

California Protective Parents Association Newsletter



Dear Friends,

The White House Mothers of Lost Children demonstration was both empowering and poignant, as it has been for the past six years.

Monday, May 9, 2016 was the day after Mothers Day. A warm rain fell on mothers in white t-shirts and secret service officers in black raincoats.



As more and more mothers and supporters arrived, they picked up their favorite banners to protest the crimes against children who are torn from safe mothers and given to violent, incestuous abusers.

One supporter was Margaret Candler (photographed above), staunch friend of Elsa Newman. Elsa, a federal appellate attorney, was incarcerated for over 12 years for a crime she didn't commit or even know was happening. Margaret has held a sign that says "Free Elsa" during each of the past White House demonstrations. This year, she didn't have her sign. Elsa had finally been released from prison.

But Margaret joined us anyway, now to hold a Mothers of Lost Children banner to protest this egregious social justice issue. She knows that the forces that swept Elsa's children away when she tried to protect them from abuse, and then imprisoned her, are still systematically trafficking children.

The vigil and march began. Mothers and their supporters sang as they marched around the White House and its beautiful grounds. One mother blessed the perimeter of the home of the most powerful person in the world.

Mothers talked with mildly interested passersby, trying to explain the inexplicable.

"Why?" was usually the first question, "Why would courts do that?"

"Money" was the blunt reply. "Hundreds of thousands of dollars exchange hands in each case. Children are treated as commodities."

The passersby passed by. The cognitive dissonance was too much for most of them, except for one attractive, well-dressed woman who stopped the march to really talk. She introduced herself as Marcie's Mom. Little Marcie had lost her mom when an abuser went to divorce court a few years ago and Marcie became one of the 58,000 victims that year to be shipped off to live with an abuser.

A police escort shadowed us as we marched. He stopped traffic for us. We felt protected.

It was an odd sensation.

We said goodbye to the President and his lovely wife and daughters living in the big white house. We hoped they noticed us over the years, and maybe cared a bit. " Yes, we can" was the clarion call at the beginning of the administration.

Although guards with rifles watched carefully from the rooftop of the big house every year, our presence went otherwise unacknowledged. We were not invited in for tea, but we know they noticed. We are hard to miss.

We realize our job is not to be successful. It is to be faithful. And persistent. And to bear witness, as oppressed people have always done.

The next day, 14 Mothers of Lost Children and our supporters met with staff members from the offices of eight U.S. Representative and three U.S. Senators on our lobby day.

The presentations we made were quite powerful, as each mother told the staff members from her state. It was clear that this is a national epidemic of children being disappeared, right in front of our faces.



We offered our elected representatives several federal solutions to this hydra. One is a Congressional oversight hearing on how courts are failing children. Another is federal guidance to states on stopping this madness. A lobby firm will follow up soon to present our finalized Resolution to the members.

Keith Harmon Snow is an international award-winning journalist who has worked in 45 countries, many war torn. He spoke at the wonderful Battered Mothers Custody Conference on May 6-8 and was passionate about the subject after investigating 10 or 12 almost identical cases.

In the preface to his must-read book, [*The Worst Interests of the Child*](#), Keith wrote, "When I describe this as organized crime, I am not using metaphorical terms: this is not a metaphor for organized crime; it is not 'like organized crime' or 'similar to organized crime' or 'representative of organized crime.' It is organized crime."

We Need Your Help!

Only you can convince your elected federal representative to address these human rights violations against women and children.

Step 1. Find your Congressional representative

www.house.gov/representatives/find/

Step 2. Call or write today: "I am from the group Mothers of Lost Children. As your constituent, I want you to make the physical and sexual safety of children the first and highest priority in our nation. Children are being taken away from their safe mothers and placed with dangerous abusers by family courts in your district. We have tried to fix the problem at the state level, but it is only getting worse. We need federal intervention, just like when states refused to integrate schools. A Resolution will be provided to you soon. We ask for your support."

You can give a one-minute version of your case. For example: "My son reported sexual abuse. I went to CPS, police, and ____ family court to protect him. There was a massive system failure and he is now living with the very person he said violated him. I can only see him under supervision, even though I never harmed him." Stop there and ask if there are any questions, then give brief answers.

Step 3. Let us know at cppa001@aol.com so we can follow up.

Yes, we can!



Senator Di Fi, Catherine and the Afghan Girl Portrait

2016 Mothers of Lost Children Handout

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