

National Day of Action for Nan-Hui Jo!

June 10th, 2015



Reunite a mother and daughter who need each other.
standwithnanhui.org/junenationalaction

#StandWithNanHui
#Not1More

STAND WITH NAN-HUI
NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION TOOLKIT
6/10/2015

INTRO & TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Take Action Now!](#)

[Who is Nan-Hui Jo?](#)

[Facts and Talking Points](#)



Dear supporter of Nan-Hui Jo,

Thank you for taking action with us for our June 10th National Day of Action!

This June marks 11 long months of incarceration and separation for Nan-Hui. Now, more than ever, we need your support to demand that ICE release Nan-Hui immediately so she can reunite with her daughter. Despite the fact that Nan-Hui has multiple immigration applications pending, ICE is still rushing to deport her. *Most recently, ICE filed a motion to CANCEL her immigration court hearing scheduled for August.* Why is ICE so intent on deporting a mother away from her daughter? Meanwhile, Nan-Hui continues to pass the weeks in a detention center that does not get any sunlight, where inmates are not even allowed outdoors to exercise.

Mother and child have been torn apart in a legal system that has repeatedly shown itself to be racist, anti-immigrant, and hostile to domestic violence survivors. From the prosecution that aggressively criminalized her, to ICE, who continues to keep her locked up, we say NO to the systems that continue to harm survivors and their children!

On June 10, supporters across the nation will be demanding that ICE release Nan-Hui immediately. Will you join us?

In solidarity,
Stand With Nan-Hui campaign

TAKE ACTION NOW!

1. FLOOD THEIR PHONES

ICE Director Sarah Saldaña: (202) 732-3000
SF ICE Assistant Director Craig Meyer: (415) 844-5690

Sample script: “I am calling to ask Director Saldana/Director Meyer for the immediate release of Nan-Hui Jo (A098 906 641). Ms. Jo is a survivor of domestic violence and has a VAWA petition pending. She has an immigration hearing in August, as well family court hearings she will attend. She should be released on low bond so that she can reunite with her daughter, who has not seen her mother since last July. ICE should do the right thing and release Ms. Jo without initiating deportation proceedings against her.”

[VISIT OUR CALL SITE TO MAKE BOTH CALLS AT ONCE!](#)

2. MASS TWEET AT ICE

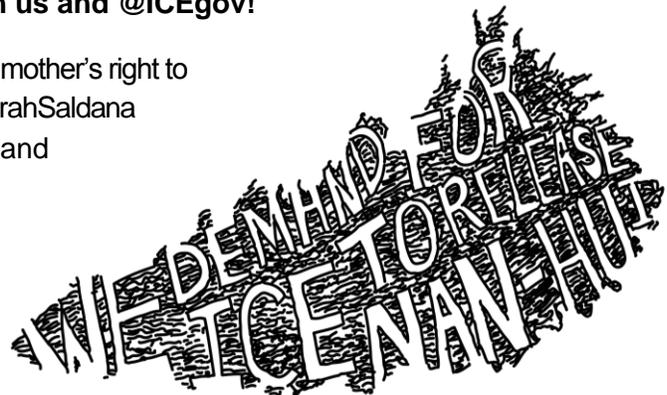
Take to Twitter! Follow us on @StandWithNanHui. Tweet at @ICEgov and hashtag #SarahSaldaña, ICE’s national director. [SIGN UP FOR OUR THUNDERCLAP.](#)

Sample Tweets:

- Survivors of domestic violence need support not imprisonment. Release Nan-Hui Jo now! @ICEgov #SarahSaldaña #StandWithNanHui
- #SarahSaldaña @ICEgov has at lst 2 DV survivors, NanHui Jo & Rosa Martinez Duarte in Yuba Cty Jail. RELEASE NOW! #Not1More #StandWithNanHui
- #SarahSaldaña @ICEgov Thousands watching. Will you do the right thing & stand w domestic violence survivors like NanHui Jo? #StandWithNanHui
- Detaining and deporting survivors only furthers the harmful impacts of abuse. Free NanHui Jo! #SarahSaldaña @ICEgov #StandWithNanHui

Why do you #StandWithNanHui? Share with us and @ICEgov!

- I #StandWithNanHui because I believe in a mother’s right to protect herself and her child. @ICEgov #SarahSaldaña
- I #StandWithNanHui for safety, justice, and peace for all undocumented #DV survivors. @ICEgov #SarahSaldaña





3. SHARE IMAGES & INFO ABOUT THIS ACTION

4. DONATE TO NAN-HUI'S LEGAL FUND

5. SIGN THE PETITION

6. WRITE TO NAN-HUI

One of the most profound impacts of domestic violence, state violence, and incarceration is the overwhelming sense of isolation. Formerly incarcerated people, prisoners' rights groups and advocacy groups have all stated how much receiving letters of support break through isolation and help prisoners to survive.

Nan-Hui has received letters of love from people from all over the country, especially as local groups in Los Angeles, the Bay Area, and New York City have hosted letter-writing events. Nan-Hui has said how much these letters have helped keep her spirits alive, and that she often re-reads them during hard times. Please continue to send those notes of love and host local letter-writing events! We encourage messages that offer validation, support and encouragement.

**Nan-Hui Jo, 147432
P.O. Box 1031
Marysville, CA 95901**

Guidelines:

Make sure to include your name and a return address. Only letters, single layer cards, and wallet size photos (3 x 5 max.) are allowed. No packages. No stickers. All incoming mail will be opened and inspected by detention staff. For more detailed info, read the [Yuba County Inmate Mail Policy](#).

WHO IS NAN-HUI JO?

Nan-Hui Jo is a proud and devoted Korean single mother, an avid photographer, and writer of children's books.

Five years ago, Nan-Hui Jo fled to her home country, South Korea, with her baby in an attempt to escape her abusive relationship in California. *Against all odds, Nan-Hui rebuilt a life free from violence with her little girl, who she loves more than anything.* For five years, Nan-Hui was a diligent parent who made sure to be involved in every way she could be, even while working multiple jobs. However, *she was unaware that upon her escape, her abuser reported her for kidnapping—a common abusive tactic for regaining control.*



She re-entered the U.S. in July 2014 with her daughter on an approved visa waiver, to explore the option of sending her to school in Hawaii. She was also considering reinitiating contact between the child and her father if it seemed safer. However, right at the airport, she was immediately arrested and separated from her child in an operation that involved Yolo County Child Abduction Unit, Interpol, Customs and Border Protections, and Honolulu Police Department. Because she was presumed guilty from the start, her abuser was given full legal and physical custody of her little girl. Nan-Hui was incarcerated, denied bail and issued a no contact order between her and her child. Following reckless, hostile and racist prosecution from the Yolo County District Attorney, Nan-Hui was sentenced to misdemeanor child abduction. Immediately upon her release, however, she was taken into ICE custody and is now being detained at Yuba County Jail, which doubles as an immigration detention center.

Nan-Hui Jo, undocumented Korean single mother and survivor of domestic violence, has spent eleven months in jail for daring to flee her abuser. Now she must fight against deportation proceedings, which could permanently separate her from her beloved little girl. It is clear that ICE is wasting no time in rushing to deport her—upon taking her into custody, they immediately filed a motion to cancel her immigration court hearing, which is set for August.



FACTS & TALKING POINTS

We have a collective responsibility to believe and support survivors of domestic violence.

- Nan-Hui Jo is a survivor of domestic violence. Her previous partner and child's father used a range of behaviors to exert power over her, including physical force.
- [Abuse is a repetitive pattern of behaviors to maintain power and control.](#) These behaviors can physically harm, arouse fear, and prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want to make someone feel afraid and alone. Abuse includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse, and economic deprivation. Different forms of abuse can occur simultaneously and we reject the notion that abuse must reach lethal levels of violence before being taken seriously.
- While institutions often fail to protect survivors, it is common for abusive partners to leverage the larger institutions of law enforcement, immigration enforcement, and family court to harass, intimidate, and abuse survivors. They may call the police, file restraining orders, report the survivor for domestic violence, and use child custody issues in an effort to retaliate and regain control of their partners.
- Nan-Hui's case is a clear example of how survivors are blamed and judged when they stay in abusive relationships, but also punished and criminalized when they try to leave. We are concerned by the greater impact and message this case is sending to other survivors of domestic abuse.

All undocumented immigrants, including survivors, deserve dignity, respect, and access to support and safety.

- Immigrant survivors are particularly vulnerable to domestic violence and may feel trapped in abusive relationships because of immigration laws, language barriers, social isolation, lack of financial resources, and unfamiliarity with US laws and social customs.
- Being undocumented adds additional layers of challenges because it restricts an individual's ability to work, drive, travel, access health care, or report abuses (domestic violence, workplace abuse, wage theft, etc.) without risk to their well-being.
- For undocumented survivors who are mothers, the stakes are high - the threat of detention, deportation and permanent separation from one's children can compound existing patterns of control and violence.

- Though there are provisions for immigrant and undocumented survivors under the [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#), many are never properly informed of their option to self-petition for a green card under VAWA.
- Immigrant limited English proficient (LEP) mothers who flee from violent partners do not have the same access to information/resources as English speakers in the same situation.
- As an LEP immigrant mother, Nan-Hui was criminalized by Yolo County for having extremely limited access to information about her rights, domestic violence support resources, due process, family law, immigration law, and child abduction law. Now she awaits immigration court hearings and potential deportation in Yuba County Jail, which doubles as an immigration detention center as well as a county jail.
- Nan-Hui Jo's case demonstrates precisely why so many undocumented and immigrant survivors of domestic violence decide to stay in abusive relationships, and do not trust law enforcement or the legal system to help.

We need systems that support survivors in creating safer lives for themselves & their children.

- The criminal-legal system punishes survivors, separates children from their primary caregivers, and worsens the impacts of domestic violence. The systems that are supposed to help create safety for people often collude with abusive dynamics, criminalize survivors, and become part of the abuse that survivors face.
- Nan-Hui fled to her home country, South Korea, in 2009, fearing the safety of herself and her child. Upon leaving the country with her daughter, her former partner reported her for child abduction. Nan-Hui was arrested when she returned for a short-term trip to the US. The child was immediately separated from her mother and put in the custody of the child's father while Nan-Hui was extradited to a jail in Yolo County.
- Nan-Hui was denied bail, and it was a full five months before her case went to trial in December 2014. After a hung jury and a lengthy retrial, she was sentenced to misdemeanor child abduction and time served. Immediately upon release, she was taken into ICE's custody, where she remains in detention.
- Nan-Hui experienced harm, fear, assault and danger in an abusive relationship. She called the police twice about her abuse, and both times they failed to take a report. On one occasion, the police officers who arrived at the scene simply told the ex-partner to "walk it off."
- The way police responded to Nan-Hui's calls is not uncommon. Domestic violence calls constitute half of all violent crimes calls to police departments. However, at least [30% of cases where victims request police assistance](#) fail to result in an official report.
- Instead of being granted protection, survivors of domestic violence are often criminalized: [the ACLU reports that of all incarcerated women in the United States, 85-90% have experienced domestic and sexual abuse.](#)
- "Violence perpetrated against women and girls can put them [at risk for incarceration](#) because their survival strategies are routinely criminalized." - [Free Marissa DV Fact Sheet](#)
- "70% of people in women's prisons are [mothers](#). The number of mothers in prison in the US [increased by 122%](#) between 1991 and 2007. Prior to entering prison, many of these women were the [primary caretakers](#) of their children at home." - [Free Marissa DV Fact Sheet](#)

- Survivors should not be punished for defending themselves, protecting their children, and rebuilding their lives after escaping domestic violence.

Nan-Hui and her daughter are the center of each other's worlds.

- Nan-Hui loves her daughter and acted in her daughter's best interest. Although she did not know the intricacies of the U.S. legal system, she deeply felt the volatility of her situation. She learned over time that her ex-partner was violent, and when she felt the well-being of her child was endangered, she took steps to protect her.
- Like many survivors of domestic violence, Nan-Hui was concerned that if her previous partner had hurt her, that he would hurt the child. [According to a study funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, 30 to 60% of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household.](#)
- Nan Hui's daughter has been abruptly separated from her mother and transplanted to an unfamiliar setting and country where none of her current guardians speaks her native language. Instability and the absence of a trusted parent in a foreign setting is extremely frightening and has lasting developmental consequences on young children.
- [A number of survivors and children of survivors have come forward during this campaign](#) to describe the lasting impacts of growing up in homes where they witnessed domestic violence between parents or caregivers. Domestic violence impacts children, even if they themselves were not directly physically harmed by an abusive parent.
- Prosecuting Nan-Hui, a single mother who is doing her best to survive and rebuild her life free from violence, does not serve the best interests of her child.

As a community, we support Nan-Hui and demand real solutions to domestic violence because Nan-Hui's story represents the struggle of so many domestic violence survivors.

- Incarceration, isolation, deportation and permanent separation do not represent justice for Nan-Hui or other survivors of domestic violence.
- We call upon this system to stop punishing women for protecting themselves and their children.
- We call upon this system to uphold and respect the self-determination of all women, not just those who have the privilege of U.S. citizenship.
- Justice for Nan-Hui and her daughter will begin with Nan-Hui's freedom and immediate reunification with her child. We will continue to fight for their right to heal, love, and thrive together.