

For Immediate Release

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Nan-Hui Jo Convicted of Child Abduction Charges; Community protests conviction of Nan-Hui Jo, survivor of domestic violence

March 3, 2015—Supporters of Nan-Hui Jo express their outrage and sadness over her conviction for child abduction. With the conviction, Jo is currently being threatened with deportation, despite having a pending U-visa petition on file. Korean community groups, domestic violence organizations, student groups and concerned community members have rallied for Jo by attending the trial, bringing attention to the case through Facebook and Twitter (#StandWithNanHui, #WeSurvived), and circulating a petition demanding Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) and Custom and Border Protection (CBP) to exercise their prosecutorial discretion and drop her deportation case. If Jo is deported, she could be permanently separated from her child.

Jo is a survivor of domestic violence. Jo left the United States with her child, Vitz Da, in 2009, to escape physical and emotional abuse from the child's father. When she returned to the United States in July 2014, she was immediately arrested and separated from her child. In December 2014, Jo was tried for child abduction, and this trial resulted in a hung jury. The Yolo County District Attorney ignored the domestic violence her child's father testified and publicly admitted to and aggressively pursued a retrial of Jo, which commenced February 20, 2015. Throughout this entire process, Jo has been denied the right to see her daughter, while the child's father was given full custody of Vitz Da. Jo has been in jail without bail due to the immigration hold and has not seen her daughter in over seven months.

"We are extremely disappointed in the verdict. As advocates for survivors of domestic violence, we believe that this case should not have even been prosecuted. We continue to be inspired by Nan-Hui Jo's strength throughout this time and will be continuing the fight to ensure she is reunited with her daughter," says Hyejin Shim of Korean American Coalition to End Domestic Abuse (KACEDA), a domestic violence organization based in the Bay Area. KACEDA, Immigrant Youth Coalition, and Asian Law Caucus are asking community members to sign their petition and to call San Francisco ICE and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) field offices to drop Jo's deportation case at bit.ly/standwithnanhui

The Community Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Sacramento and KACEDA have also set up a fundraising campaign to help cover Jo legal fees and other costs related to her appeal and pending immigration hearing and child custody hearing. To contribute to this fund, go to <https://crowddefend.com/campaign/stand-with-nan-hui-2/#>

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