



February 2, 2014

On January 22, 2014, Ivonne Hernandez Segura was arrested by immigration authorities while picking up her one year old son from her abusive ex-partner. Custody of Ivonne's son was later awarded to her ex-partner on the basis of her undocumented status and Ivonne is now facing deportation to Mexico.

That a survivor fleeing abuse would have her son taken away from her and handed over to her abuser purely on the basis of her immigration status is horrifying. That she would then be deported and permanently separated from her one-year old son is deplorable and certainly not in the best interests of her child.

Women fleeing conjugal violence must feel empowered to seek help. If survivors living without status cannot seek help for fear of deportation, then they are effectively forced to remain in dangerous and abusive relationships or risk being separated from the ones they love. This is not a choice. This is a tragedy. The actions taken by CBSA against Ivonne Hernandez Segura and her son are cruel and frankly hypocritical in a context where the government claims that "helping women lead violence free lives" is a legislative priority.

QPIRG Concordia calls on Immigration Minister Chris Alexander to immediately regularize Ivonne Hernandez Segura's status so that her son may be returned to his loving mother and they may live together in dignity and safety.

Sincerely,  
Cassie Smith & Thien Viet Quan,  
on behalf of the Board of Directors of QPIRG Concordia

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