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The Honorable George W. Bush
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

We write to ask you to help the dozens of American citizens who are being held against their will in Saudi Arabia. Saudi law requires that Saudi women receive the permission of their father or husband before they are allowed to leave the country. This Saudi law is used also to keep American women and girls from leaving Saudi Arabia, even in cases in which they have been kidnapped in violation of U.S. law and other cases in which they clearly want to leave Saudi Arabia.

One case being investigated by the Committee particularly deserves your attention. In January 1986, two young U.S. citizens named Alia and Aisha Gheshayan, the daughters of Pat Roush, were kidnapped by her ex-husband, Khalid Gheshayan. Khalid took Alia and Aisha to Saudi Arabia, where he has held them ever since. For the last 16 years, these two young American citizens have been held in Saudi Arabia under some of the most repressive conditions imaginable. The State Department has provided little assistance to Pat Roush. Currently, the State Department is attempting to locate Alia and Aisha and arrange a meeting with them to ask them if they want to return to the U.S. However, even if State Department personnel are able to meet with Alia and Aisha, there is no reason to believe that they will feel free to speak their minds. Even if Alia and Aisha did risk their safety by saying that they did want to return to the United States, the State Department would still do little to assist them. Rather, Embassy staff would simply ask Khalid Gheshayan, the man who kidnapped the girls 16 years ago, if he would let them go. Obviously, the State Department's current approach is bound to fail and must be changed. More important, this approach has consistently rewarded a man who violated U.S. law by kidnapping two minor children.

The Committee is also investigating the equally troubling case of Monica Stowers and her two children, Rasheed and Amjad Radwan. In 1985, Monica moved with her

