

December 17, 2018
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Dear Mr Vice President:

I am concerned about human rights. Last week a seven year old girl - Jakelin Amei Rosmery Caal Maquin - died of dehydration in US custody. This horrible tragedy is a direct and predictable result of our immigration policies. People are told to use official border crossings but only a few are allowed to cross leaving the rest in dangerous limbo. Fences are extended near populated areas so that dangerous trips into the desert are required even to present for asylum. The reports of conditions in administrative detention are horrific. This administration has increased border patrol staffing and sent thousands of soldiers to help. It defies belief that there is still only one bus available in the region where Jakelin died or such a skeletal support staff that a dying child could be overlooked. Finally this administration has added to this horrible injury the insult of refusing any responsibility for what you have done. At first Commissioner McAleenan did not even report Jakelin's death and then White House Spokesman Gidley made frantic attempts to blame anyone else: her own grieving father and of course the minority party in congress.

Please assure me that you will make our borders safe for those trying to cross.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our respect for human rights.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson