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Senators Urge Action to Bring Abducted Child Back Home to United States

WASHINGTON – Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein and Texas Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz urged action from the Justice Department and State Department on the return of Nico Brann, a Texas boy who was abducted and taken abroad in 2013, to the United States and to his father.

Nearly five years ago, on July 1, 2013, Nico Brann was abducted by his mother and taken to her native Brazil in violation of a court order in Texas. The mother, Marcelle Guimarães, has since been indicted in federal court in the United States—but remains abroad.

“Any American citizen child who is abducted and remains abroad is one too many. Your Departments have an obligation to the American people to use all tools available to assist in the return of American citizen children. We know you recognize the seriousness of the issue and look forward to working with you to resolve and prevent cases of international parental abduction,” the senators wrote in a letter to the Attorney General and Secretary of State.

In [their letter](#) to Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, the four senators pressed for the use of any and all diplomatic and legal tools available under the law. Specifically, the senators urged the use of provisions in the *Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevent and Return Act of 2014* in pursuing the lawful return of Nico Brann to his father.

In April of this year, the Senate Judiciary Committee [held a hearing](#) on the topic of international parental child abduction and [heard directly from Brann’s father](#), Dr. Christopher Brann.

Full text of the letter from Grassley, Feinstein, Cruz and Cornyn follows.