



Dear Disciples Friends,

August 4, 2015

EXTENDED ACTION ALERT: KEEP CALLING & E-MAILING THRU THURSDAY, AUGUST 6TH TO END FAMILY DETENTION!

FYI, we JUST received word that the Obama Administration requested that Judge Dolly Gee EXTEND the time by which they need to send a response to her court's July 24th ruling. **In response, Judge Gee has NOW extended the time by which the Obama administration must respond to her ruling to THIS THURSDAY, AUGUST 6TH.** Many view this as a discouraging sign that the administration could be preparing to appeal the Judge's decision. However, it gives us additional time to communicate our hopes to the White House, as well!!

As you may recall from our alert late last week, the Judge stated that the U.S. use of family detention centers is a violation of the previous "Flores Settlement" from 1997. **The judge called for the parents and children to be released** from the family centers now being used in Dilley, Karnes, and Berks to house the mothers and children who have fled horrific violence in the Northern Triangle Region of Central America--(unless they can be shown to be a flight risk or threat to national security).

Disciples have done SO MUCH to raise your voices and gather your actions in faith to support the mothers and children throughout the past year! We remember again Dr. Watkins' expression of compassion and prophetic call to action in a press release just a week ago: Family detention exacerbates the trauma families have already experienced, profits prison companies, isolates legitimate asylum seekers from services, and constrains hope that liberty might ever be found. Judge Gee's order instructs the administration to develop a plan to release the mothers and children 'without unnecessary delay.' **I strongly urge the administration not to appeal Judge Gee's decision."**

PLEASE, with this unexpected extension of time, will you take time to contact, or to re-contact the administration ONCE MORE before the end of this THURSDAY?

1. Call the White House at 202-456-1111. Feel free to use this sample script: *My name is _____ and I'm calling to encourage the Obama Administration to comply with Judge Gee's Flores decision and to close the Dilley, Karnes and Berks family detention centers. There is simply no humane way to incarcerate families. The revival of family detention is a failed policy, and an appalling stain on the United States' human rights record. I urge the Administration to allow this decision to stand, release women and children immediately, and close all family detention centers once and for all.*

2. Email the White House through their website. Go to:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments> and type in the script as above.

3. Send an email to Attorney General Lynch, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, and President Obama, White House, together with many of our faith partners. All you have to do is sign on! Go to: **<http://capwiz.com/pcusa/issues/alert/?alertid=67355626>**



LET'S GET TO THE FINISH LINE ON FAMILY DETENTION!! Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director, Refugee & Immigration Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), **stanley@dhm.disciples.org, 202-957-7826 (cell)**