

**Correspondence with U.S. State
Department Officials in regards to
Gonzalez de Alcala vs. Wilcox
2007—2011**

Quenby Wilcox
 C/ Castillo de Malpica, 132
 28692 Urb. Villafranca del Castillo
 Madrid, Spain Tel. 34.91.810.2504 / 91.810.2353.

Ambassador Eduardo Aguirre
 US Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain and the Principality of Andorra
 American Embassy
 c/ Serrano, 75
 28008 Madrid, Spain

Dear Ambassador Aguirre,

October 28, 2007

Because I am an American citizen residing in Madrid, I am once again contacting you as I am literally being held "hostage" in this country by my husband and its antiquated legal and judicial system. I am requesting the assistance of the American Consulate in assuring that my legal, civil and human rights are respected and protected here in Spain.

While in college I worked for the former Senator J. Bennett Johnston from Louisiana. One of the services that he provided to his constituents was assurance that their legal and civil rights were protected during judicial proceedings in his state. He no way influenced decisions or judgments; but all proceedings were closely monitored by his staff in order to assure that no prejudice or corruption was allowed to occur during these proceedings. I trust that the American Consulate in Madrid will provide me with this same service here in Spain.

On September 3, 2007 I filed a complaint against my husband's continual threats to kill me the proceeding day. After filing the complaint I contacted Senor Gonzalo Martinez de Haro of Vinander, Carlos y Asociados, whose name I had found on the American Embassy website and had consulted with in July 2007. Senor de Haro agreed to represent me the next day. On September 4, 2007 I presented myself along with Senor de Haro at *juzgado* of Mostoles, and after the trial he informed me that I would lose custody of my children because my husband had accused me of substance addiction. I found this ridiculous and decided to look for another lawyer.

Due to the fact that my husband has all of our assets and funds blocked in his name. I find myself at the mercy of the competence of a court appointed lawyer, even though our assets amount to over, €1,000,000. Unfortunately, I believe that my legal and civil rights will fail to be defended within the public system. Copies of my complaint, court proceedings are already on file at the American Embassy in Madrid, However, for your convenience I am including a copy of all pertinent documents as well as a detailed history or what transpired over the past months in regard to this case.

On March 12, 2007 I sent a correspondence to you, the American Consul General and one to your wife, Maria Teresa Aguirre, requesting assistance in contacting the appropriate person or persons within the State Department who could examine a project designed to assist the unemployed spouses of expatriated employees, for possible sponsorship by the US State Department. I received a response stating that the American Embassy does not advertise commercial websites on the Embassy web page.

I find it paradoxical that a for-profit Spanish lawyer, Senor de Haro, would be advertised on your web page, while a philanthropic one would not. Additionally, I feel that this lawyer, recommended by the American Embassy, was negligent in representing me due to prejudice against me as a woman and/or American.

When I do finally procure a lawyer and initiate divorce proceedings I fear for my own life and perhaps that of my 2 sons. Due to the stigma and the public humiliation surrounding problems like mine all too many women everywhere remain silent. All too many end up losing their lives.

I respectfully request the assistance of the American Consulate in protecting me from the archaic social and cultural norms in Spain, as provided for in the Convention of Consular Affairs (1963.)

Sincerely. Quenby Wilcox



Quenby Wilcox
Quenbywilcox2@gmail.com
 (202) 213-4911

Peter Peticukis
 US State Department, Assistant Secretary of Consular Affairs – Spain
 2201 C St. NW,
 Washington, DC 20037
 (202) 736-4979

Dear Mr. Peticukis;

July 21, 2009

Per our conversation in April 2009 I am sending you some of the pertinent documents of my divorce case in Spain, with almost everything else on file at the US Consulate in Spain. It has taken me over 2 months to contact you as my first priority in arriving in DC was to get a roof over my head and a job to pay for it. I believe DC has already more than enough homeless and destitute asking for a hand-out on its streets without adding yet another one!!

In our conversation of April 2009, you questioned how the State Department might assist me in defending my rights, other than by recommending a lawyer in Spain; three of those already recommended by the American Consulate should be disbarred for their flagrant and blatant negligence in my case. While I think it should be obvious how the Embassy could have, and can in the future, assist me in a LEGAL AND PRACTICAL fashion, I will enumerate them as follows:

Officially request that the Spanish Consul here in Washington, DC assist me in obtaining a court appointed lawyer in Spain or finding out what document I need to register with them, in order to protect my assets. (A lawyer here in Washington, DC has informed me that such a document exists, but I have no idea what it is.) My present lawyer has failed to request 4 months of back alimony and another is asking for over \$10,000 in order to initiate liquidation of my assets. Since November 2007 access to approximately €300,000+ of liquid assets (plus possibly the equity in my home another €600,000(?) have been blocked from me through incompetence, corruption and more stupidity than I have ever seen.)

An official request from the US State department to the Spanish Consulate in Washington DC as to the time frame between an infraction of an offense in Spain, and the filing of a complaint with the *colegio de abogados*, *colegio de procuradores* and *colegio de psicologos*? Also, whether these complaints may be transmitted through the Spanish Consulate in Washington, DC. I have repeatedly asked this question, but been given evasive responses on each occasion.

AS SOON AS I CAN ASSURE THE SAFETY OF MY CHILDREN, request documentation of all and any visits by me, Quenby Wilcox, to the Centro de Genero and social service offices of Villanueva de la Canada, including visits with the *colegio de abogado* in Villanueva de la Canada, Majadahonda, and Madrid, (c/ Seranno, c/ Capitan Haya, and c/ Conde de Berlanda) dating from September 2007 to October 2008. Even though all of these are public records, I have consistently been denied access to them.

AS SOON AS I CAN ASSURE THE SAFETY OF MY CHILDREN, request copies of the entry log of in-coming telephone calls at the police station of Villanueva de la Canada on April 5-6 2008, as well as all the phone records of in-coming calls of the four police men who stopped and harassed me on that night. Once again public documents which I have already requested, but have been denied through my lawyer and through the police in Villanueva de la Canada.

Upon my return to Spain procure total and complete access to **ALL AND ANY FILES** of cases in which the judges, civil servants (including court psychologist, law enforcement officials, etc.) or lawyers from my case were involved. I made it clear to everyone that I would pursue my case and others like mine through every single legal channel at my disposition. Their reaction was “we do this all the time with absolutely no consequences,” and I have more than conclusive evidence that they do. According to **Amnesty International foreign women (myself included) have ¼ of 1% chance of survival, with Spanish women 28%**, and as I have found in my research over the past year many of these deaths are due to corruption, nepotism and incompetence within an archaic Spanish judicial system.

* For the moment that is all I can think of but am sure I will add things to the list in the coming years.

The American Consulate’s (and everyone else’s) attitude of “this is a divorce and civil matter - we don’t get involved between a man and his wife” is exactly why so many women and children die on a daily basis around the world. **From the USA to Afghanistan the social norms supporting the domination and subordination of women are the same, they are just different shades of grey.**

Additionally, the US Consulates contention that this is only a civil matter is completely false. There exists a myriad of penal offenses by various parties involved which are enumerated below and documented in the enclosed files:

1. **conspiracy to defraud**
2. **corruption of public officials**
3. **police harassment**
4. **illegal retention of funds and assets**
5. **death threats and attempted murder**
6. **torture and inhumane treatment**

Sincerely,

Quenby Wilcox

Email: Cartwright.Moore@mail.house.gov

529 14th ST NW STE 900

Washington, DC 20045-1928

Fax: (202) 783-5211

Name: Quenby Wilcox

Address: 1428 5th Street, NW

City: State: Zip: Washington, DC 20001

Day Phone: (202) 623-7696 Evening Phone: (202) 213-4911

FAX: (202) 623-6887E-Mail: quenbywilcox2@gmail.com

Social Security 435-35-2919 Other Claim, Account, or File

Number: Number:

Date of Birth: May, 1, 1963 Agency:

USCIS "A"* OWCP "A"*

Number: Number:

*You probably don't have these numbers.

Please state the result you want:

1. That the US State Department, Office of Consular Affairs, Peter Platukis, comply with my requests that the US State Department assist me in defending my rights in Spain as provided by under the Convention of Consular Affairs and various International Treaties of which the USA and Spain are signatory.

2. Obtain a court-appointed lawyer in Spain (as is my right under the Spanish Constitution,) through the Spanish Consulate in Washington, DC, that will faithfully and competently liquidate my assets (in Spain,) and depose any and all courts documents in Spain as instructed by me or my legal counsel here in the USA.

2. Assurance that all deposition and processing of complaints to the *colegio de abogados* and any other pertinent Spanish public organizations, pertaining to my case, are correctly processed, and that injurious parties are held accountable for their negligence to the full extent of the law.

Please describe your problem. You may use additional sheets and attach copies of relevant documents:

Please see below a document, which provides a time-line of the exorbitant negligence and incompetence involved in my divorce in Spain, during which my children were illegally and unconstitutional removed from my custody and all accesses to my assets (apx. \$1million) have been consistently denied.

(OVER)

Pursuant to the Privacy Act, I hereby give Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton permission to assist me with the above matter.

Signature:

 Date: 1/28/2010

Please return the signed release to: Cong. Eleanor Holmes Norton

Do Not Send Original Documents, Send Copies Only.



Quenby Wilcox
 1428 5th Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20001
 Quenbywilcox2@gmail.com
 Tel. 202-623-7696 cel. 202-213-4911

Cartwright Moore
 Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton
 529 14th Street, NW, Suite 900
 Washington, DC 20045-1928
 Tel. (202)783-5065

Dear Mr. Moore,

September 20, 2010

I would like to thank you for your letter dated March 19, 2010 on behalf of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton. For your convenience I have enclosed my latest correspondence to the American State Department in Washington and the American Embassy in Spain.

It is my sincere hope that in the coming months, with the help of my latest lawyer and under the surveillance of the American Consulate in Spain, my case may be resolved in an amicable and equitable manner for my ex-husband, myself and above all my children.

Unfortunately, the problems I have faced are not unusual within divorce courts and custody battles, particularly in cases of domestic abuse. The Leadership Council in the USA estimates that abusive parents are being awarded custody of their children at a rate of 70%, with reports by Amnesty International painting a much bleaker picture in western European countries.

The ultimate goals of my work as an adult has been to promote the rights of women and children at grass-roots levels, under progressive laws, as I truly believe that is where the key to global advancement lay. However, after my own recent experience within a judicial system, I have come to realize the extent to which the success of political solutions rests within our courts. While legislation may provide the opportunity for the advancement of rights, it is on a case by case basis in judicial systems that these rights are upheld or violated.

When I was young I intended on entering the world of global politics, and why I chose to attend a university in Washington, DC. During those years I had the honor and good fortune to work on Capitol Hill for former Senator J. Bennett Johnston, but very quickly became disheartened by the harsh realities and inner workings of the political process. However, I never lost my passion for or dedication to political and social activism.

Thank you again for you interest and assistance.

-2-

Sincerely,

Quenby Wilcox
Global Expats, Founder
www.global-expats.com

Enclosure: Of Exes and Expatriates by Niv Elis – Quotidian Dissent
Judicial irregularities in the case of Quenby Wilcox with attachments

Correspondence to:

Andrew T. Miller European Division Director, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management
Carrie Greene, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management American Consul
Penny Gennatiempo, American Consul, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain
Ambassador Alan D. Solomont, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain
Ambassador Eduardo Aguirre, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain, October 2007
Daniel Keller, American Consul, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain, March, 2007
Ann DeLong Greenberg, **Family Liaison Office**, U.S. Department of State, March 2007

Cc : Andrew T. Miller European Division Director, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management
Carrie Greene, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management
American Consul, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain Peggy Gennatiempo

Quotidian *Dissent*

Text July 29, 2010 [5 Comments](#)

PEOPLE I FOLLOW

Of Exes and Expatriates

Quenby Wilcox hasn't seen her children in over two years. She has no access to her assets or her fledgling business. Her life has been thrown off course by an issue that affects millions of people around the world: divorce. As messy as ending a marriage can be on its own, Wilcox faces the added complications of competing national jurisdictions and international law.

Originally from Louisiana and educated at George Washington University, Wilcox ended up marrying a Spanish man, whose employment with a multi-national corporation took them all over the world. As a so-called "trailing spouse," she followed her husband's employment to Paris, Miami, back to Paris, Madrid, Brussels, Paris again, Bogota, and finally Madrid again. Often unable to get work permits or stay local long enough to cultivate a career, she focused her attention on raising their two children. But over time, says Wilcox, the marriage soured and her husband became abusive (While she refers to psychological abuse, she specifies that there was never any physical violence). When they got divorced in Spain, she says, she was left out in the cold.

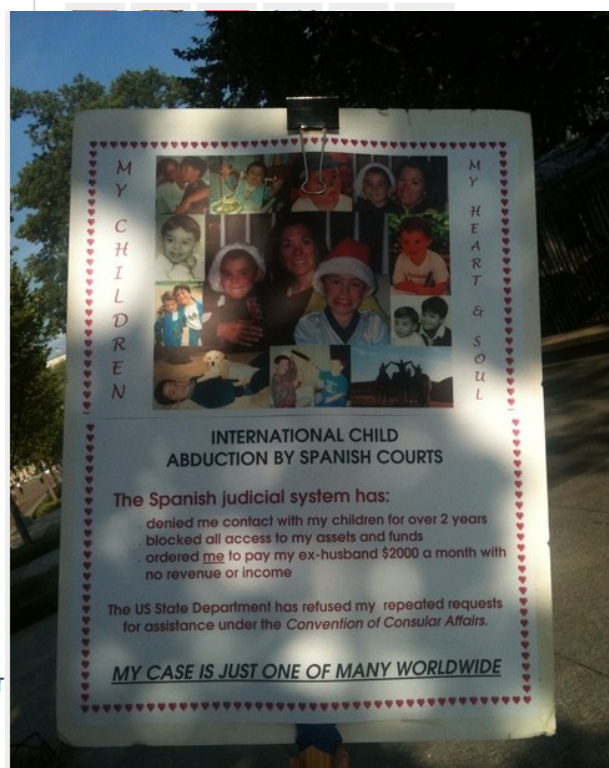
"Basically, if you're the foreigner and the spouse is the national, they win everything," says Wilcox.

Unfortunately, such cases are not uncommon. Few legal protection exist for expatriate spouses, even in rich countries like Japan, Australia, and many European countries.

According to Paula Lucas, the founder of the [Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center](#), an American living abroad may face enormous obstacles, especially in abusive situations. Having escaped an abusive husband in the United Arab Emirates with her children in tow a decade ago, Lucas knows the legal difficulties of seeking international custody personally.

"There's a bias to give custody to the national, rather than the foreign parent," says Lucas. Furthermore, would-be divorcees often lack funds for legal help and face language barriers in court. They may be stripped of their legal standing in the country, denied visitation rights, and have difficulty accessing their assets if they leave the country. Worst of all, provisions of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, a treaty designed to protect children from being kidnapped and taken abroad, fail to adequately account for abusive circumstances (for more information, see [The Hague Domestic Violence Project](#)).

In the first six months of this year alone, Lucas's Crisis center received 1,189 calls from 281 expatriated men and women, representing 254 children. "What you think of as an American when you leave the country is 'I can come home whenever I want,'" says Lucas. But as Quenby Wilcox learned, that's not always so easy.



Having spent 20 years outside the labor force, lacking a credit history, and facing a well-connected ex-husband, Wilcox returned to the United States with only a suitcase in her hand. She found a job at a D.C. temp agency, rented a room, and sought to make inroads with U.S.-based advocacy organizations. "All I want is my money and to go back to Spain and live with my kids." So far, she's tried the State Department, the Justice Department, the American Consulate in Madrid, and even got Congresswoman Eleanor Norton Holmes to write a letter to the State Department on her behalf, but to no avail. "Everybody just keeps passing the buck."

Until she can get her assets unfrozen, Wilcox is working to change the international legal provisions and judicial rulings that have caused her so much grief. And so, during her two week vacation from the temp agency, she is picketing at the White House, the State Department, and the Department of Justice, if not to change policy directly then to get support on her judicial quest. She has demonstrated with women fighting similar issues in American courts, as well as with men fighting for better visitation rights. Her [Facebook causes page](#), entitled "Safe Child International," has so far has attracted 400 supporters.



Once she raises some capital, her plan is to revive an idea for an organization she started in Spain called "[Global Expats](#)," originally intended to help trailing spouses with childcare issues, cultural adaptation, and finding jobs. "I didn't realize that one of the things I'd be doing in the future was assisting women with domestic violence situations."

Given the myriad financial, emotional, and legal stumbling blocks expatriates face, they could surely use the extra help.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 17, 2010

Quenby Wilcox
1428 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Day: 202-623-7696
Night: 202-213-4911
quenbywilcox2@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Wilcox,

This letter is in reply to your January 28, 2010 e-mail, received in our office on March 4, 2010, to Member of Congress Eleanor Holmes Norton regarding legal matters in Spain.

With regard to your inquiry, we cannot intervene in civil disputes. We are, however, enclosing a list of English-speaking attorneys in Spain that can be found within the U.S. Embassy Madrid website. You may also wish to contact the Embassy of Spain at 2375 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20037, telephone (202) 452-0100.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Should you have any additional questions, please contact Carrie Greene in the Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management at: (202) 663-3945. You may also contact the U.S. Citizens Services section within U.S. Embassy Madrid; their information is available within the U.S. Embassy Madrid website at <http://madrid.usembassy.gov/cons/services.html>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew T. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" being more prominent than the last name "Miller".

Andrew T. Miller
European Division Director
Office of American Citizen Services
and Crisis Management



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Andrew T. Miller
 European Division Director
 Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management
 2201 C Street NW
 Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Miller;

September 20, 2010

Thank you for your letter dated March 17, 2010, written at the request of Congresswoman Eleanor Norton Holmes regarding my pending problems with the Spanish judicial system.

I have been in correspondence with Carrie Greene in the Office of American Citizens Service and Crisis Management, and appreciate her assistance. As an expatriate of almost 30 years, and someone who has been involved in assisting expatriated communities for many of those years, I do appreciate the many and varied cases that your office deals with on a daily basis. Unfortunately, with the globalization of this world, the complexity and quantity of these cases will only continue to grow.

In your letter you state that my case is a "civil dispute," but I can assure you that my case and those like mine are human, civil and constitution rights violations. Please see enclosed article *Domestic Abuse Breaks More than Bones, It Breaks the Heart and Spirit and Is So Designed* by Quenby Wilcox (with excerpts from *Letter to My Mother* by Ingrid Betancourt.)

Regardless of the many barriers that I have encountered in creating and developing Global Expats and www.global-expats.com, I will not abandon my work. The idea for this association came from my own personal experiences as a "trailing spouse" and my knowledge that this group lacks effective assistance during their years abroad. However, until my nightmare of the past 3 years, even I did not realize to what extent these women, and increasingly men, are provided with no real protection or advocacy; and the dire need for an organization such as mine.

Sincerely,

Quenby Wilcox
 Founder, Global Expats
www.global-expats.com

Enclosure: *Of Exes and Expatriates* by Niv Elvis – Quotidian Dissent

Domestic Abuse Breaks More than Bones, It Breaks the Heart and Spirit and Is So Designed by Quenby Wilcox

cc. Carrie Greene, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management



Quenby Wilcox
 1428 5th Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20001
Quenbywilcox2@gmail.com
 Teln 202-623-7696 cel. (202) 213-4911

Carrie Greene
 Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management
 2201 C Street NW
 Washington, DC 20520

Dear Ms. Greene;

September 20, 2010

First, I would like to thank you for your attention and patience during our telephone conversation in April and September 2010. Unfortunately, I am more than aware of the myriad of problems expatriates face, their frustrations in attempting to resolve these issues, and their ensuing requests for assistance from government agencies. I can imagine the quantity of telephone calls and letters your office deals with on a daily basis, and the difficulty of dealing with many of the requests.

It is my comprehension of these problems, and the limited ability of government agencies in dealing with constituent problems, that I developed the idea for Global Expats. As a non-government organization, which produces its own funding, it would have the ability and capacity to promote and defend the rights of expatriated citizens, with no conflicting political or economical interests. Please see enclosed correspondence to Ms. DeLong Greenberg, Family Liaison Office, US State Department, dated March 25, 2007.

My ex-husband has gone to the most extra-ordinary lengths to destroy me and this project. It was in the spring of 2007, when the entire project was "taking off," that the abuse in my home escalated to the point that I feared for my life and that of my children. The most effective and commonly used tactic in domestic abuse is financial control, and my case is no exception.

My logical recourse was to file a complaint with the local police, and is what I did. Unfortunately, under cultural norms in Spain, this is exactly what one should NOT do. As stated in Amnesty International report *Mas Alla de Papel*, "I cannot report him, that's the truth of the matter, because if I report him I will get the entire family against me, ... It is looked upon very badly for a woman to report her husband, it is the worst thing on this Earth and it is a sure road to ruin."

-2-

Long standing customs and norms in Spain override progressive laws and political rhetoric within their judicial systems. In traditional patriarchal families, women and children have no rights. I came to accept this widespread belief in my ex-husband's family long ago for what it is; ignorance and lack of mores. However, I did not expect Spanish courts to uphold and sanction this same belief in their judicial procedures and decisions.

As my own case and divorce so dramatically demonstrate, until antiquated norms, widespread nepotism and discriminatory policies are challenged, constitutional democracies are nothing more than a façade behind which lay oppressive tyranny.

The great majority of mankind are satisfied with appearances, as though they are realities, and are often even more influenced by the things that seem than by those that are. - Niccoló Machiavelli, The Discourses. 1517.

Sincerely,

Quenby Wilcox
Global Expats, Founder
www.global-expats.com

Enclosure: Of Exes and Expatriates by Niv Elis – Quotidian Dissent

Judicial irregularities in the case of Quenby Wilcox with attachments

Correspondence to:

Andrew T. Miller European Division Director, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management

Penny Gennatiempo, American Consul, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain

Ambassador Alan D. Solomont, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain

Ambassador Eduardo Aguirre, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain, October 2007

Daniel Keller, American Consul, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain, March, 2007

Ann DeLong Greenberg, **Family Liaison Office**, U.S. Department of State, March 2007

cc. Andrew T. Miller, European Division Director, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management

American Consul, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain Peggy Gennatiempo

Senator Mary Landrieu (LA)

Congresswoman Eleanor Norton Holmes (DC)



Quenby Wilcox
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Peggy Gennatiempo
 Consul General
 American Embassy in Madrid
 c/ Serrano, 75
 28006 Madrid, SPAIN

Dear Consul Gennatiempo,

September 20, 2010

As an American experiencing infractions of me and my children's human, constitutional, and civil rights within the Spanish judicial system, and per instructions of Andrew T. Miller, European Division Director, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management, I am requesting assistance from the American Consulate in Madrid.

Court documents pertaining to my case in Spain have been on file at the American Consulate in Madrid since October 2007. But, I have enclosed *Judicial irregularities in the case of Quenby Wilcox_* and *My Divorce from Infierno*, which I think explain the details of my case more concisely.

In the coming months my latest Spanish lawyer (lawyer #7) will be initiating liquidation of my assets in Spain at which time I will be returning to Madrid, and my children. I am, therefore, requesting that the American Consulate oversee future legal proceedings (under provisions in the Convention of Consular Affairs,) assuring that all documents, petitions and judicial decisions are carried out in accordance with Spanish law and legal precedents already set down in my case by the presiding judge.

FYI regarding my future petitions - As provided under common property law I will be requesting that assets be divided "equally," and debt/liabilities be divided "equitably," allowing for rectification of past judicial biases favoring my ex-husband, and in violation of me and my children's rights.

In the past 3 years the judicial decisions have violated rights set forth in Articles 81-100 of the Spanish Constitution, the "reasonable person" doctrine, common property law, the European Convention on Human Rights, United Nations Agreement on Human Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. These decisions have effectively denied me contact with my children and access to all of my assets, while holding me responsible for liabilities incurred by my ex-husband during our marriage.

-2-

US State Department representatives have repeatedly refused my requests for assistance under the contention that my case is nothing more than a “civil dispute.” This attitude and belief, prevalent amongst law enforcement officials, judicial civil servants and judges, is responsible for the rampant re-victimization of victims in cases of domestic abuse.

As my case so dramatically demonstrates, the “*Tolerancia Zero*” in western divorce courts is not for the abusers, but rather for victims who refuses to bow into submission, and be silenced. The dynamics in my case are similar to what Muslim women are facing in Islamic countries. The only difference is that in those countries human rights violations are reputedly sanctioned by law, while in western countries they are carried out in violation of laws, treaties and democratic principles.

High profile media cases such as Daniel and Sean Goldman, Maria Jose and Victoria Carrascosa, and so many more are just the beginning of an ever growing political time bomb.

I do know how to avoid these cases from developing into crisis situation, and I would be working towards this end if control of my website and access to my assets would be returned to me.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Quenby Wilcox

Enclosure: Of Exes and Expatriates by Niv Elis – Quotidian Dissent

Judicial irregularities in the case of Quenby Wilcox with attachments

Domestic Abuse Breaks More than Bones, It Breaks the Heart and Spirit and Is So Designed
by Quenby Wilcox

Correspondence to:

Andrew T. Miller European Division Director, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management

Carrie Greene, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management Ambassador

Alan D. Solomont, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain

Ambassador Eduardo Aguirre, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain, October 2007

Daniel Keller, American Consul, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain, March, 2007

Ann DeLong Greenberg, **Family Liaison Office**, U.S. Department of State, March 2007

cc : Andrew T. Miller European Division Director, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management

Carrie Greene, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management

US Senator Landrieu of Louisiana

Congresswomen Eleanor Norton Holmes



Quenby Wilcox
1428 5th Street, NW
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Tel. 202-623-7696 cel, 202-213-4911

Ambassador Alan D. Solomonte
American Embassy in Madrid
calle Serrano, 75
28006 Madrid, SPAIN

Dear Ambassador Solomonte,

September 20, 2010

As an American experiencing difficulty within the Spanish judicial system I am taking the liberty of contacting you. While I have written to Consul Peggy Gennatiempo concerning my particular case, I am writing to you because my situation is not an isolated incident. It is representative of problems that more and more American expatriates are experiencing within foreign jurisdictions, and therefore becomes a policy concern for the US government, US State Department, and US Embassies.

Organizations in the USA and Europe recognize that domestic abuse is a human rights violation. Nevertheless, it is repeatedly argued by officials and civil servants of these countries that individual cases are nothing more than "civil disputes." In my own case this has repeatedly been the stance of law enforcement officials, judges, lawyers, and US State Department representatives.

As long as large dichotomies between rhetoric and reality exist within government institutions, systematic torture and genocide of women and children will continue to plague this world.
Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Quenby Wilcox



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Senator Mary Landrieu
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Telephone: (202) 224-5824
Fax: (202) 224-9735

Dear Senator Landrieu,

September 20, 2010

I would like to thank you for your letter dated August 23, 2010, and taking an interest in my case. For your convenience I have enclosed my correspondence to the American State Department in Washington, DC and the American Embassy in Spain.

It is my sincere hope that in the coming months, with the help of my latest lawyer and under the surveillance of the American Consulate in Spain, my case may be resolved in an amicable and equitable manner for my ex-husband, myself and above all my children.

Unfortunately, the problems I have faced are not unusual within divorce courts and custody battles, particularly in cases of domestic abuse. The Leadership Council in the USA estimates that abusive parents are being awarded custody of their children at a rate of 70%, with reports by Amnesty International painting a much bleaker picture in western European countries.

The ultimate goals of my work as an adult has been to promote the rights of women and children at grass-roots levels and under progressive laws and changing social norms. I truly believe that is where the key to global advancement lay.

However, after my own recent experience within a judicial system, I have come to realize the extent to which the success or failure of political solutions rests within our courts. While legislation may provide the opportunity for the advancement of rights, it is on a case by case basis in judicial systems that these rights are upheld or violated.

When I was young I intended on entering the world of global politics, and why I chose to attend a university in Washington, DC. During those years I had the honor and good fortune to work on Capitol Hill for former Senator J. Bennett Johnston, but very quickly became disheartened by the harsh realities and inner workings of the political process. However, as you may appreciate I never lost my passion for or dedication to political and social activism.

Thank you again for you interest and assistance.

-2-

Sincerely,

Quenby Wilcox
Global Expats, Founder
www.global-expats.com

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Domestic Abuse Breaks More than Bones, It Breaks the Heart and Spirit and Is So Designed by Quenby Wilcox

Correspondence to:

Andrew T. Miller European Division Director, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management

Carrie Greene, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management

American Consul

Penny Gennatiempo, American Consul, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain

Ambassador Alan D. Solomont, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain

Cc : Andrew T. Miller European Division Director, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management

Carrie Greene, Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management

Peggy Gennatiempo, American Consul, American Embassy in Madrid, Spain

MARY L. LANDRIEU
LOUISIANA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

September 16, 2010

Ms. Quenby Wilcox
1428 5th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Wilcox:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I have received from the U.S. Department of State in response to my inquiry on your behalf. I regret these officials are unable to provide the assistance you requested.

I also regret my efforts to be helpful to you did not meet with success. Nevertheless, it was a pleasure for me to try to be of assistance. If I can be of service in any other way, please let me know.

Meanwhile, with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

MLL:sl
Enclosure



United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

September 13, 2010

U.S. Senator Mary L. Landrieu
Room 326, Federal Building
707 Florida Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Dear Senator Landrieu,

This letter is in reply to your August 23, 2010 letter, received in our office on September 8, 2010, regarding Quenby Wilcox's inquiry about legal matters in Spain.

We in the United States government cannot take any role with regard to Spanish judicial procedures. Also, as this office has previously informed Ms. Wilcox, we cannot intervene in civil matters.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Should you have any additional questions, please contact Carrie Greene in the Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management at: (202) 736-4954.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew T. Miller".

Andrew T. Miller
European Division Director
Office of American Citizen Services
and Crisis Management

MARY L. LANDRIEU
LOUISIANA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

August 23, 2010

Quenby Wilcox
1428 5th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Wilcox:

Thank you for sending your completed consent form, with attachments, regarding your International Divorce case in Spain and the difficulties you have been experiencing. I shall be pleased to try to be helpful to you.

I was happy therefore to inform the proper State Department officials of my personal interest in you. I have asked them to promptly review your plight and to offer every possible assistance to you and your children. I have also asked them to send a report on their findings on your behalf as soon as possible.

Upon receipt of a response, I will be back in touch with you promptly.

Meanwhile, with kindest regards I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

MLL:sl



Embassy of the United States of America

October 1, 2010

Ms. Quenby Wilcox
1428 5th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

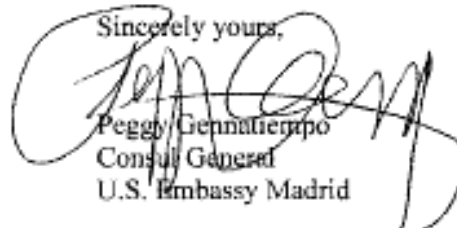
Dear Ms. Wilcox,

Thank you for your letter of September 20, 2010 to Ambassador Solomont raising your concerns about difficulties Americans may experience in dealings with judicial systems in countries outside the United States. Since the Consular Section is responsible for American citizen services, he passed me your letter to review and to determine what, if anything, the Embassy could do to assist. I understand and sympathize with your desire to receive equitable treatment in legal proceedings you are involved in here in Spain.

Our Consular Section as well as the State Department are aware of your situation and have attentively reviewed your written inquiries. However, State Department procedures preclude consular officers from acting as attorneys or entering into legal proceedings in foreign courts. While I appreciate your request for assistance in overseeing your future legal proceedings, consular officers cannot act to ensure that petitions, documents and judicial decisions are made in accordance with foreign laws.

Divorces often pose difficult situations for all parties involved, especially regarding equitable distribution of assets and access to children, among other issues. I hope that the attorney you have retained to handle your case will offer supportive and helpful legal advice.

Sincerely yours,



Peggy Gennatiempo
Consul General
U.S. Embassy Madrid



Quenby Wilcox
 Founder
 Global Expats – www.global-expats.com
 1428 5th Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20001
Quenbywilcox2@gmail.com
 Tel. 202-623-7696 cel, 202-213-4911

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
 US State Department
 2201 C Street NW
 Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary Clinton,

September 25, 2010

I am taking the liberty of contacting you regarding an ever growing problem amongst American citizens living abroad; international divorce and custodial rights.

As Paula Lucas, the founder of the Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center, said. "There's a bias to give custody to the national, rather than the foreign parent. Furthermore, would-be divorcees often lack funds for legal help and face language barriers in court. They may be stripped of their legal standing, denied visitations rights, and have difficulty accessing their assets if they leave the country. Worst of all, provisions of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, a treaty designed to protect children from being kidnapped and taken abroad, fail to adequately account for abusive circumstances." In the first six months of this year alone, Lucas's Crisis center received 1,189 calls from 281 expatriated men and women, representing 254 children.

In the past 3 years and in regards to my own personal case, I have repeatedly requested assistance from US State Department under the Convention of Consular Affairs. On each occasion my requests have been denied under the contention that my case is nothing more than a "civil dispute," even though it involves violations of me and my children's constitutional, civil and human rights. If the US Consulate in Spain and other US State Department agencies had complied with my requests from the beginning, the author of these violations would have thought twice before infringing the law.

It is my hope that my own case will soon be resolved; however my work in promoting and protecting the rights of expatriated families within the framework of Global Expats is just beginning. I hope in the future that the US State Department might provide me with the support and assistance, as provided for in international treaties, needed in protecting rights of individual American men, women and children living abroad.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.
 Sincerely,

Quenby Wilcox
 Founder
 Global Expats



Quenby Wilcox
 Founder
 Global-Expats / www.global-expats.com
 1428 5th Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20001
 Tel. 202-213-4911

Melanne Verveer
 Ambassador-at-Large - GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES
 U.S. Department of State
 2201 C Street NW,
 Washington, DC 20520

Dear Ambassador Verveer;

September 21, 2010

I have followed President Obama's initiative to grant asylum in the US to battered women living under oppressive governments with great interest. While I admire this policy, I would like to know what the US policy is when the victims are Americans living abroad suffering under oppressive governments?

Reports by Amnesty International and other organizations demonstrate that the Spanish judicial system is consistently failing to uphold the human, civil and constitution rights of women and children in cases of domestic abuse.

However, in my personal contact with the American Consulate in Spain and US State Department agencies in Washington, they have contended that my own case is nothing more than a "civil dispute." In addition to violation of Spanish constitutional rights, my case is filled with violations of the European Convention on Human Rights, United Nations Agreement on Human Rights, Convention of the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women all of which Spain is a signatory.

Why are human and civil rights violations of Americans' abroad, under jurisdiction of oppressive governments, not given the same importance as the citizens of these same countries?

Sincerely,

Quenby Wilcox
 Global-Expats - Founder

**Correspondence with U.S. State
Department Officials in regards to
www.global-expats.com
2007**





Quenby Wilcox
 Global-Expats.com
 Apartado de Correos #9
 28692 Urb. Villafranca del Castillo
 Madrid, Spain Tel. +34.91.810.2504 Fax. +34.91.810.2353
administration@global-expats.com
www.global-expats.com

Maria Teresa Aguirre
 American Embassy
 calle Serrano, 75
 28006 Madrid, SPAIN

Dear Mrs. Aguirre;

March 12, 2007

I have taken the liberty of contacting you because I am in the process of promoting a project that I have been developing for the past two years, and that I feel that will be of interest to American Embassies as well as their expatriated communities.

Briefly, I have created an entirely free-of-charge, multi-lingual, information based website, www.global-expats.com, which has been available on the Internet since November 2006. It will eventually be complimented by a global *trailing spouse* organization, which through networking will assist them in their efforts to maintain careers and financial independence while abroad.

Please find enclosed a prospectus, which defines and explains this project in it's' entirety.

In the promotion of this project I am experiencing great difficulty in contacting the appropriate people within governmental organizations who might assist in the development of this project. Therefore, I have written to you in the hope that you may assist me in contacting the appropriate person, or persons, within the US State Department.

Additionally, I hope that you may be able to assist me in notifying the American expatriated community in Madrid and throughout Spain as to the existence of this website. For your convenience, I have enclosed copies of a publicity "flyer" that I have prepared, and respectfully request that it be posted within the American Embassy and Consuls in Spain.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration, and please feel free to contact me with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Quenby Wilcox
administration@global-expats.com
www.global-expats.com



Quenby Wilcox
 Global-Expats.com
 Apartado de Correos #9
 28692 Urb. Villafranca del Castillo
 Madrid, Spain
 Tel. +34.91.810.2504 Fax. +34.91.810.2353
administration@global-expats.com
www.global-expats.com

Eduardo Aguirre
 U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain and the Principality of Andorra
 American Embassy
 calle Serrano, 75
 28006 Madrid, SPAIN

Dear Ambassador Aguirre;

March 12, 2007

I have taken the liberty of contacting you because I am in the process of promoting a project that I have been developing for the past two years, and that I feel that will be of interest to American Embassies as well as their expatriated communities.

Briefly, I have created an entirely free-of-charge, multi-lingual, information based website, www.global-expats.com, which has been available on the Internet since November 2006. It will eventually be complimented by a global *trailing spouse* organization, which through networking will assist them in their efforts to maintain careers and financial independence while abroad.

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Thank you in advance for your time and consideration, and please feel free to contact me with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,
 Quenby Wilcox
administration@global-expats.com
www.global-expats.com



Quenby Wilcox
 Global-Expats.com
 Apartado de Correos #9
 28692 Urb. Villafranca del Castillo
 Madrid, Spain
 Tel. +34.91.810.2504 Fax. +34.91.810.2353
administration@global-expats.com
www.global-expats.com

Daniel Keller
 Consul General
 American Embassy
 calle Serrano, 75
 28006 Madrid SPAIN

Dear Consul Keller;

March 30, 2007

Thank you very much for your response to my letter to Ambassador Aguirre dated March 12, 2007. I understand and appreciate the Embassy's policy of not advertising commercial interests on the Embassy's webpage. However, my website is not a commercial site; it does not sell any product or service.

All information and services offered on the website are entirely free of charge. Its' primary objective is to provide a worldwide communication portal for *trailing spouses*. Please see enclosed prospectus for the project in its entirety.

Global-Expats Association will be similar in structure to that of FAWCO (Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas) and FIAFE (the French version), however, its' managers and employees will be **financially remunerated**. Global-Expats will not look to replace these non-profit organizations, but will rather provide practical and financial support to them. It will also act as a liaison between the various expat communities within any one country.

I realize that this entire project is rather unusual and out of the mainstream, therefore, difficult for multinational and government employers to appreciate its necessity and viability. It is for this reason I sent a copy of my prospectus to Mrs. Aguirre (letter dated March 12, 2007) in the hope that she may be in a better position to judge the value of this project. As to date I have not heard from her and am unaware if she ever received my correspondence.

I the past weeks I have also sent a copy of my prospectus to the following people and departments in the US State Department, and would appreciate your assistance in confirming receipt of these correspondences:

Offices and Organizations, Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide - office@aafsw.org
 Ann DeLong Greenberg, Director of the Family Liaison Office - Family Liaison Office
 U.S. Department of State -Room 1239 -Harry S Truman Building -2201 C Street, NW -Washington, DC 20520 -
 Email: flo@state.gov
 Transition Center - FSICTTraining@state.gov
 Overseas Briefing Center - FSIOBCInfoCenter@state.gov
 Career Transition Center - FSICTC@state.gov

This project provides a viable solution to all of the challenges expatriated families face during their years abroad and hope that the US State Department might assist me in the logistics of developing it.

Sincerely,
 Quenby Wilcox – Founder, administration@global-expats.com , www.global-expats.com

encl.: correspondence to Ann DeLong Greenberg, Director of the Family
 Liaison Office March 25, 2007



Quenby Wilcox
 Apartado de Correos # 9
 28692 Urb. Villafranca del Castillo
 Madrid, Spain
administration@global-expats.com
www.global-expats.com

Ann DeLong Greenberg
 Family Liaison Office, U.S. Department of State
 Room 1239, Harry S Truman Building
 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20520
 Tel: 202-647-1076, 1-800-440-0397 Fax: 202-647-1670
 Email: flo@state.gov

Dear Ms. DeLong Greenberg;

March 25, 2007

In my various efforts to contact the US State Department's "Human Resource Department", I called the State Department and was passed on to Ms. Connie Hansen, Overseas Briefing Center Coordinator, Transition Center/Overseas Briefing Center who later referred me to the OBC's Intranet and Internet webpages, and is where I found the name of your center and email address. It is for this reason I have taken the liberty of contacting you.

The two major problems of the accompanying spouse of expatriated employees, whether from the private or public sector are as follows:

- Maintaining a career and financial-independence while abroad
- Adapting to a new country and environment as well as helping her (or his) family in their adaptation process

There exist various expat associations and clubs which attempt to assist expat communities. These groups are increasingly faced with difficulties in finding volunteers to organize and manager activities as well as to raise funding for their charitable causes. It is for this reason that I have developed the idea for a new association/company, which essentially copies the basic structure of organizations such as FAWCO, but which produces for-profit products and services. Please see enclosed prospectus which explains the concept in its entirety.

The first phase of my project, www.global-expats.com, is completed and available on the Internet since November 2006. This portal/website will rely on the global communication network afforded

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trailing spouses to promote its own entrepreneurial efforts as well as encourage and assist its members to develop their own. The net profits of this organization will then be used to promote its philanthropic interests, concentrating on micro-financing and educational opportunities.

I hope that you will take a moment to look over this prospectus, and contact me with any questions you may have about specific programs, strategies, weaknesses, strengths, challenges, etc. as I would be more than happy to explain in detail the various aspects of my plan.

I sincerely, hope that the State Department will encourage their expatriated employees to visit our website as well as participate in its interactive portions, as their participation is vital to developing this cross-cultural, global network.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Quenby Wilcox