

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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Domestic Violence and Immigrant Rights Groups Ask Immigration Officials to Stand with Domestic Violence Survivor and Drop Immigration Hold

WHAT: Domestic violence and immigrant rights advocates will gather at Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Field Offices in San Francisco to deliver petitions and prosecutorial discretion requests to drop immigration hold on Nan-Hui Jo, a survivor of domestic violence and mother to a six-year-old child.

WHO: Domestic violence advocates, immigrant rights advocates, and concerned community members.

WHEN: Thursday, March 5, 2015; 10:00am-11:00am

WHERE: Customs and Border Protection (CPB) San Francisco Field Office
33 New Montgomery St., 16th floor, San Francisco, CA 94105,
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) San Francisco Field Office
630 Sansome St #590, San Francisco, CA 94111

PHOTO OPP & VISUALS:

1. Community members wearing purple ribbons for domestic violence awareness marching from CBP field office to ICE field office.
2. Traditional Korean drummers leading the march from CBP to ICE office.
3. Speakers from Korean American Coalition to End Domestic Abuse (KACEDA), Immigrant Youth Coalition (IYC), Asian Law Caucus (ALC), and Asian Women's Shelter (AWS).

BACKGROUND: Today Nan-Hui Jo was convicted of child abduction. Nan-Hui Jo is a survivor of domestic violence who left the U.S. in 2009, with her infant daughter to escape physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her then-partner and child's father, and comply with her immigration status. When she returned to the U.S. in July 2014, she was immediately arrested and separated from her child. In December 2014, Ms. Jo was tried for child abduction, which resulted in a hung jury. Ignoring all evidence of domestic violence Ms. Jo suffered, including two calls to the police in Sacramento after her child's father physically abused her and testimony from her former partner admitting to physical assault, the Yolo County District Attorney aggressively pursued a retrial that commenced February 20, 2015. Throughout this entire process, Ms. Jo has been denied the right to see or speak to her daughter while the father was given full custody. Ms. Jo currently has a U Visa application in process. If Ms. Jo is deported, she will not be able to represent herself in any custody hearing and could be separated permanently from her child. Domestic violence and immigrant rights advocates have come together to urge immigration officials to drop the immigration hold and not initiate deportation proceedings against Ms. Jo.

Petition to ICE and CBP: bit.ly/standwithnanhui

Fundraising for Nan-Hui Jo: <https://crowddefend.com/campaign/stand-with-nan-hui-2/#>

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