

HILDA L. SOLIS

32ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

website: www.house.gov/solis

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER, ENVIRONMENT AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

COMMERCE, TRADE AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION

CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS
HEALTH TASK FORCE

DEMOCRATIC VICE CHAIR,
CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR WOMEN'S
ISSUES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0531

March 15, 2004

1725 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5464
FAX: (202) 225-5467

4401 SANTA ANITA AVENUE
SUITE 211
EL MONTE, CA 91731
(626) 448-1271
FAX: (626) 448-8062

4716 CESAR CHAVEZ AVENUE
BUILDING A
EAST LOS ANGELES, CA 90022
(323) 307-9904
FAX: (323) 307-9906

The Honorable John Ashcroft
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Room 1145
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I am writing regarding the case of Maria Suarez (Alien # 36640042). It is my understanding that Ms. Suarez' case is currently before the Executive Office of Immigration Review in San Pedro, California. To the extent that you have oversight over this matter and in accordance with the laws and regulations regarding it, I hope you will give full and fair consideration to Ms. Suarez' case.

Ms. Suarez, who entered the United States legally at the age of fifteen, is scheduled for deportation because of a 1981 conviction for the first-degree murder of Anselmo Covarrubias. However, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger granted parole to Ms. Suarez on December 16, 2003, after the California Board of Prison Terms found that Ms. Suarez was the victim of severe battering by Covarrubias. Unfortunately, the Battered Woman's Syndrome defense did not exist at the time of Ms. Suarez' trial.

It is my understanding that Ms. Suarez, shortly after entering the United States, was sold by an unknown woman for \$200 to Covarrubias, who used her as a sex slave and housekeeper. Covarrubias imprisoned, beat and raped her. The Board of Prison Terms has called Ms. Suarez' experience "one of the most egregious instances of Battered Woman's Syndrome that [it has] investigated."

Again, to the extent you have oversight over Ms. Suarez' case, I hope you will give it full and fair consideration in conformity with the laws and regulations covering it. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



HILDA L. SOLIS
Member of Congress

HLS:dl