



March 22, 2007

InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights
1889 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

RE: *Dombrowski, et. al.* concerning human rights violations against abused women and children by United States family courts.

Dear Commissioners:

Stop Family Violence (SFV) is a project of the Tides Center, a 501(c)(3) non profit located in San Francisco, CA. SFV is a grassroots activist organization that works to ensure safety, justice, accountability and healing for people whose lives are affected by violent relationships.

We write to urge you to give serious consideration to the above referenced petition, and to take whatever actions are within your power to help resolve the egregious violations described within..

Stop Family Violence is contacted by an average of three mothers each week who have lost child custody to fathers who abuse the mother and/or the children. We know of several situations where protective mothers have been jailed for speaking out against the court's actions in an effort to protect their children; of numerous others who have been gagged and forbidden to speak about the abuse under threat of incarceration.. We know of numerous situations where protective mothers have been coerced into signing stipulated agreements against their children's interests under threat of incarceration or full loss of custody. We know of countless situations where children have been removed from the protective parent by *ex-parte* proceedings , with blatant disregard for due process. And we know of protective mothers who have sought relief from state officials and state legislators and none have helped. This is a widespread national problem for which there has been insufficient concern or remedy.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Irene Weiser, Executive Director