



## **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**

In April 2025, the Office of the Spokesperson released a media note to announce the release of the 2025 Annual Report on International Child Abduction and listed each of the countries below as cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance. Following the release of the Annual Report, consistent with 22 USC 9122, the U.S. Embassy in each of the countries below delivered a demarche to the host government informing that the Department of State had cited the country and urging corrective action. Below are additional actions taken in the cited countries.

#### **ARGENTINA**

In May 2024, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues met with members of the Argentine National Congress to urge Hague Abduction Convention (Convention) compliance and efforts to introduce draft legislation on International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA) in July 2024.

In October 2024, U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires officials met with the Justice Committee and later attended an IPCA related workshop hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In March 2025, Embassy officials met with the Children, Youth, and Families Committee to discuss the pending legislation and in April 2025, met with the Argentine congresswoman who introduced a similar IPCA bill in the Chamber of Deputies.

In May 2025, Embassy officials raised IPCA with the Ministry of Justice, which will implement any IPCA legislation.

## **THE BAHAMAS**

In May 2025, senior U.S. Embassy Nassau officials conveyed the Department's concerns about The Bahamas' demonstrated pattern of noncompliance directly to the Bahamian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Human Rights and Human Security Director, who agreed to discuss the matter further with relevant government stakeholders.

In June 2025, the Embassy sent a diplomatic note reiterating the Department's concerns.

## **BELIZE**

In September 2024, U.S. Embassy Belmopan hosted the second annual IPCA workshop with the Office of Children's issues and representatives from the Belizean Central Authority, Belize's Hague Network Judge, law enforcement

officers, attorneys, and family court magistrates to urge continued work to improve Belize's compliance with the Convention.

In March 2025, the Embassy delivered a diplomatic note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to inquire about the development of judicial guidelines in the Belizean Lower Family Court to decrease case processing delays.

## **BRAZIL**

In June 2024, U.S. Embassy Brasilia's Consular Chief met with the Director of Brazil's Department of Immigration and Legal Cooperation to address concerns with Brazil's Convention compliance.

In June 2024 and March 2025, the Office of Children's Issues met with the Brazilian Central Authority (BCA) to discuss long-standing cases and continued concerns regarding judicial delays.

In October 2024, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues and Department officials traveled to Brazil and met with the BCA, the Ministry of Foreign Relations, a Federal Judge, International Hague Network Judges, Bar Association attorneys, and Special Unit Civil Police. The Special Advisor acknowledged an increase in returns in 2024 but noted concerns regarding Brazil demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance and judicial delays.

In November 2024, the U.S. Ambassador to Brazil met with the President of Brazil's Superior Court of Justice regarding judicial delays in Convention cases.

In April 2025, the Special Advisor met with the Brazilian delegation attending a conference hosted by the Hague Conference on Private International Law in Washington, D.C.: a Brazilian Hague Network Judge, the new Director of the BCA, Brazilian Office of the Attorney General, and Brazilian Embassy officials. The Office of Children's Issues shared abduction prevention and legal assistance resources in a follow-up meeting with the Brazilian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

In May 2025, Department officials traveled to Brazil and met with the Superior Court of Justice, International Hague Network Judges, Federal Judges, the National Judicial Council, the Office of the Attorney General, the EU Delegation in Brazil, the Ministry of Foreign Relations, Federal and Civil Police, and the BCA, to raise U.S. concerns with Brazil's Convention compliance and judicial delays.

## **BULGARIA**

In January 2025, the Office of Children's Issues met with European Commission representatives to address enforcement issues.

In February 2025, Department officials met with the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior's Police Liaison Officer at the Bulgarian Embassy in Washington, D.C., to discuss enforcement challenges.

In May 2025, Department officials participated in a roundtable discussion in Bulgaria with the Bulgarian Enforcement Agents Association.

In June 2025, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues met with the EU Delegation at the U.S.-EU Consular Dialogue in Washington, D.C., to advocate for improved enforcement mechanisms.

## **ECUADOR**

Since June 2024, the Office of Children's Issues has held quarterly video conferences with the Ecuadorian Central Authority, National Police, and Public Defender's Office to address pending cases and strategies to improve Convention implementation.

In November 2024, U.S. Embassy Quito officials met with the Ecuadorian Judiciary Council (JC) to support hiring of three new Hague Network Judges, who advise judges hearing IPCA cases and facilitate judicial communications.

In December 2024, Embassy officials met with the National Court of Justice and elected members of the National Assembly to discuss proposed IPCA related revisions to Ecuador's Children's Code and to highlight the importance of timely judicial proceedings.

In May 2025, the acting Deputy Chief of Mission at Embassy Quito delivered a demarche to the President of Ecuador's JC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' North America desk to highlight Ecuador's failure to locate children in a timely manner.

## **EGYPT**

In September 2024, Department officials met with the Egyptian Consulate in Chicago to provide information on preventing abduction and to request assistance in public outreach to Egyptian citizens.

In February 2025, U.S. Embassy Cairo delivered a diplomatic note on cases of children abducted from the United States to Egypt, requesting the Government of Egypt's assistance with resolving these cases.

In March 2025, U.S. Embassy Cairo met with the Government of Egypt to discuss pending IPCA cases and request assistance with resolving these cases. Department officials also met with the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, D.C., to further discuss IPCA prevention and recognition of custody decisions.

In May 2025, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues travelled to Egypt and met with Egyptian officials to encourage Convention ratification and establish a regular dialogue concerning IPCA cases.

## **HONDURAS**

In July 2024, the Office of Children's Issues met with the Honduran Central Authority (HCA) to discuss two longstanding cases and highlight best practices on case management.

In August 2024, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues met with the Honduran Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the HCA, the Special Prosecutor's

Office for the Protection of Children and Adolescents, and civil society members in Honduras to address case processing delays.

In November 2024 and January 2025, the Office of Children's Issues met with the HCA, to underscore the importance of regular communication between central authorities and with judicial authorities.

In February 2025, the Office of Children's Issues shared abduction prevention programs and crime victims' assistance resources with the Honduran Embassy in Washington, D.C., while raising concerns about the HCA's ongoing case processing delays.

In March 2025, U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa delivered a diplomatic note to the MFA urging Honduras to promptly resolve an application for the return of three children to the United States, noting delays in the Honduran judiciary.

In May 2025, the Deputy Chief of Mission at Embassy Tegucigalpa delivered a demarche to the Honduran Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, urging Honduras to promptly resolve all open Convention cases. The demarche noted systemic issues within the HCA and judicial delays in Convention cases at the appellate level.

## **INDIA**

U.S. Embassy New Delhi delivered diplomatic notes in March 2024, July 2024, December 2024, and March 2025 expressing concern to the Government of India regarding unresolved IPCA cases and requesting Indian government officials work with the Department through dedicated bilateral meetings to resolve these cases.

In July and September 2024, Embassy Consular Staff observed Mediation Cell proceedings administered by the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights under the Ministry of Women's and Child Development. The Department continues to express concerns to Indian officials on the Cell's limitations in enforcing participation of their mediation efforts and ultimately resolving IPCA cases between the United States and India.

In August 2024, the Embassy of India in Washington, D.C. hosted the second meeting of the family issues working group, which launched in April 2024. The Special Advisor for Children's Issues and U.S. Embassy New Delhi discussed the importance of IPCA prevention and community outreach with the Embassy of India, as well as Indian officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In April 2025, Embassy New Delhi delivered a demarche to the Ministry of External Affairs and reiterated the need for cooperation to resolve all active cases.

## **JORDAN**

In December 2024, U.S. Embassy Amman delivered a demarche to the Government of Jordan requesting a representative work with the Department to resolve all outstanding IPCA cases.

In May 2025, Embassy Amman delivered a demarche to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to request assistance on new IPCA cases.

## **KOREA, REPUBLIC OF**

In July 2024, U.S. Embassy Seoul and a House Foreign Affairs Staff Delegation met with the ROK Supreme Court, Central Authority, and National Assembly to discuss bailiffs enforcing return orders and the need for standardized guidelines.

In September 2024, Embassy Seoul consular staff met with the ROK Central Authority to discuss bailiff enforcement issues and guidelines.

Separately, Embassy Seoul met with the Secretary to the President for Legal Affairs to discuss IPCA matters, pending cases, and the U.S. government's interest in resolving open cases.

In October 2024, the Embassy met with the Daegu Bailiffs Office to address enforcement concerns, including specific failed enforcement actions in a longstanding IPCA case. The Embassy also had an introductory meeting with the Busan Bailiffs Office to discuss a potential enforcement action. The Busan Bailiffs Office played a key role in the successful enforcement of a high-profile case in May 2025.

In December 2024, the Office of Children's Issues met with the ROK Central Authority to discuss the ROK's inability to enforce Hague return orders, including the sixth failed enforcement in a long-standing case.

In February 2025, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues met with the ROK Central Authority to address unresolved cases, enforcement challenges, and delays within the judicial system. As a direct and immediate outcome of this

meeting, the ROK Minister of Justice issued an opinion letter to the Supreme Court requesting an expedited decision in a specific case.

In March 2025, the Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs and the Special Advisor met with the ROK Embassy in Washington, D.C. to discuss IPCA cases, enforcement concerns, and judicial delays. Separately, U.S. Embassy Seoul met with the ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs Consular Affairs Director General to discuss specific cases and concerns, including the general lack of enforcement of a Hague return order without active efforts on the part of the left-behind parent at the time of enforcement.

## **PERU**

In July 2024, the Office of Children's Issues attended a Judicial Conference in Peru hosted by Peru's Hague Network Judge for judges chosen to hear IPCA cases in Peru to discuss ways to prioritize IPCA cases and provide judges with a better understanding of the Convention.

Before the conference, Children's Issues met with the Peruvian Central Authority (PCA) on case-specific issues and Convention responsibilities, and with the National Migration Authority regarding barriers to departure in IPCA cases.

Also in July 2024, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues and Department officials met with the Embassy of Peru in Washington to deliver a demarche on Peru's citation, discuss pending IPCA cases, request better information sharing, and commit to providing prevention training to Peruvian Consulates in the United States to support Peru's improved compliance.

Since August 2024, the Office of Children's Issues and U.S. Embassy Lima officials held periodic video conferences with the Ministry of Women, Children, and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP), which serves as the PCA for Peru, to discuss specific Convention case issues.

In December 2024, the U.S. Ambassador to Peru and the MIMP met to discuss a diplomatic note regarding the enforcement of a return order for two American citizen children. The Ambassador addressed concerns about Peru's noncompliance with the Convention.

In May 2025, the Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. delivered a demarche to the Peruvian Director General of Consular Affairs at the MFA, noting significant judiciary delays, enforcement concerns, and a longstanding unresolved case involving two American citizen children. The demarche also detailed the perceived conflicting mandates between MIMP and the Convention which may prevent the PCA from fulfilling some of the Convention's requirements.

## **POLAND**

In January 2025, U.S. Embassy Warsaw engaged Poland's Ministry of Justice on unresolved cases, and the Office of Children's Issues met with European Commission representatives to discuss enforcement concerns.

In April 2025, Department of State officials met with representatives of Poland's Ministry of Justice while they were in Washington, D.C., to discuss unresolved IPCA cases.

In June 2025, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues raised enforcement issues with the EU Delegation in Washington, D.C. Poland Held the EU Presidency at the time.

## **ROMANIA**

In November and December 2024, the Office of Children's Issues met with the Romanian Central Authority (RCA) to discuss Convention procedures, legal systems, and enforcement procedures in the United States and Romania. The RCA also clarified other available enforcement options.

In January 2025, the Office of Children's Issues met with representatives of the European Commission to discuss enforcement issues in Romania.

In February 2025, Department officials met with representatives from the Embassy of Romania in Washington, D.C., to discuss enforcement concerns and training opportunities to improve Romania's compliance.

In June 2025, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues raised concerns about the enforcement challenges in Romania to the European Union Delegation in Washington, D.C.

## **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

In June 2024, Department officials and U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi met with representatives of the Government of the UAE to request assistance in IPCA cases and identify options for resolving these cases in the UAE.

In August 2024, the Embassy delivered a diplomatic note to the Government of the UAE notifying them of new IPCA cases and requesting assistance in

resolving existing cases. Later that month, the Embassy met with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs to reiterate the importance of IPCA as a consular issue.

In September 2024, the Department and UAE officials met for a consular dialogue in Washington, during which the Department suggested establishing a regular dialogue on IPCA. This led to further bilateral meetings in October 2024 and February 2025.