

**Action Report on  
International Child Abduction  
September 2022**

**REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE SPECIFIC ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST COUNTRIES  
DETERMINED TO HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN A PATTERN OF NONCOMPLIANCE  
IN THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION**

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

**SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO  
THE SEAN AND DAVID GOLDMAN  
INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION AND RETURN ACT  
22 U.S.C. §9111, ET SEQ.**

## 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 June 2022, 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 2022 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 2022 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 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 June 2021, the United States

accepted Seychelles' accession to the Convention, which entered into force between our two countries on September 1, 2021, making Seychelles our newest Convention partner. Parents or legal guardians reporting abductions occurring after the Convention entered into force between the United States and Seychelles will now be able to apply for their children's return under the Convention. Parents may also apply for access to children through either the USCA or the Seychelles Central Authority under the Convention, as appropriate.

In this Action Report, we share the specific actions the United States has taken with regard to the countries we cited in the 2022 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance and report on IPCA issues in these countries.

## **ARGENTINA**

### **COUNTRY SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Argentina since 1991. In 2021, 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. The sole abduction case still open at the end of 2021 has been unresolved for 11 years and six months. Argentina was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2021 Annual Reports.

### **REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:**

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

In June 2021, the Department presented to more than 200 Argentine judges on the implementation of the Hague Abduction Convention and the safe return of abducted children at a nationwide Argentine judicial conference. The Department was the only foreign central authority invited to present.

Also in June 2021, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues met with the Consul General of Argentina in Washington, D.C. The Special Advisor informed the Consul General the Department cited Argentina in the 2021 Annual Report on International Child Abduction for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance the previous year. The Special Advisor encouraged the Argentine government to renew legislative efforts to expedite the processing of Convention cases in the Argentine judiciary.

In October 2021, the Consul General and the American Citizens Services Chief at U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires met with the newly appointed Director of the Argentine Central Authority within Argentina's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, and Worship. Embassy officials discussed the points of the 2021 Annual Report demarche once again with the Argentine Central Authority, discussed the status of individual Convention cases, and encouraged Argentina's Central Authority representatives to renew efforts within the Argentine government to advance procedural legislation to expedite the resolution of Convention cases.

In February 2022, the U.S. Ambassador to Argentina met with the Foreign Minister of Argentina and raised the significant delays that Convention cases encounter in Argentina. The ambassador encouraged the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to advance draft procedural legislation to remedy Convention case judicial delays.

In April 2022, the Department again presented at Argentina's annual judicial training seminar on international parental child abduction. The Department was again the only foreign central authority invited to present on Convention best practices.

Also in April 2022, the Special Advisor for Children’s Issues traveled to Argentina and met with stakeholders to discuss unresolved international parental child abduction cases and to encourage Argentine officials to improve Argentina’s compliance with the Convention. The Special Advisor met with former International Visitor Leadership Program participants; the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, and Worship; Argentina’s International Hague Network judges; a justice on the Argentine Supreme Court; and the Hague Conference on International Law’s Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. Foreign Ministry officials stated a new version of long-awaited draft procedural legislation, meant to alleviate some of the lengthy judicial delays IPCA cases face in Argentina, is under review by senior government officials before its planned presentation to the Argentine congress.

In July 2022, the U.S. Ambassador to Argentina delivered a demarche to the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, and Worship, notifying the Government of Argentina the Department cited Argentina in the 2022 Annual Report on International Child Abduction for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance during 2021. This demarche highlighted Argentina’s continued failure to comply with its Convention obligations. In particular, the demarche noted U.S. concerns with serious judicial delays and a legal system that allows multiple appeals both on the merits of the decision and on the manner in which decisions are enforced.

## **AUSTRIA**

### **COUNTRY SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Austria since 1988. In 2021, Austria demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the 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. As a result of this failure, 33 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 three months.

### **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN:**

The Department frequently raised concerns in meetings about Austria's failure to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention.

In June 2021, U.S. Embassy Vienna delivered a diplomatic note to the Austrian government noting concerns over Austrian law enforcement's inability to locate a U.S. citizen child and enforce a Convention return order.

In July 2021, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues held a meeting with the Austrian Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington, D.C. to raise the issue of the missing U.S. citizen child in a Convention case and Austria's obligations under the Convention.

In November 2021, the Director of the Office of Children's Issues traveled to Vienna to meet with Austrian government officials. The Director raised concerns over Austrian judicial processes and lack of enforcement in Convention cases and discussed the U.S. government's concerns about Austria's compliance with the Convention. The Director of the Office of Children's Issues also invited Austrian Convention case judges to participate in trainings through an International Visitor Leadership Program forum in the United States. Within eight weeks of the Director's meetings, the abducted child returned to the United States.

In July 2022, U.S. Embassy Vienna delivered a demarche to the Austrian government noting the Department had cited Austria in the 2022 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

## **BELIZE**

### **COUNTRY SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Belize since 1989. In 2021, Belize demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Belizean judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. Of the two cases open between the United States and Belize, one has been open for more than two years due to judicial delays.

### **REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:**

In June 2022, the Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. at U.S. Embassy Belmopan delivered a demarche to the Belizean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade concerning Belize’s citation for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2022 Annual Report.



## **BRAZIL**

### **COUNTRY SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Brazil since 2003. In 2021, Brazil continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, judicial authorities continued to fail to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. Additionally, the competent authorities continued to fail to take appropriate steps to locate children in an abduction case, contributing to Brazil's persistent failure to implement and abide by the provisions of the Convention. Brazil was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2006-2021 Annual Reports.

### **REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:**

Department officials, including the Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia and the Special Advisor for Children's Issues, continued robust engagement with Brazilian officials on steps Brazil can take to make systemic changes to reduce judicial delays in Convention cases. Highlighting how the Convention continues to work for families in Brazil, with the United States facilitating the safe return of numerous children to Brazil during the last reporting period, Department officials strongly urged Brazil to address judicial delays and issue prompt decisions in compliance with the Convention. Among other actions last year, Brazil increased its number of Hague Network Judges, published a manual for judges hearing Convention cases, and resolved eight U.S. cases on file in Brazil, including the return of six children to the United States during the last reporting period.

In June 2021, the Deputy Chief of Mission at U.S. Embassy Brasilia met with the head of the Brazilian Federal Police's International Cooperation Department to raise concerns in an abduction case in which the Federal Police had been unable to locate the children and taking parent.

Also in June 2021, as part of a broader multilateral approach with the European Union, the Department delivered a demarche to Portugal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to request Portugal's support in urging Brazil to fulfill its Convention obligations.

In July 2021, the Department met with a representative from Canada's Department of Justice to discuss mutual areas of concern regarding Brazil's noncompliance with the Convention and brainstorm ways to work together to encourage compliance.

Also in July 2021, the U.S. Ambassador to Brazil met with the Brazilian Ambassador to the United States and underscored our deep concern for unresolved cases and Brazil's continued demonstration of a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention.

From July 2021 to August 2021, the Department funded an on-demand International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) on IPCA for Brazilian officials, including Brazilian Hague Network Judges and Brazil's President-elect to the Superior Tribunal of Justice. The IVLP laid the foundation for significant momentum in bilateral IPCA cooperation.

In August 2021, the Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. at U.S. Embassy Brasilia spoke with the Chief Justice of Brazil's Supreme Federal Tribunal and raised Brazil's history of noncompliance with its obligations under the Convention, including continued judicial delays.

In September 2021, with the return to the United States from Brazil of a child who had been abducted more than 12 years ago, the Department resolved the longest-running IPCA case worldwide after significant bilateral engagement.

In February 2022, the U.S. Embassy in Brazil responded to a press inquiry from the Brazilian media network *O Globo*, a large media company. Our response reinforced the Department's commitment to working with Brazilian authorities to resolve IPCA cases expeditiously.


Also in February 2022, the U.S. Mission to Brazil's Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs and the mission wide IPCA senior official met with the Brazilian Foreign Ministry to discuss changes Brazil is implementing in order to address unresolved cases and judicial delays. The Foreign Ministry noted each of Brazil's five appellate districts now has a Hague Network Judge who will serve as a point of contact for their district and a judge based in Rio de Janeiro who acts as a national coordinator in Brazil for the Hague Network Judges.

In March 2022, the Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. at U.S. Embassy Brasilia met with four of Brazil's six new Hague Network judges and a Foreign Ministry official to welcome them to their new positions, seek clarification on their revised procedures for judges to handle new cases, and encourage the speedy resolution of new and outstanding cases from the United States.

Also in March 2022, U.S. Embassy Brasilia's mission wide IPCA senior official met with an IVLP alumnus who received a follow-on IVLP Impact Award grant to organize a judicial training for Brazil's federal judges. The IVLP alumnus previewed draft national legislation designed to expedite how Brazil's judiciary handles Convention cases.

In May 2022, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues traveled to Brazil and met with senior Brazilian officials to discuss unresolved IPCA cases and encourage Brazilian actors to improve Brazil's compliance with the Convention. The Special Advisor met with former IVLP participants, the Brazilian Foreign and Justice Ministries, Brazil's International Hague Network judges, the Inspector General of Brazil's National Council of Justice and President-elect of the Superior Tribunal of Justice, and the Office of the Attorney General. The Special Advisor also convened a multilateral roundtable with a broad coalition of like-minded countries and gave a media interview with a Brazilian newspaper with a large distribution, underscoring the importance the U.S. government places on preventing and resolving IPCA cases worldwide.

In June 2022, the Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. at U.S. Embassy Brasilia underscored the harmful effects of international parental child abduction to an audience of Brazilian federal judges and prosecutors during a nationwide Brazilian-led judicial training event. The Department's Office of Children's Issues worked collaboratively with the U.S. Mission to Brazil and the Canadian and United Kingdom missions to participate in a multilateral event highlighting the international effects of unresolved Convention cases.



Also in June 2022, the U.S. Consulate General in Sao Paulo hosted security, law enforcement, and consular officials from the Consulates General of Spain, France, New Zealand, and Canada to improve cooperation on international IPCA investigations.

Also in June 2022, the FBI Director discussed IPCA with the Brazilian Minister of Justice and Public Security. They focused on authorizing judicial orders expeditiously to help law enforcement locate victims of IPCA.

In July 2022, the Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. at U.S. Embassy Brasilia delivered a demarche to the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, notifying Brazilian officials that the Department again cited Brazil in the 2022 Annual Report on International Child Abduction for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance during 2021. This demarche expressed concern about Brazil’s continued failure to comply with Convention obligations. In particular, the demarche noted U.S. concerns with delays within Brazil’s judiciary, continued failures to locate children in an abduction case, and concerning language in a judicial decision that was noncompliant with the Convention. The demarche also noted the strong and productive relationship between our two central authorities and recognized current efforts by Brazil’s judiciary to raise awareness among judges of their treaty obligations.

## **COSTA RICA**

### **COUNTRY SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Costa Rica since 2008. In 2021, Costa Rica demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, Costa Rican judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with provisions of the Convention. The Department previously cited Costa Rica for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2021 Annual Report.

### **REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:**

Department officials raised continuing concerns with the Government of Costa Rica about the Costa Rican judiciary's persistent failure to regularly implement and comply with the Convention. Specifically, the Department raised concerns with delays in the judicial process and Costa Rica's compliance with the Convention.

The Office of Children's Issues and the U.S. Embassy in San Jose continued to work on abduction cases with the Costa Rican Central Authority and addressed judicial delays at the highest levels of the Costa Rican government.


In November 2020, the United States hosted a judicial training in Costa Rica. The training brought together officials from Costa Rica's Constitutional Court, Family Court, and Children and Adolescent Courts. The training featured guest speakers from Costa Rica and international Hague Convention experts from Europe, the United States, and Latin America. The training reviewed best practices used internationally to analyze and resolve international parental child abduction cases. In January 2021, the U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica met with the then President of Costa Rica and expressed concern about Costa Rica's demonstration of a pattern of noncompliance as described in the 2021 Annual Report.

In February 2021, the United States hosted the second portion of the judicial training for the same participants as the first training in November 2020.

In May 2021, the Consul General delivered a demarche to the Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The demarche stated the Department had cited Costa Rica in the 2021 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance with the Convention.

In September 2021, the Department organized an on-demand, single-country International Visitor Leadership Program for Costa Rica, focused on sharing best practices under the Hague Abduction Convention.

In March 2022, the U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica met with the Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Costa Rican President. They discussed the Convention process in Costa Rica and concerns over continued case delays.



In June 2022, the U.S. Embassy San Jose Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. and American Citizens Services Chief delivered a demarche to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning Costa Rica’s citation for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2022 Annual Report.

## **ECUADOR**

### **COUNTRY SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Ecuador since 1992. In 2021, Ecuador continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Ecuadorian authorities persistently failed to take all appropriate measures to locate abducted children in a timely manner. As a result of this failure, 14 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 three months. Ecuador was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2021 Annual Reports.

### **REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:**

Department officials, including the Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Quito and the Special Advisor for Children's Issues, continued to raise concerns with Government of Ecuador officials about Ecuador's pattern of noncompliance with its obligations under the Convention.

In 2021-2022, the U.S. Central Authority held quarterly video conferences with the Ecuadorian government to review pending IPCA cases and discuss strategies for improving Convention compliance in Ecuador. These conferences led to improved cooperation and communication among the U.S. and Ecuadorian officials responsible for resolving IPCA cases.

In June 2021, the Consul General at the U.S. Embassy in Quito met with Ecuador's new Secretary of Human Rights, who oversees Ecuador's Central Authority for Convention cases. During this meeting, the Consul General discussed the June judicial resolution that requires quick processing of Convention cases. The Consul General stressed the Ecuadorian Central Authority must quickly bring Convention cases to court. The Consul General expressed support for future trainings for Ecuadorian judges and lawyers working on IPCA issues.

Also in June 2021, the Consul General met with the President of Ecuador's National Assembly Special Commission for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents (Special Commission), which is preparing a series of reforms to Ecuador's Children's Code. After that meeting, the Department sent a letter to the Special Commission encouraging them to include reforms that expedite Convention cases in the judiciary to reduce judicial delays.

In October 2021, the U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador met with the National Court of Justice (NCJ) President to discuss implementation of the June 2021 judicial resolution and advocate for additional measures to expedite Convention cases in Ecuador's courts.

In November 2021, the Department helped facilitate the safe return of a child from Ecuador to the United States. This occurred after the successful application of the June 2021 judicial resolution's summary process to order the child's return under the Convention. This was the first court-ordered return of a child to the United States from Ecuador since 2018.

In February and March 2022, U.S. Embassy Quito officials met with officials from Ecuador’s Secretariat of Human Rights, Public Defender’s Office, and National Police to discuss administrative improvements to IPCA case processing that would complement the June 2021 judicial resolution. After these meetings, the Department delivered a letter to Ecuador’s Secretariat of Human Rights Central Authority Director emphasizing U.S. interest in seeing the Government of Ecuador develop an inter-agency protocol for IPCA cases.

In May 2022, the Special Advisor for Children’s Issues led a delegation to Quito to address Convention compliance and U.S.-Ecuadorian cooperation under the Convention. The Special Advisor met with Ecuador’s Secretary of Human Rights, the NCJ President, the National Assembly Special Commission, the Public Defender, and representatives from Ecuador’s National Police. The Special Advisor encouraged the Special Commission to move forward with Children’s Code reforms. The Special Advisor also encouraged the Secretary of Human Rights to play a more active role in coordinating the Ecuadorian interagency to swiftly locate abducted children and bring Convention cases to court.

In July 2022, the U.S. Embassy in Quito delivered a demarche to officials from Ecuador’s Secretariat of Human Rights, noting that Ecuador has been cited for “demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance” in the 2022 Annual Report. Embassy officials advised that Ecuadorian authorities persistently failed to take all appropriate measures to locate children in a timely manner and offered their support for the proposed interagency protocol as a means for improving Ecuador’s Convention compliance.

## **EGYPT**

### **COUNTRY 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 parental access to abducted children. In 2021, 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, 85 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. Egypt was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2016 and 2019-2021 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 ratify the Convention.

In November 2021, U.S. Embassy Cairo delivered a diplomatic note to the Assistant Minister for Consular Affairs informing the Government of Egypt of unresolved abduction cases and requesting Egyptian government officials to work with the Department to resolve these cases.

Additionally, in November 2021, U.S. authorities met with their Egyptian counterparts for a strategic dialogue in Washington, D.C., to discuss the Hague Abduction Convention and all pending cases of international parental child abduction between the two countries. U.S. authorities asked Egypt to commit to ratifying the Convention by the end of 2022 and offered legal and judicial assistance to ensure they can successfully implement the Convention.

In May 2022, the Office of Children's Issues met with the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, D.C., to preview a trip to Egypt by the Director of the Office of Children's Issues and to discuss ways the Egyptian Embassy can work with the Department to encourage Egypt's ratification of the Convention.

Also in May 2022, the Director of the Office of Children's Issues traveled to Egypt and met with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss resolutions to all pending cases. The Director also met the Supreme Constitutional Court to discuss Egypt's possible ratification of the Convention.

In June 2022, U.S. Embassy Cairo delivered a demarche notifying the Egyptian government that the Department had cited Egypt in the 2022 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance and once again requesting Egypt's assistance with resolving reported cases.



## **HONDURAS**

### **COUNTRY SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Honduras since 1994. In 2021, Honduras demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Honduran Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its responsibilities under the Convention. Additionally, Honduran law enforcement regularly failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial authority in an abduction case. As a result of this failure, 20 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. The sole case affected was unresolved for more than one year. Honduras was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports.

### **REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:**

Department officials in Washington, D.C. and at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa raised concerns about Honduras' demonstration of a pattern of noncompliance with Government of Honduras officials.

In October 2021, the then Deputy Chief of Mission at U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa met with the Director of the Honduran Central Authority to discuss delays with enforcing a return order.

In November 2021, the Director of Children's Issues met with the Director of the Honduran Central Authority to discuss delays with enforcing a return order.

In February 2022, the Honduras Central Authority worked closely with law enforcement to enforce a 2019 court-ordered return of a child to the United States. The long-standing case resolved due in part to close coordination between the Department and the Honduran Central Authority.

In March 2022, the Director of the Office of Children's Issues met with the Director of the Honduran Central Authority to discuss concerns about delays in processing cases and Honduran law enforcement's failure to enforce a Convention return order.

In July 2022, U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa delivered a demarche to the Honduran government stating the Department cited Honduras in the 2022 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

## **INDIA**

### **COUNTRY SUMMARY:**

India does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2021, India continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in India persistently failed to work with the Department to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 61 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 five months. India was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2021 Annual Reports. Notably, in June 2021, after more than a year of sustained high-level requests for a response, the Government of India rejected the United States' January 2020 proposal for a Joint Committee on IPCA and suggested discussion of IPCA be limited to the annual bilateral Consular Dialogue.

### **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 monthly from April 2021 through December 2021 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 June 2021, U.S. Embassy New Delhi delivered a Diplomatic Note to the Ministry of External Affairs requesting a high-level dialogue between the U.S. Special Advisor for Children's Issues and the Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development to further engage on IPCA outside of the annual U.S.-India Consular Dialogue.

In July 2021, during his first visit to India, the Secretary of State raised IPCA with the Indian Minister of External Affairs, requesting cooperation to resolve pending cases.

In August 2021, the Deputy Secretary of State further underscored the need for cooperation on IPCA with the Indian Foreign Secretary.

In October 2021, U.S. Embassy New Delhi delivered another Diplomatic Note requesting a high-level IPCA dialogue and citing the failure of the Government of India's Mediation Cell to resolve any existing abduction cases between the United States and India since its creation in 2018.

In December 2021, 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. Following the Consular Dialogue, the Indian government requested more details on a potential Joint Dialogue on IPCA and related consular issues. U.S. Embassy New Delhi responded



favorably by Diplomatic Note with a formal Joint Dialogue on IPCA proposal. The Indian government agreed to a further discussion of IPCA, among other issues, after August 2022.

In April 2022, the Secretary of State met again with the Indian Minister of External Affairs as part of the U.S.-India 2+2 Ministerial and pressed the Indian government to assist with resolving all pending abduction cases while highlighting the lack of progress on IPCA cases since his first visit in July 2021.

In July 2022, 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 2022 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

## **JORDAN**

### **COUNTRY SUMMARY:**

Jordan does not adhere to any 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 to facilitate parental access to abducted children. In 2021, Jordan continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Jordan persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 67 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for one year and 11 months. Jordan was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2021 Annual Reports.

### **REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:**

Senior officials in the Bureau of Consular Affairs engaged with the Government of Jordan on the issue of IPCA. Department officials pressed the Jordanian government to assist with resolving abduction cases and accede to the Convention.

In December 2021, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues sent a letter to the Government of Jordan thanking them for their efforts in assisting with the return of two U.S. citizen children. The letter also highlighted the Hague Abduction Convention as the best tool for addressing cases of international parental child abduction in the future.

In June 2022, the Director of the Office of Children's Issues met in Amman with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and religious courts to learn more about the Jordanian judicial system and encourage Jordan to accede to the Hague Abduction Convention.

Also in June 2022, U.S. Embassy Amman delivered a demarche to the Jordanian government noting that the Department had cited Jordan in the 2021 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance and requesting assistance in resolving existing abduction cases.

## **PERU**

### **COUNTRY SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Peru since 2007. In 2021, Peru continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Peruvian Central Authority regularly failed to fulfill its responsibilities under the Convention, and judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 75 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. Peru was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2014-2021 Annual Reports.

### **REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:**

The Department frequently raised concerns about Peru's persistent failure to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention.

In July 2021, Department officials met with Peruvian Central Authority representatives to discuss Convention case developments.

Also in July 2021, the Department met with Embassy of Peru representatives in Washington, D.C., regarding U.S. concerns with Peru's Convention compliance. The Department emphasized judicial delays and Peruvian Central Authority delays in processing cases as areas of concern.

In November 2021 and February 2022, the Department met with Peruvian Central Authority representatives to discuss Convention case developments.

Also in February 2022, the Department met with Embassy of Peru representatives in Washington, D.C., to discuss concerns with a court-ordered return, in which Peruvian airport officials denied exit to a child who was the subject of a return order.

In April 2022, the Department sponsored an International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) for Peruvian officials to visit the United States. The participants discussed Convention best practices and learned about how the United States implements the Convention. The IVLP participants included Peruvian judges, including the new Hague Network Judge, and officials from the Peruvian Central Authority. They met with the Office of Children's Issues and other U.S. officials and judges.

In May 2022, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues traveled to Peru for meetings with senior Peruvian officials to discuss areas of cooperation and concern with the Convention. The visit included meetings with the newly appointed Director General of the Peruvian Central Authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Peruvian Hague Network Judge, and the President of Peru's Supreme Court. In addition, the Special Advisor oversaw a roundtable discussion with foreign mission consuls from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, the delegation of the European Union, Germany,



Japan, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom to explore solutions to issues of common concern, including judicial delays and Peruvian Central Authority noncompliance.

In June 2022, as a follow-up to the May roundtable discussion with foreign mission consuls, U.S. Embassy Lima conducted discussions about a joint approach to press for better implementation and resourcing for the Peruvian Central Authority and to address judicial delays in Convention cases.

Also in June 2022, the U.S. Embassy Lima Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. and the Consul General delivered a demarche to the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stating the Department cited Peru in the 2022 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance with Convention obligations. In particular, the demarche expressed the Department’s concern regarding the Peruvian Central Authority’s demonstration of a pattern noncompliance, which includes a delay in processing cases, lack of effective communication with the U.S. Central Authority, and judicial delays in Convention cases at the first instance and appellate levels.

## **REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

### **COUNTRY SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Republic of Korea since 2013. In 2021, the Republic of Korea demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, Korean law enforcement authorities failed to enforce return orders in abduction cases. 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. On average, these cases were unresolved for one year and seven months. The Department has not previously cited the Republic of Korea.

### **REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:**

Department officials, in Washington, D.C., and at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, continued to raise concerns about the Republic of Korea's failure to enforce Convention return orders.

In June 2021, U.S. Embassy Seoul sent a diplomatic note to the Director of the Korean Central Authority via the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting information on the enforcement process of Convention return orders in the Republic of Korea.

In July 2021, U.S. Embassy Seoul sent another diplomatic note to the Director of the Korean Central Authority requesting additional information on the Korean legal system when executing a court-ordered return of a minor child.

In October 2021, the Office of Children's Issues sent a letter to the Korean Central Authority requesting assistance in resolving existing cases in which Convention return orders had not been enforced and expressing concerns about the Republic of Korea's ability to enforce those orders.


In November 2021, the Consul General at U.S. Embassy Seoul met with the Director of Consular Services of the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs to express concern about the country's lengthy judicial proceedings and lack of enforcement of Convention return orders.

Also, in November 2021, the Consul General at U.S. Embassy Seoul met with the Director of the Korean Central Authority to highlight the unresolved Convention cases in the Republic of Korea and raise concerns about the country's lack of enforcement of Convention return orders.

In May 2022, the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs' Office of Korean and Mongolian Affairs met with Korean Embassy officials to express the Department's ongoing concern with the Republic of Korea's lack of enforcement of Convention return orders.

In June 2022, Office of Children's Issues officials met with Korean Embassy officials in Washington, D.C., to discuss enforcement efforts in pending abduction return cases.

Also in June 2022, following the release of the 2022 Annual Report, the Director of the Office of Children's Issues met with the Director of the Korean Central Authority during the Director's



visit to Washington, D.C. They discussed changes that could improve the Republic of Korea's ability to enforce Convention return orders and pending abduction return cases.

Again in June 2022, U.S. Embassy Seoul delivered a demarche to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the Republic of Korea's citation for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2022 Annual Report.

In July 2022, U.S. Embassy Seoul's Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. delivered a demarche to the Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs concerning the Republic of Korea's citation for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2022 Annual Report.

Also in July 2022, the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources urged the Republic of Korea's 2nd Vice Foreign Minister to address its enforcement issues for cases of international parental child abduction.



## **ROMANIA**

### **COUNTRY SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Romania since 1993. In 2021, Romania continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, law enforcement failed to enforce a return order issued by the judicial authority in an abduction case. 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. The case has been unresolved for more than three years. Romania was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2021 Annual Report.

### **REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:**

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

In September 2021, U.S. Embassy Bucharest officials met with the Romanian Central Authority to highlight enforcement challenges in Convention cases, discuss ongoing cases, and target opportunities for further engagement.

In December 2021, U.S. Embassy Bucharest officials met again with the Romanian Central Authority for an update on international parental child abduction issues, including Romania's sole outgoing Convention case, which involves three children. The Romanian Central Authority reported on efforts they had taken to attempt to resolve this case.

In June 2022, U.S. Embassy Bucharest delivered a demarche to the Romanian government noting the Department had cited Romania in the 2022 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance and requesting assistance in resolving the existing abduction case.

## **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

### **COUNTRY SUMMARY:**

The Convention has been in force between the United States and Trinidad and Tobago since 2013. In 2021, Trinidad and Tobago continued to demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, Trinbagonian judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 14 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 11 months. Trinidad and Tobago was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2021 Annual Report.

### **REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN:**

The Department frequently raised concerns regarding Trinidad and Tobago's persistent failure to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention.

Beginning in February 2021, the Department and Trinidad and Tobago Central Authority officials met regularly to promote expeditious case resolution, gain a deeper understanding of Central Authority and judicial processes, and explore options to avoid delays in future cases.

In April 2021, the Consular Chief at U.S. Embassy Port of Spain spoke with the Trinidad and Tobago Attorney General to express concern regarding delays in ongoing abduction cases.

In November 2021, coordination between U.S. Embassy Port of Spain and the Trinidad and Tobago Central Authority facilitated the return of two children to the United States.

In June 2022, U.S. Embassy Port of Spain delivered a demarche to the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Foreign Affairs stating the Department cited Trinidad and Tobago in the 2022 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance.

## **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

### **COUNTRY SUMMARY:**

The United Arab Emirates does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2021, 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, 67 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 five months. The United Arab Emirates was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018-2021 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 June 2021, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues and U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi met with the Emirati Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Director of International Law and the Director of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Justice. They discussed recent judicial reforms and the benefits of the United Arab Emirates acceding to the Convention.

In May 2022, the Director of the Office of Children's Issues traveled to the United Arab Emirates to meet with the Director of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Justice. They discussed recent Emirati judicial reforms, which include a provision that requires sentencing or fines in cases of parental child abduction. The Director also met with a local non-governmental organization focused on children's issues and discussed ways in which they might be able to assist in IPCA cases.

In June 2022, U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi delivered a demarche to the Emirati government noting the Department had cited the United Arab Emirates in the 2022 Annual Report for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance and requesting assistance in resolving existing abduction cases.