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**Report to Congress on
Specific Actions Taken Against Countries Determined to have been
Engaged in a Pattern of Noncompliance in Cases of International Child
Abductions**

**22 USC 9122(c)(4): Actions by the Secretary of State in response to
patterns of noncompliance in cases of international child abductions**

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INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of State's Office of Children's Issues serves as the U.S. Central Authority (USCA) under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Convention). In April 2024, the Department submitted its Annual Report on International Child Abduction (Annual Report) pursuant to the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act (the Act).

Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 9122(c)(4), the Department submits this Action Report on International Child Abduction to Congress on the specific actions taken in response to countries determined to have been engaged in a pattern of noncompliance as defined by the Act.

The 2024 Annual Report provided an overview of the Department's efforts to support the resolution of international parental child abduction (IPCA) cases involving children whose habitual residence is reported to be the United States. We also reported on our engagement with foreign governments and authorities to promote procedures to encourage the prompt resolution of existing IPCA cases with the aim that, in general, international custody disputes should be resolved in the competent court of the country of the child's habitual residence. Further, the 2024 Annual Report discussed the Department's efforts to prevent abductions in coordination with foreign governments, law enforcement agencies, and airlines.

The Department's work does not end with the publication of the Annual Report. In countries that do not meet their Convention obligations or fail to work with the USCA to resolve IPCA cases, the Department takes appropriate actions as listed in the Act. In addition, the Department takes actions that are consistent with how we advance U.S. foreign interests in other high-priority areas. We establish and maintain communications, we identify challenges, we exchange information and technical expertise, and we press countries to meet their Convention obligations and resolve

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abduction cases. This report outlines these actions to address systematic obstacles to the resolution and deterrence of IPCA.

THE DEPARTMENT'S ACTION REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION

Diplomatic engagement is often our most effective tool to assist in resolving IPCA cases. We take every appropriate opportunity to raise these cases with foreign government officials at the highest appropriate levels, and to ensure that the foreign government understands the U.S. government's concern for the welfare of U.S. citizens overseas, especially children.

The Department continues to refine strategies for U.S. government engagement with numerous countries on IPCA. These country strategies provide a whole-of-government approach to combat and resolve abductions. We tailor each strategy to that country's evolving political and cultural environment.

Department professionals work with government officials in countries not yet party to the Convention, to encourage them to join the Convention and to resolve existing abduction cases. For Convention partners, we actively promote compliance with the Convention. In many countries, these efforts are producing results in handling IPCA cases.

We also seek to partner, when appropriate, with countries that have already joined the Convention. In this Action Report, we share the specific actions the United States has taken regarding the countries we cited in the 2024 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance and report on IPCA issues in these countries.

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ARGENTINA**SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Argentina since 1991. In 2023, Argentina continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Argentine judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. Argentina was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2023 Annual Reports.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

Department officials, in Washington and at U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires, continued to raise concerns with Government of Argentina officials at senior levels about Argentina's demonstration of a pattern of noncompliance.

In September 2023, officials at U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires presented the U.S. government's views on best practices for Convention implementation at a seminar on international legal cooperation hosted by the Argentine Central Authority with participants from across Argentina.

In October 2023, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues discussed U.S. concerns with Argentina's implementation of the Hague Abduction Convention with the Director of the Argentine Central Authority at the Eighth Meeting of the Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Child Protection Convention.

In April 2024, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues spoke with a group of International Visitor Leadership Program participants, including a judge from Argentina, regarding U.S. views on the proper implementation of the Convention.

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Also in April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed Argentina as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

In May 2024, the Deputy Chief of Mission at U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires delivered a demarche to the Under Secretary for Foreign Policy in the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, and Worship. The Deputy Chief of Mission notified the Government of Argentina that the Department cited Argentina in the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2023. This demarche highlighted Argentina's persistent failure to comply with its Convention obligations. In particular, the demarche noted longstanding U.S. concerns with serious judicial delays and an Argentine legal system that allows multiple appeals both on the merits of the decision and on how decisions are enforced. This year's demarche called attention to one case which remained unresolved for more than 13 years.

Also in May 2024, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues traveled to Argentina for a series of high-level meetings with Argentine officials, including senior officials within the Argentine Foreign Ministry and the Second Vice President of the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina, on international parental child abduction. The Special Advisor again raised U.S. concerns with unresolved cases and pressed Argentine officials to act expeditiously in proceedings for the return of children. The Special Advisor called for Argentina to employ concrete measures, such as legislation, to expedite the resolution of Convention cases in Argentina.

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BELIZE**SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Belize since 1989. In 2023, Belize demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, one case accounting for 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. Belize was previously cited in 2022 and 2023.

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN:

Department officials, in Washington and at U.S. Embassy Belmopan, continued to raise concerns with the Government of Belize about Belize's pattern of noncompliance with the Convention.

In August 2023, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues and the U.S. Ambassador to Belize participated in a day-long workshop on IPCA hosted by U.S. Embassy Belmopan. The workshop brought together representatives from the Belize Central Authority (BCA) and the U.S. Central Authority, Belize's Hague Network Judge, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and family court magistrates. The workshop raised awareness of the Convention and generated concrete proposals for improving Belize's compliance.

Also in August 2023, the Special Advisor met with the BCA, Belize's Attorney General, and Belize's Hague Network Judge to discuss the Convention. She urged Belizean officials to resolve judicial delays in Convention cases.

In December 2023, the Consular Section Chief met with the BCA for an update on proposals laid out in the August workshop, including a proposal for the BCA to train a small number of BCA social workers to specialize in Convention cases.

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In April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed Belize as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

In May 2024, Department officials in Washington met with the Director of the BCA to discuss a longstanding Convention case that remains pending in the court system.

Also in May 2024, the U.S. Ambassador to Belize delivered a demarche to the Belize Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade concerning Belize's citation for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2024 Annual Report.

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BRAZIL**SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Brazil since 2003. In 2023, Brazil continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Brazilian judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 43 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for two years and four months. Brazil was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2006-2023 Annual Reports.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

Department officials, in Washington and across the U.S. Mission to Brazil, continued to raise concerns with Government of Brazil officials at high levels about Brazil's repeated demonstration of a pattern of noncompliance.

In August 2023, the U.S. Ambassador to Brazil met with the Vice President of Brazil's Supreme Federal Tribunal regarding judicial delays in Convention cases in Brazil.

In September 2023, officials from the Office of Children's Issues shared abduction prevention resources with the Brazilian Consulate General in Boston, an area with a large self-identified Brazilian diaspora population according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In October 2023, the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs hosted the 21st U.S.-Brazil Consular and Legal Cooperation Dialogue in Washington. The Assistant Secretary recognized some recent improvements the Government of Brazil made regarding more newly

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filed Convention cases, while noting continued concern about significant judicial delays. She encouraged the Government of Brazil to promptly resolve all pending Convention cases.

Also in October 2023, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues discussed U.S. concerns with Brazil's implementation of the Convention with the Director of the Brazilian Central Authority at the Eighth Meeting of the Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Child Protection Convention.

Additionally in October 2023, the Consular Chief at U.S. Embassy Brasilia met with the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's Director of the Department of Immigration and Legal Cooperation to address concerns with Brazil's implementation of the Convention.

In November 2023, the Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs at the U.S. Mission to Brazil met with the national coordinator of Brazil's International Hague Network of Judges to discuss topics of concern with Brazil's implementation of the Convention.

In January 2024, the U.S. Ambassador to Brazil met with the President of Brazil's Superior Court of Justice and discussed the United States' longstanding position on the importance of reducing judicial delays in Convention cases.

In March 2024, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues discussed implementation of the Hague Abduction Convention with the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's Secretary of Brazilian Communities and Consular and Legal Affairs at the Hague Conference on Private International Law's Council on General Affairs and Policy.

Also in March 2024, a Department of State delegation met with the Brazilian Supreme Federal Tribunal, two of Brazil's representatives to the International Hague Network of Judges, the National Judicial

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Council, and the Brazilian Central Authority. In each meeting, the delegation raised U.S. concerns with Brazil's implementation of the Hague Abduction Convention and underscored the basis for the Department's determination that Brazil demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance.

In April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed Brazil as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

In June 2024, the U.S. Ambassador to Brazil delivered a demarche to the Brazilian Minister of Justice and Public Security, notifying Brazil that the Department cited Brazil in the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance during 2023. This demarche expressed concern about Brazil's persistent failure to comply with its Convention obligations. In particular, the demarche noted U.S. concerns with delays in Convention cases within Brazil's judiciary.

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BULGARIA**SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Bulgaria since 2005. In 2023, Bulgaria demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Bulgarian Central Authority failed to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the Convention, and law enforcement failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial authority in an abduction case. As a result of this failure, one case accounting for 100 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. This case has been unresolved for three years and one month. As a result, Bulgaria was cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2024 Annual Report.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

Department officials, in Washington and at U.S. Embassy Sofia, continued to raise concerns over Bulgaria's pattern of noncompliance with Government of Bulgaria officials.

In July 2023, Department officials conducted an International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) on international parental child abduction. U.S. Embassy Sofia sent a cohort of 10 interdisciplinary Bulgarian stakeholders involved in different aspects of handling International Parental Child Abduction cases to the United States to attend the IVLP exchange program. The purpose of this program was to conduct an informational exchange between U.S. and Bulgarian officials who are responsible for implementing the Convention.

In August 2023, the Ambassador hosted the IVLP group at his residence to discuss potential legislative changes and other ways Bulgaria could improve enforcement of return orders.

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In April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed Bulgaria as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

In May 2024, the Office of Children's Issues informed relevant authorities at the European Commission of the 2024 citation and discussed the challenges preventing us from resolving our open case.

In May 2024, U.S. Embassy Sofia delivered a demarche to the Judge of the Constitutional Court of Bulgaria at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs noting that Bulgaria had been cited as a country that had demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance in the 2024 Annual Report.

In May 2024, the Office of Children's Issues informed the Bulgarian Embassy of the 2024 citation.

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ECUADOR**SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Ecuador since 1992. In 2023, Ecuador continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, Ecuadorian judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. Ecuador was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2023 Annual Reports.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

Department officials at U.S. Embassy Quito continued to raise concerns with Government of Ecuador officials about Ecuador's demonstration of a pattern of noncompliance.

Since June 2023, the U.S. Central Authority has held quarterly video conferences with the Ecuadorian Central Authority, National Police, and Public Defender's Office to discuss pending IPCA cases and strategies to improve Convention implementation in Ecuador.

In December 2023, Department officials met with the National Court of Justice and elected National Assembly members to discuss proposed IPCA-related revisions to Ecuador's Children's Code and to highlight the importance of reincorporating this initiative in the National Assembly's agenda. The proposed revisions would aim to expedite judicial proceedings, which could improve Convention compliance.

In February 2024, Department officials attended a virtual training organized by the Ecuadorian School of Public Defenders on IPCA and met with key IPCA stakeholders in Ecuador.

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Also in February 2024, Department officials met with the Ecuadorian Judiciary Council to support Ecuador's goal of identifying three new Hague Network Judges. These network judges are a point of contact for judges in Ecuador hearing IPCA cases and help facilitate direct judicial communications by serving as a resource on Convention best practices for their judicial colleagues.

In April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed Ecuador as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

In June 2024, U.S. Embassy Quito delivered a demarche to the Ecuadorian Ministry of Women and Human Rights, which serves as Ecuador's Central Authority. The Department noted that Ecuador has been cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2024 Annual Report. Specifically, the demarche highlighted the Department's determination that Ecuadorian judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention.

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EGYPT**SUMMARY:**

Egypt does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2003, the United States and Egypt signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate consular access to abducted children. In 2023, Egypt continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Egypt persistently failed to work with the Department to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 62 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for three years and three months. The Department previously cited Egypt for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015, 2016, and 2019-2023 Annual Reports.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

Department officials continued to engage with the Government of Egypt on the issue of IPCA. Department officials pressed the Egyptian government to assist with resolving abduction cases and to take the steps necessary to ratify the Convention.

In July 2023, the Special Advisor met with the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Washington to discuss Egypt's citation in the 2023 Annual Report. The Special Advisor also raised concerns about the enforcement of court orders in Egypt and encouraged Egypt to ratify the Hague Abduction Convention.

In August 2023, the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs met with the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Consular Affairs. During this meeting, the Assistant Secretary requested the Egyptian government's assistance to identify a means to cooperate on abduction cases.

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In January 2024, U.S. Embassy Cairo delivered a diplomatic note and background paper on current cases of children abducted from the United States to Egypt, requesting the Government of Egypt's assistance with resolving these cases.

In April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed Egypt as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

Also in May 2024, the Consul General at U.S. Embassy Cairo delivered a demarche to the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Consular Affairs and Assistant Minister of Justice for International Cooperation notifying the Egyptian government that the Department had cited Egypt in the 2024 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance. In the same meeting, the Consul General also delivered a diplomatic note and background paper on current cases of children abducted from the United States to Egypt, requesting the Government of Egypt's assistance with resolving these cases.

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HONDURAS

SUMMARY:

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Honduras since 1994. In 2023, Honduras demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Honduran Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its responsibilities pursuant to the Convention. Honduras was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015, 2016, 2022, and 2023 Annual Reports.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

Department officials, in Washington and at U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa, continued to raise concerns about Honduras's demonstration of a pattern of noncompliance with Government of Honduras officials.

In August 2023, Department officials met with the new Director of the Honduran Central Authority and highlighted the importance of expeditiously resolving IPCA cases, improving communication between the central authority and other competent authorities, and fully staffing the central authority. The Department also reaffirmed our commitment to collaboration.

In November 2023, Department officials presented on how the U.S. Central Authority implements the Convention at two seminars for the Honduran judiciary hosted by the Honduran Central Authority. The purpose was to encourage better Convention implementation by the Honduran Central Authority and to encourage the judiciary to take concrete steps to resolve cases expeditiously, including by creating regulations or procedures with the goal of expediting judicial proceedings.

Also in November 2023, the Department hosted the Director of the Honduran Central Authority, their staff, and Honduran judicial officials in

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Washington for a multi-country International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) that focused on IPCA. The 10-day immersive program focused on how the United States implements the Convention.

In April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on IPCA and listed Honduras as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

In May 2024, the U.S. Ambassador delivered a demarche to the Minister of Foreign Affairs that indicated the Department cited Honduras in the 2024 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance during 2023 and requested assistance in resolving existing abduction cases.

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INDIA**SUMMARY:**

India does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2023, India continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in India persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 70 cases accounting for 61 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for four years and one month. The Mediation Cell, established in 2018 by the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights with the objective of mediating custody disputes, has yet to resolve any abduction cases between the United States and India. India was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2023 Annual Reports.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

Officials at the highest levels of the Department engaged with the Government of India on the issue of IPCA. Senior U.S. government officials pressed the Indian government to assist with resolving abduction cases and accede to the Convention.

U.S. Embassy New Delhi delivered Diplomatic Notes in April 2023, August 2023, and December 2023, expressing concern to the Government of India regarding unresolved abduction cases and requesting Indian government officials work with the Department through dedicated bilateral meetings to resolve these cases.

In August 2023, the Indian Chargé d’Affaires hosted the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs, for a discussion on consular matters. The Assistant

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Secretary raised the importance of regular coordination on IPCA outside the annual U.S.-India Consular Dialogue.

In February 2024, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues met with judges and advocates from the New Delhi High Court to highlight the importance of continued outreach to Indian judicial leaders and legal practitioners on IPCA.

Later that month, the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs raised IPCA as a leading issue during the U.S.-India Consular Dialogue with the Indian Joint Secretary of External Affairs and Joint Secretary of Women and Child Development. This has led to working-level discussions between our governments on a range of family issues.

In April 2024, the Office of Children's Issues and the Embassy of India launched ongoing working-level discussions with an interagency roundtable. Participants discussed community resources available in the United States and outreach strategies for assisting families and preventing cases of IPCA.

Also in April, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed India as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

In May 2024, U.S. Embassy New Delhi delivered a demarche to the Ministry of External Affairs notifying the Indian government that the Department had cited India in the 2024 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

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JORDAN**SUMMARY:**

Jordan does not adhere to any international protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2006, the United States and Jordan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate parental access to abducted children. In 2023, Jordan continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance and failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, four cases accounting for 27 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for three years and 11 months. Jordan was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2023 Annual Reports.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

Department officials, in Washington and at U.S. Embassy Amman, continued to engage with the Government of Jordan to assist with resolving abduction cases and to accede to the Convention.

In June 2023, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues traveled to Jordan for meetings with Jordanian officials to discuss concerns with resolving international parental child abduction cases. While there, the Special Advisor met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director of the Human Rights and Human Security Department and the Director of the Supreme Judge Directorate to discuss judicial issues related to abduction cases in Jordan.

In July 2023, the Special Advisor met with the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Jordan in Washington to discuss Jordan's citation in the 2023

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Annual Report and ways to improve communication between the Embassy and the Bureau of Consular Affairs.

In October 2023, U.S. Embassy Amman delivered a diplomatic note to the Jordanian government notifying them of new abduction cases and requesting their assistance in resolving existing child abduction cases.

In April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed Jordan as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

Also in May 2024, U.S. Embassy Amman delivered a demarche notifying the Jordanian government that the Department cited Jordan in the 2024 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance and requested Jordan's assistance to resolve reported cases. The Embassy also notified the Government of Jordan of new abduction cases and requested their assistance with resolving them.

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MONTENEGRO

SUMMARY:

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Montenegro since 2006. In 2023, Montenegro demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance in a single case, which has been unresolved for more than two years. In this case, the judicial authorities failed to implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure to reach a final decision in this case, 100 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

Department officials, in Washington and at U.S. Embassy Podgorica, raised concerns about Montenegro's demonstration of a pattern of noncompliance with the Government of Montenegro.

In December 2023, U.S. Embassy Podgorica met with Montenegrin officials to raise concerns over judicial delays in a Convention case.

In February 2024, Department officials and U.S. Embassy Podgorica officials met with the Montenegrin Central Authority to raise concerns over the lack of enforcement of Convention return orders as well as judicial delays.

In April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed Montenegro as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

Also in May 2024, the Department informed relevant authorities at the European Commission of Montenegro's citation and discussed the challenges preventing us from resolving the existing abduction case.

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Additionally in May 2024, the Department notified the Embassy of Montenegro in Washington of their country's citation as a country demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2024 Annual Report.

Also in May 2024, the U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro delivered a demarche to the Government of Montenegro stating the Department had cited Montenegro in the 2024 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance and requesting assistance in resolving the existing abduction case.

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PERU**SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Peru since 2007. In 2023, Peru continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Peruvian Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its responsibilities under the Convention, judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention, and law enforcement regularly failed to enforce return orders rendered by the judicial authority in abduction cases. Peru was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2023 Annual Reports.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

The Department frequently raised concerns with the Government of Peru about Peru's repeated demonstration of a pattern of noncompliance.

In June 2023, the U.S. Central Authority met with the Peruvian Central Authority to discuss a longstanding unresolved case and a case that had not been accepted by the Peru Central Authority.

Also in June 2023, Department officials met with representatives of the Embassy of Peru in Washington. The Department raised concerns about the Peruvian Central Authority's lack of communication and participation in safe-return planning, judicial delays, and enforcement challenges for court-ordered returns.

In August 2023, officials at U.S. Embassy Lima discussed with the Peruvian Hague Network Judge a newly passed judicial administrative resolution that designated one judge in each judicial district to hear all IPCA cases and encouraged judicial training.

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In November 2023, Department officials, including the Special Advisor for Children's Issues, traveled to Peru, for bilateral meetings to discuss IPCA issues with Peruvian officials. The Department met with the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Public Ministry Prosecutor's Office, the Peruvian Central Authority, the Director General of the Directorate of Girls, Boys, and Adolescents, and the Peruvian Hague Network Judge.

Also in November 2023, Department officials met with other diplomatic missions in Lima to discuss cases and joint efforts to seek compliance with the Hague Convention by the Peruvian government.

Additionally in November 2023, Department officials participated in a judicial training in Lima that included Peruvian judges, the Peruvian Central Authority, Hague Network judges from the United States, United Kingdom, and Peru, IPCA-related non-governmental organizations, multiple diplomatic missions, the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other Peruvian government officials.

In February 2024, the U.S. Central Authority and U.S. Embassy Lima officials met with the Peruvian Central Authority to discuss Convention cases and concerns regarding enforcement of judicial orders.

In March 2024, U.S. Embassy Lima delivered a diplomatic note to the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the return of a child to Peru and to call on Peru to meet its obligations under the Convention with regards to enforcement of orders of return to the United States made by Peruvian courts.

In April 2024, the U.S. Central Authority met with Embassy of Peru representatives in Washington to discuss Peru's noncompliance with the Convention and enforcement issues.

Also in April 2024, the U.S. Central Authority and U.S. Embassy Lima officials met with the Peruvian Central Authority to discuss Convention case

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developments.

Additionally in April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2023 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed Peru as a cited country for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

In May 2024, the Chargé d'Affaires at U.S. Embassy Lima delivered a diplomatic note regarding Peru's failure to act swiftly in enforcing a judicial order in a Hague case in which the Peruvian judiciary had ordered the return of the children to the United States, but for which the order had not been enforced by Peruvian officials. The diplomatic note called for the immediate enforcement of the judicial order to return the children to the United States in accordance with the Convention.

Also in May 2024, the Chargé d'Affaires at U.S. Embassy Lima delivered a demarche to the Peruvian Minister of Foreign Affairs stating that the Department cited Peru in the 2024 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the demarche noted the Peruvian Central Authority's lack of effective communication with the U.S. Central Authority. The demarche also expressed concerns about judicial delays in Convention cases and enforcement of judicial orders.

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POLAND**SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Poland since 1992. In 2023, Poland demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, Polish law enforcement during this reporting period regularly failed to enforce return orders rendered by the judicial authority in abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 67 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for three years. Poland was previously cited for demonstrating patterns of noncompliance in the 2007, 2008, and 2015 Annual Reports.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

Department officials, in Washington and at U.S. Embassy Warsaw, raised concerns about Poland's demonstration of a pattern of noncompliance with Government of Poland officials. They also expressed concerns about recent Polish legislation that allows for multiple lengthy appeals of civil judgments under Polish law, in which the Central Authority has no authority to intervene.

In July 2023, Department officials and U.S. Embassy Warsaw officials met with the Polish Central Authority to raise concerns over the lack of enforcement of Convention return orders, as well as judicial delays.

In September 2023, U.S. Embassy Warsaw, along with eight other Foreign Missions in Poland, met with Polish government officials to raise concerns over the lack of enforcement of Convention return orders, judicial delays, as well as the impact new Polish laws will have on resolving Convention cases.

In February 2024, U.S. Embassy Warsaw, along with 16 other Foreign Missions in Poland, met with newly seated Polish government officials to

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again raise concerns over the lack of enforcement of Convention return orders, judicial delays, and the impact of recent Polish legislation.

In April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed Poland as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

In May 2024, the Department informed relevant authorities at the European Commission of Poland's citation and discussed the challenges preventing us from resolving the existing abduction cases.

In May 2024, the Department notified the Embassy of Poland in Washington of their country's citation under the Convention.

In May 2024, the U.S. Consul General in Warsaw delivered a demarche to the Polish government stating the Department had cited Poland in the 2024 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance and requesting assistance in resolving the existing abduction cases.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA**SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK) since 2013. In 2023, the ROK continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, ROK law enforcement authorities regularly failed to enforce return orders in abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 29 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for three years and 10 months. The ROK was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2022 and 2023 Annual Reports.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

Department officials in Washington and at U.S. Embassy Seoul continued to raise concerns about the ROK's failure to enforce Convention return orders.

In September 2023, the Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs met with the Secretary to the ROK President on International Legal Affairs to discuss the outcome of an ROK interagency IPCA taskforce meeting in June 2023 and continued concerns regarding IPCA court order enforcement.

In January 2024, the Embassy met with the ROK Central Authority to discuss the implementation of the new ROK Supreme Court rule on enforcement and to raise concerns over the lack of enforcement of Convention return orders.

In January 2024, the U.S. Central Authority met with the ROK Central Authority to discuss the implementation of the new ROK Supreme Court rule on enforcement and to raise concerns over the lack of enforcement of Convention return orders.

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In late January 2024, the Embassy also met with the Director of ROK's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Consular Safety and Policy Division to discuss the implementation of the new ROK Supreme Court rule on enforcement and to raise concerns over the lack of enforcement of Convention return orders.

In March 2024, the Secretary raised IPCA concerns with the Republic of Korea Foreign Minister. Also in March, the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs raised IPCA concerns in separate meetings with ROK government counterparts.

Also in March 2024, the U.S. Central Authority met with the ROK Central Authority to discuss concerns with the enforcement of Convention return orders. This discussion addressed concerns with the significant role bailiffs have in the enforcement of Convention return orders.

Additionally in March 2024, the U.S. Central Authority met with the ROK Counselor for Legal Affairs in Washington to discuss efforts to address deficiencies in enforcing Hague return orders, and the upcoming ROK new Supreme Court rule on enforcement that was to go into effect April 1.

In April 2024, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues met with the ROK Embassy's Counselor for Legal Affairs in Washington to discuss pending IPCA cases, the ROK's efforts in calendar year 2023, and bilateral efforts that may assist the ROK in complying with the Convention.

In April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed the ROK as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

In May 2024, the Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs at U.S. Embassy Seoul delivered a demarche to the Director General of the ROK's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Consular and Safety Division concerning the ROK's citation for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2024 Annual Report.

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ROMANIA**SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Romania since 1993. In 2023, Romania continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, Romania failed to enforce return orders rendered by the judicial authority in abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 100 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for three years and four months. Romania was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2017 and 2022-2023 Annual Reports.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

Department officials, in Washington and at U.S. Embassy Bucharest, continued to raise concerns about Romania's demonstration of a pattern of noncompliance with Government of Romania officials.

In October 2023, Department officials met with the Romanian representative at the HCCH Special Commission meeting to raise concerns over the lack of enforcement of Convention return orders.

In January 2024, U.S. Embassy Bucharest participated in a multilateral working group of consular officials from diplomatic missions in Romania that experience similar challenges with enforcement of return orders in abduction cases. The group discussed how to encourage Romania to improve its compliance with the Convention.

On April 19, 2024, the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs met with the Romanian Ministry of Justice to discuss current abduction cases and opportunities for training in order to improve Romania's compliance with the Convention.

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In April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed Romania as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

In May 2024, the Office of Children's Issues informed relevant authorities at the European Commission of Romania's citation and discussed the challenges preventing us from resolving the existing abduction cases.

In May 2024, Department officials informed the Romanian Embassy in Washington of Romania's citation.

In June 2024, U.S. Embassy Bucharest delivered a demarche to the Director of the Romanian Central Authority stating the Department had cited Romania in the 2024 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance and requesting assistance in resolving the existing abduction cases.

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RUSSIA**SUMMARY:**

While Russia became a party to the Convention in 2011, the Convention is not in force between Russia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not currently available for resolving cases. In 2023, Russia continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Russia persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 100 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. Russia was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2023 Annual Report.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

In April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed Russia as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

Also in May 2024, the Department delivered a demarche to the Embassy of Russia, stating the Department cited Russia in the 2024 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance and requesting assistance in resolving the existing abduction cases. In particular, we urged the Russian government to assist with the resolution of all pending cases.

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**SUMMARY:**

The United Arab Emirates does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2023, the United Arab Emirates continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in the United Arab Emirates persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 44 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for two years and eight months. The United Arab Emirates was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018-2023 Annual Reports.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

Department officials pressed the Government of the United Arab Emirates to assist with resolving abduction cases and to accede to the Convention.

In July and September 2023, U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi delivered a diplomatic note to the UAE government notifying them of new abduction cases and requesting their assistance in resolving existing child abduction cases.

In February 2024, U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi met with the Head of Consular Affairs at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss abduction cases and request the assistance of the UAE government with resolving these cases.

In March 2024, U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi delivered a diplomatic note to the UAE government notifying them of new abduction cases and requesting their assistance in resolving existing child abduction cases.

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Also in March 2024, U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Director of International Law to discuss and request assistance in abduction cases.

In April 2024, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2024 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed the United Arab Emirates as a country cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

In May 2024, U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi delivered a demarche notifying the UAE government that the Department had cited the United Arab Emirates in the 2024 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance and once again requesting the United Arab Emirates' assistance with resolving reported cases.

In June 2024, Department officials and U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi met with representatives of the UAE government to discuss abduction cases and identify resolution procedures in the country.

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