

February 2, 1999
Mrs. Hillary Clinton
First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC

IT TAKES A "GLOBAL" VILLAGE

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

My name is Carolyn Wilfred and I live in Stratford, Ontario, Canada. As a Canadian woman, wife, and mother, I ask that you please read the following pages, including the attachment sent to the ACLU, containing the bizarre events which involve YOUR justice system, members of YOUR government, and three of YOUR citizens whom I love deeply, two being innocent children who have been placed at extreme risk for almost a year now. These children, Danielle who is seven, and Isaac who is five, are children born of my heart, the children of my new husband, Harmon Wilfred. I am horrified that such injustices could happen in the "civilised" world, let alone in the United States of America and Canada.

In the summer of 1997, I met my husband-to-be as an international business associate while he was in Canada on an extended business trip from the U.S. Every night that he was away, he phoned his children Danielle and Isaac to check on them, to tell them that he loved them, and to say goodnight. Those of us who were working with him could not help but share his pain and stress as we heard his children crying in the background, their mother striking them, and yelling at them and at Harmon, even denying him the right to speak with them by hanging up the phone in mid-conversation. Dearnna, their mother, often complained that she could not handle the children and that Isaac would run around and bang his head against the walls in frustration.

As an experienced, former, professional childcare worker and mother of two daughters, I was greatly disturbed by these events. This scenario continued for some time before Harmon filed for divorce and gained custody of his children. With my professional background, it was a natural for Harmon to request and receive my assistance in helping the children adjust to their new environment and recover from their mother's abuse. From the first moment Danielle and Isaac came under my care, it was so very obvious that they had been living in an abusive situation. Danielle would hide under furniture and cry uncontrollably, confessing that her mother was very mean to her and that she was afraid of her. We would hold Danielle and rock her until she calmed down. Isaac, still not toilet trained at the age of 3½, would scream when his diaper was changed saying "please don't rub my face in it", and many times telling us that he never wanted to see his "mommy Dearnna" ever again. Day after day, they would express more evidence of abuse and thorough fear and anger over the way they had been treated while living with their mother. After a period of about three months of consistent reassurance and lots of love, Isaac was proudly toilet trained and the episodes of fearfulness lessened. Yet, both of them continually told us that they never wanted to go back to Colorado to their mother again and wanted to stay with us "fo'evah". They even expressed these desires to Harmon's neighbours, and in every instance totally unsolicited. We finally had established a loving and secure home for them. During this process, I fell in love with Harmon and his children.

Harmon & Carolyn Wilfred

Then, after four months of being an extended family, accompanied by a nanny, and attaining such wonderful progress with the children, our lives were shattered as they were whisked away by the police and their mother, and Harmon was arrested and put in jail. The children's reaction on seeing their mother was not one of joy but rather of fear. The nightmare had just begun for all of us; a loving family was torn apart. I pray that you can imagine the emotions of pain, fear, anger, and helplessness that take over the body, mind, and heart during such events. I never imagined that a year later, we would still be living the nightmare that our children would continue to be forced by the authorities to live in an abusive environment against their will. We have neither seen nor spoken to our children nor have we been informed of their whereabouts throughout this entire ordeal. Even now, we are shocked that the US and Canadian authorities involved refuse to show any interest whatsoever in even checking on their welfare and safety, in spite of our extensive efforts to enforce basic fathers' rights.

Attached is an account of the bizarre events which occurred before and following the "legalised abduction" of our children and Harmon's arrest. It appals me as a Canadian to think that lives, especially those of children, can be so violated with little or no concern for their wellbeing in the civilised international community – where one is assumed guilty until proven rich; where it is difficult to convince anyone to listen to the truth and act accordingly, especially where innocent children are involved. Where are the righteous, where are the people in power who care? Will no one help and be responsible for innocent children unless they are paid?

I am impressed by your book *It Takes A Village*. Yes, we are all responsible for the welfare of those who cannot defend themselves, but how many of us in the international community actually take that responsibility and risk, and do something? There are two children involved in this particular situation, and in this "global" scenario, someone of power and influence must rise up and protect these two innocent ones. The "village" must be global. The "global elders" must be there for even these two children as all children are the future of this planet, a place that is in desperate need of loving, compassionate, caring parental leaders to right the wrong-doings.

My husband is a very responsible father. I have never seen a more devoted and loving father, reassuringly and lovingly guiding his children through life's challenges. I have learned much from him for his teaching and support come from his heart and his love for his children.

I am asking you, PLEASE BE AN "ELDER" WITH US IN HELPING US RESCUE THESE CHILDREN. You and I have been fortunate to have had loving families and Harmon and I would like to continue this tradition for our children.

We need your assistance and support from your "global" village. I believe that when you read the attached document, you will be incensed at the incredible political and judicial corruption that surrounds the events that led up to these children being put at such inconceivable risk. You then must see how important it is that strong action be taken quickly to right this atrocious wrong and to bring these children to safety immediately. In your husband's recent State of the Union Address, you received a standing ovation for your work with children's issues in the United States. I too applaud your book and your efforts. Won't you please extend those efforts internationally and respond to a Canadian mother's request for these two children?

Awaiting your reply,



Carolyn Wilfred