



**For Immediate Release
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FAMILIES DETAINED FOR MONTHS ON END PLEAD FOR THEIR FREEDOM

BERKS, PA – Thirty mothers detained with their children at the Berks Family Detention Center in Pennsylvania wrote a letter to the media pleading for their freedom. The mothers write that they came to the U.S. seeking refuge, and that they want their prolonged and cruel detention to be known.

These families have now been detained for as long as six months. They were transferred to Berks from the Texas family detention centers in Dilley and Karnes City. The letter reads in part: “We came here seeking refuge. We came to this country to save our lives and the lives of our children.” Their children, who have been confined for the duration, range in age from 20 months to 17 years old.

The letter continues, “We have not committed any crime, and it is unjust that our children at such an early age are aware that they are incarcerated, in custody 24 hours a day, when at this time they should be participating in the school year and living a life with dignity, that all children deserve.”

Another similar letter addressed to President Obama was written by mothers in a family detention center in Texas last month.

The American Immigration Council, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and Human Rights First call upon the Obama Administration to release these children and mothers and bring their prolonged and unjust detention to an end.

View the [handwritten Spanish version](#) or the [English translation](#).

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