MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
REGARDING INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILDBERD ABDUCTION

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, hereinafter known as "the Participants,"

By virtue of the excellent relations between the two friendly countries,

Considering that the Participants wish to enhance cooperation on consular issues related to parental rights of access and visitation regarding children who are citizens of the two countries,

Recognizing that unresolved conflicts involving family matters, including issues related to child custody and parental access to children can often represent human tragedies,

Recognizing that, except in unusual cases, it is in the best interests of all children to have personal relations and contact with both parents, as well as the opportunity to learn and respect the cultural traditions of both parents,

Having in mind the different judicial systems of the Participants and wishing to encourage settlements based on voluntary resolutions between parents disputing custody in the interest of these children, without depriving the parents of their right to seek a judicial decision,

Consistent with paragraphs (a) and (h) of Article 5 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, done on April 24, 1963, to which both Participants are signatories,

Have decided as follows:

Item 1

Each Participant intends to make efforts to find immediate, humane solutions to the difficulties facing a parent who wishes to be in contact with his/her child residing in the country of the other Participant, including freedom of access and contact with the child, in order to maintain ties between parent and child.
Item 2

The Participants hereby establish a “Joint Commission to Address International Parental Child Abduction”, hereinafter “the Joint Commission,” headed by Consular Affairs representatives in each of the two countries and, if warranted, including participants from other governmental agencies of both countries. The Joint Commission should include a representative from each of the Participants who is an authorized point of contact on the issue of international parental child abduction.

Item 3

The Joint Commission should meet two times per year – in the capitals of the Participants alternately. The Joint Commission may meet at other times as the need arises or may mutually decide to meet through digital video conferencing or conference calls. The Joint Commission may also choose to meet less often if the Participants so decide.

Item 4

The Joint Commission should work to strengthen and develop cooperation in efforts to resolve international parental child abduction cases.

Item 5

The Participants should prepare a proposed agenda for the meeting and inform the other Participant with enough time prior to the date of the meeting through diplomatic channels.

Item 6

The Joint Commission may set up a Subcommittee to follow up on the execution of its resolutions and recommendations, including the Consul General of each Participant, as appropriate, as well as other officials involved in the matters being discussed by the Subcommittee.
Item 7

The Participants should consult to resolve any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Item 8

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified by written consent of the Participants.

Item 9

This Memorandum of Understanding commences upon the date of its signature by both Participants. A Participant should endeavor to provide six months advance notice of its intent to discontinue the Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed in the city of Riyadh on 17/07/2017, in duplicate, in the English and Arabic languages.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA:

Virginia Sher Daradjan Tamim Bin Majed Al-Dosari
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