiful daughter of 19 years walk through that jail, where I saw her the last time. When I saw her they were filing her into the ice boxes (cold holding facilities) and I saw her pass by. I was broken inside but I didn’t want to show it, I just encouraged her, Come on daughter, you are strong! was what I said but inside my heart was completely broken. I felt like I was dying. Then, I was transferred to Cibola New Mexico in chains. I felt that I had lost them when I thought of my daughter and my son. I felt that I could no longer continue. I felt death at not knowing about my children whom I love. Until today’s date I have not seen them. But I believe in God. That with the help of God and people and institutions that it will be soon [that I see them]. We are only father and children.

Just an opportunity!

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I, Adriel D. Orozco of the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, certify that this document in English is a complete and accurate translation of the attached document in the Spanish language and that I am sufficiently competent in both languages to render such a translation.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: 7/13/2018
DÍA DEL PADRE. FUE EL DÍA MÁS ORÍGIBL AMARGO DE MI VIDA Y DE MIS HIJOS. AL SER SEPARADOS EN MIGRACIÓN NUNCA EN LA VIDA NOS AVIAMOS SEPARAS MENOS DE LA FORMA MÁS INSOLENTE. ORÍGIBL INUMANÁ. AL PONERNOS CADENAS PIES Y MANOS Y MI HIJO VER LO QUE HIZIERON CON SU PADRE Y SU HERMANA.

Pero lo más orízible es cuando fuimos trasladados a una carcel federal frente a mi hijita linda de 19 años caminar por esa carcel. Donde la vi por última vez que cuando la veía cuando la estában archivando. Yo estaba en las heladas y la miraba pasar. Yo qué brantado por dentro no le daba a demostrar nada solo la animaba ¡Bamos hija. Usted es fuerte, eras mi expresión! Y yo por dentro, mi corazón desolado por completo me sentía morir. Luego al trasladado a Cibola, Nuevo México, en cadena en senti que me alejé por completo al pensar de mi hija y mi hijo, sentí que ya no podía. Solo pedí a Dios, fuerza. Que me fortaleciera, por que yo ya no podía sentía la muerte y el no saber de mis queridos hijos, hasta la fecha. No los existo pero confíen en Dios que con la ayuda de Dios y personas o instituciones será poco solo somos padre e hijos.

¡Solo una copia! Cami
DAD:
My name is Fillemon and I am from Guatemala. I arrived to the United States on the 5th of June of 2018. I came with my daughter who is 12 years old. When they separated us they told us that we would only be separated for 15 days and then they would reunite us, but that is not what has happened.

I have not been able to speak to my daughter since the day that they separated us, the 6th of June of 2018. I think she is in Houston because my sister who lives in the United States called a number.

Today, the 10th of July I spoke with a social worker. She asked me if I wanted to give the custody of my daughter to my sister who lives here. I did not want to give up the custody of my daughter because she is my daughter. They told all of us that they were going to reunite us but instead of that they brought me to Cibola, and I haven't seen my kids.

This whole situation hasn made me very sad. I want to be with my daughter as soon as possible. I need to be with my family.

[SIGNATURE] 07/11/2018
Signature Date

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATOR

I, Vanessa Gonzalez, of the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, certify that this document in English is a complete and accurate translation of the attached document in the Spanish language and that I am sufficiently competent in both languages to render such a translation.

Signature: [Signature] Date: 7/13/2018
Mi nombre es [bucle] y yo soy de Guatemala. Yo llegé a los E.E.U.U. el 5 de junio de 2018. Yo vine con mi hija que tiene 12 años. Cuando nos separaron me dijeron que solo ibamos estar separados por 15 días y después nos iban a reunificar, pero eso no pasó. Mi hija se llama [bucle].

Yo no he podido hablar con mi hija desde el día que nos separaron, el 5 de junio de 2018. Piensas que está en Houston porque mi hermana que vive en los E.E.U.U. llamo un número.

Hoy, el 10 de julio de 2018 hablé con una trabajadora social. Me preguntaron si le quiera dar la custodia de mi hija a mi hermana que vive aquí. Yo no quisiera dar la custodia de mi hija porque es mi hija. Nos dijeron a todos que nos íbamos a reunificar pero en vez de eso me trajeron a Cibola, y no e visto a mis hijas.

Toda esta situación me ha puesto muy triste. Yo quiero estar con mi hija lo más posible. Yo necesito estar con mi familia.

Firma

Fecha: 07/10/2018
My name is Juan [redacted] and I am from Guatemala. I came to the United States but I was separated from my daughter on June 2 of 2018, when we got to the border. My daughter is 16 years old.

When they separated us we were told that I was going to jail and she was going to a shelter. We were told that we would just be separated 2-3 days but that did not happen. A lot of time has gone by.

I have been able to communicate with her and she is in Phoenix, AZ. I have only been able to talk to her on the phone two times.

I miss my daughter, I am not used to being separated from her.

[Signature]

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATOR

I, Martha Laura Garcia of the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, certify that this document in English is a complete and accurate translation of the attached document in the Spanish language and that I am sufficiently competent in both languages to render such a translation.

Signature: [Signature] Date: 7/13/18
Mi nombre es Juan y yo soy de Guatemala. Yo vine a los EE.UU. para poder trabajar pero me separaron de mi hija el 2 de junio de 2018, cuando llegamos a la frontera. Mi hija tiene 11 años. Cuando nos separaron nos dijeron que yo iría a la cárcel y ella iba ir a una albergue. Nos dijeron que solo íbamos estar separados 2-3 días pero eso no pasó. Yo he pasado mucho tiempo. Me ha pedido comunicar con mi hija y ella está en Phoenix. Azúcar no he podido hablar por teléfono con ella 2 veces. Extraño a mi hija, yo no estoy acostumbrado a estar separado de ella.

Firma

Fecha