

Yasmin [full name redacted]

[ID# redacted]

My name is Yasmin and I am the mother of 2 girls that were taken from my side. The day I entered this country on May 22, I was separated from my 13-year-old daughter, and on May 23, from my 12-year-old daughter. They took them from me at the ice box (hielera) and said it would just be for a short period, that afterwards they would reunite them with me, but it wasn't true. I was then transferred to McAllen, the dog pound, as they call it. I was there for 7 days without showering or brushing my teeth. I ate bread with cold cut processed meat and a juice for every meal. I was surrounded by a lot of mothers crying for their children. Many of them passed out when they heard we would get deported without our children, that they would stay here. There were many in each cell passing out over and over and the officers just laughed. There was a woman that had a seizure in one of the cells, and they took her to the hospital. Three days later, she was back at the dog pound.

We went to court to see if the judge would find us guilty and the judge said we weren't going to get punished. That it was our right to get reunited with our children, but when we were brought before the judge for our hearing we were handcuffed and shackled as criminals.

For 7 days, I had no information about my children because they were not giving information to any mother. I finally got some information when I was transferred to the detention center in Laredo and I was able to communicate with my husband. He informed me that they had called him and he was going to be reunited with the girls, that he knew where they were. When he finally was able to call them they were crying asking him to get them out of that place.

After 14 days of being separated from my girls, I was able to speak to them when they were with their father. They asked me when I was going to get out to be with them, that they missed me, and that they wanted to be with me and that they missed me a lot.

I have been detained for over a month. Since they detained me, I have been missing my girls. I haven't seen them for a month since we were separated.