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## **Separated Children Sue Trump Administration to be Reunited with Parents**

*Under Flores settlement, children contest their placement and treatment as unaccompanied minors and demand to be reunited with fathers*

CHICAGO, June 19, 2018—This morning, Aldea - The People's Justice Center and the Law Office of Amy Maldonado filed suit against the Trump administration's architects and enforcers of the unlawful and monstrous policy of family separation on behalf of two boys forcibly separated from their fathers and detained thousands of miles apart, without communication and without information.

The separation of these two boys from their fathers is unconscionable and without any legitimate or rational reason. They each remain in immigration detention, separate and apart, with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, or Office of Refugee Resettlement having made no attempts whatsoever to reunite these children with their fathers.

**In light of the misrepresentations being disseminated by the Trump administration today, it is important to note that *Flores* does not require separation.**

"It is clear that despite having a policy of family separations, the purpose of which is to punish and deter legitimate asylum seekers, the administration and its actors have zero plans as to how to reunify children with their parents following this barbaric act," stated Bridget Cambria of Aldea – The People's Justice Center. "The purpose of this suit is simple. We ask that these children be reunited with their fathers. Immediately."

Under the law, children in immigration custody are to be treated with dignity, respect and with acknowledgment as to their vulnerability as children. Family separation violates those fundamental rights retained by all children in immigration custody.

“One day after we notice them of suit, the administration attempts to misrepresent the purpose of the Settlement which is to protect children and to ensure families remain together when practicable,” said Aldea attorney Bridget Cambria. “In contrast to the administration’s misrepresentation about the settlement, these children today seek to enforce their rights under the settlement and due process to be reunited with their dads.”

“All children in immigration custody have the affirmative legal right to contest and object to their placement in detention by immigration authorities,” said attorney Amy Maldonado. “These two boys contest this choice by DHS to separate them from their fathers. We encourage all children, and their lawyers and advocates, to do the same.”

“Trump’s family separation policy is motivated simply by racial animus, a flagrant disregard for the law, and a desire of this administration to forbid legitimate and lawful asylum-seeking families and children through torture and unending detention,” said Aldea attorney Karen Hoffmann.

The suits were filed in the Northern District of Illinois (W.S.R. v. Sessions et al and C.D.A. v. Sessions et al).

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**Aldea - The People’s Justice Center** ([aldeapjc.org](http://aldeapjc.org)) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Reading, Pennsylvania. In addition to representing families separated by the unlawful and immoral practices of this administration, its volunteer attorneys and advocates have represented more than 700 children and parents detained at the Berks family detention center since 2015 in their asylum and immigration proceedings *pro bono*.