

Regina's case is being reopened and we are bringing her home today!

"THE MOTION TO REOPEN IS GRANTED AND DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS ARE REOPENED." With that beautiful, glorious sentence the Board of Immigration Appeals has stopped Regina's deportation and has granted her a new hearing!

I got the news from Attorney Mary Sfasciotti this afternoon shortly after 3:00 o'clock. Mary said -- this was SUCH a long shot! In fact, she needed to call them back just to be sure, really sure that it was really, really true! By this point I was crying for joy and relief. The case is being remanded back to Judge William A. Cassidy at the Immigration Court in Atlanta, Georgia. When Mary asked, "Do you still want me to represent her?" I exclaimed, "ARE YOU KIDDING!?"

When I asked if she had told Regina, Mary said, "No, Sister. You tell her." It was such a privilege. As I opened my address list for the KCDC phone number, the phone rang, "You have a collect call from Regina at the Kenosha County Detention Facility. Will you accept the charges?" (Why was I surprised? This God of ours is something else!)

"Regina, we just got the best news! The BEST news! The Board of Appeals has decided to reopen your case!"

Her voice leapt to life, "Oh! Oh! THANKS GOD! THANKS GOD! Oh, THANKS GOD! GOD DID IT! GOD DID IT! THANKS GOD!" As she called out her praise, I could hear others rejoicing in the background. "I'll call you back later, Sister! I have to tell the others!"

My next call was to David who works in maintenance at Sacred Heart School of Theology. "David, it's Sister Josephe. We just got the BEST news! They're going to reopen Regina's case!" His reaction was the same, "THANK GOD! PRAISE TO GOD! We prayed last night in church that GOD would do it - GOD DID IT! THANK GOD! THANK GOD!"

Our media contact was on it immediately. She called a press conference to announce the wonderful news and every TV camera in Milwaukee was there plus newspapers and radio stations. (I found out later that Channel 12, the local ABC affiliate, interrupted "Oprah" with a news bulletin!) How can we ever thank the local media for embracing this ongoing story! I wish all of you could have seen David come into St. Mary's gathering space, his smile radiant, his children on either side holding his hands. He raised their arms as everyone - press and supporters - cheered! He began by thanking God ...and then thanking all who supported his family.

When four-year-old Coco learned that Mommy would be coming home soon, he said, "I'm gonna break the mirror!" He repeated it several times until Lydia explained, "He wants to break the glass." Then we caught on -- Coco did not want to see his Mommy behind the thick glass any more. Monday night we learned that he won't have to look through the glass anymore. Regina called to tell David that she is being released in the morning! Early Tuesday they will take her to Broadview, Illinois, where they will finish processing her release. We will be there with her clothes and lots of hugs ...and a few TV camera crews! ...to bring her home!

Principal Jeanne Siegenthaler is planning a 2:00 o'clock "Welcome Home!" Tuesday, June 7, with all the children on the lower parking lot at St. Mary's School, Hales Corners. Parents, staff, teachers, supporters, the press -- spread the word! All are welcome to join in the cheers and the hugs!

www.SaveRegina.org

This is just the first step, but what a first step it is.

There is another wonderful segment to this story. Sunday we sent Darryl Morin to Washington, D.C., to work with the leaders of LULAC, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the oldest and most prestigious civil rights and immigration group in America. Special thanks to LULAC whose leaders were able to get us access Monday to very helpful contacts -- all of whom were initially skeptical, but whose hearts were won over as Darryl fanned a big pack of your signed petitions and shared Regina's story with them. In each meeting, participants took up our cause and promised to make phone calls immediately to help us.

And by the way, thanks to the huge letter-writing campaign, just before all this news broke, we mailed another 2000+ letters each to Lori Scialabba (BIA), Wesley Lee (ICE), and Atty. General Alberto Gonzales. Special thanks to the thirty parishes where people signed letters of support.

Our God is an awesome God! And Monday was without doubt ALL God's day!

As David said at the press conference, his family thanks God, but they also thank everyone who has been helping Regina! So give yourselves all a big hug and pat on the back – Your hard work, time, energy and prayers have resulted in this miracle.

Thank you!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit us at: www.saveregina.org

Email us: contactus@saveregina.org