



United States Department of State

*United States Permanent Mission to the  
Organization of American States*

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

Dr. Paulo Abrão  
Executive Secretary  
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
Organization of American States  
Washington, D.C. 20006

August 26, 2019

**Re: Taylor Lund, Petition No. 184-08 / 13.549**  
**Further Observations**

Dear Dr. Abrão:

The U.S. Government has the honor of submitting to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights this response to the additional material your office transmitted to us on April 30, 2019 in the above-referenced matter.

Bernadette Taylor-Lockett ("Petitioner") filed an original Petition on February 19, 2008 on behalf of herself and her three minor children. Your office transmitted that Petition to the United States via a letter dated February 27, 2013, and we filed our response on October 21, 2014. Subsequently, in a letter dated May 11, 2015, your office forwarded a revised Petition filed by Petitioner on March 23, 2015. On December 30, 2016, the United States submitted a supplemental response addressing both of these submissions.

In a letter dated April 13, 2018, your office transmitted notification that the Commission had adopted Report on Admissibility No. 9/18 on February 24, 2018. The Commission, however, did not provide the United States with the report. As a result, the United States is unable to provide further observations on this matter because it is unclear which, if any, of the claims in the Petition have been deemed admissible by the Commission. Our inability to provide informed observations in the absence of the Commission's admissibility report is compounded by the manifest inadmissibility of the Petition, which concerned a private custody dispute that was decided in Virginia state court. Petitioner had multiple opportunities to present her case domestically in full observance of due process commitments under the American Declaration. In any event that case has become moot because the child in question is now an adult.

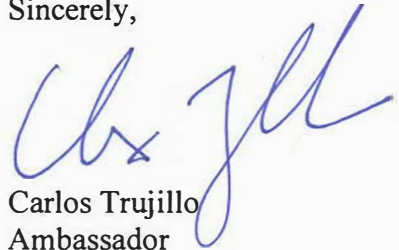
Lund v. United States, Pet. No. P-184-08  
Further Observations of the United States

In our December 2016 supplemental response, the United States submitted that the Commission should, if it chose to continue its consideration of this matter, at the very least, require updated information from Petitioner, instructing her to provide such information in as concise and clear a manner as possible, and that it should also seek to hear directly from Taylor Lund and Tori and Dorian Lockett. The disjointed and outdated record currently before the Commission provides a thoroughly inadequate basis for the Commission to make any sort of reasoned and fair decision in this matter. Based on the largely incomprehensible response forwarded by the Commission on behalf of the Petitioner on April 30, 2019, it is unclear whether the Commission heeded our 2016 request.

The United States reserves the right to submit further observations following receipt of the Report on Admissibility No. 9/18.

Please accept renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ch. J. H.', is written over the printed name and title.

Carlos Trujillo  
Ambassador