



BRUTAL SWEDISH SS STEAL CHILD

By Robin Phillips

A Christian father is awaiting trial in Sweden for taking his son back from Social Services.

Christer Johansson walked out of a government centre with his son Domenic during one of the hour-long contact sessions they had been allowed every five weeks since Domenic was removed from them in June 2009.

Mr. Johansson now awaits trial on the charge of kidnapping his son. The trial is scheduled for later this month. If he is convicted he will remain in prison until around the time Domenic is released from foster care at the age of 18.

The trouble started on June 26, 2009, when seven-year old Domenic was seated in a commercial airliner with his parents awaiting departure of a flight to India.

Though the family had received no prior warning, Swedish authorities boarded the plane just minutes before take-off, forcibly removing Domenic from the custody of his parents and placing him in foster care.

Domenic is a dual citizen of Sweden and India. His mother's family all

live in India, where the family was planning to move to.

But Swedish Social Services in Domenic's home town of Gotland wanted to prevent the move from taking place so that Domenic would be forced to attend their school. The family received no preliminary warning, nor had they been forbidden to

READ: Malachi 4:6; Mark 9:42.

WRITE: See page 2.

PRAY: Domenic loves his parents and grandparents. He had a rich and happy childhood and was well provided for by his intelligent Christian parents. However, in the socialist nation of Sweden it is the State that is the ultimate parent. Drunk with a sense of

their own omnipotence, Swedish Social Services could not let the family move to India for the simple reason that they would no longer be able to force Domenic to attend their schools.

Currently both the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) and the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) are examining what options are available in international tribunals to help reunite the family. However, short of a miracle, it is unlikely that anything can be done. So we

must pray that God works a miracle.

Pray for Domenic, that the Lord would protect him, comfort him and preserve him against the day when he will be reunited with his parents.

Pray for Domenic's mother, Annie, who has been in the hospital several times for treatment of depression and a heart condition since this ordeal began.



leave the country.

After Domenic's abduction, there followed an agonizing 18 months leading up to the incident when Christer Johansson decided to defy the social services and bring Domenic home. That was on 22 November. Two days later, police descended on their home and arrested Mr. Johansson and once again took Domenic into captivity.

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Pray for Christer as he awaits trial, that the Lord would sustain him and be his strength. On 9 December, Gotland's courts once again rejected Christer's request to be defended by Human Rights lawyer Tryggve Emstedt. Instead, the court has assigned their own public defender, Attorney Brambhat, to the case. The family has little confidence in this lawyer, who is the same one that worked with them since last year in trying to retrieve custody of Domenic. Pray that the Lord would enable Christer to get the legal representation that he needs.

It is uncertain when the Gotland courts will be issuing a formal charge against Christer, as they keep changing the dates. The latest statement, as of writing this article, is that formal charges will be brought against him on 20 December.

WRITE: It is just possible that if enough international pressure is brought to bear on the Swedish government, they will be forced to re-evaluate their unjust decision. We need as many people as possible to contact the Swedish Embassy to express their concern. Contact them at:

Her Excellency Ms Nicola Clase
Swedish Embassy in London,
11 Montagu Place
London W1H 2AL
Phone: 020 7917 6400
Fax: 020 7724 4174
Email: ambassaden.london@foreign.ministry.se,
ambassaden.london-visum@foreign.ministry.se

Also, contact the High Commission of India in London to ask if anything is being done about this on their side since Domenic is a citizen of India. Contact them at:

His Excellency Nailn Surie
High Commission of India in London
India House, Aldwych, LONDON WC2B 4NA
Phone: 020 7836 8484
Fax: 020 7836 4331
Email: 114343.3045@compuserve.com

Sign the petition to return Domenic to his parents at <http://tinyurl.com/2acehd7>

Send letters of encouragement to Christer in prison. He is fluent in English. To do so, follow these instructions.

First, place your letter/postcard in an envelope. On that envelope write:

To Christer Johansson, 690615-3231

Next, place this envelope into another envelope and on this outer envelope write this address:

Kriminalvården
Klient och säkerhetsenheten
SE-601 80 Norrköping
SWEDEN

Once received, Kriminalvården will send your letter to Gotland and will see that it is delivered to Christer.

To contact Annie, who is also fluent in English, write to

Annie Johansson, c/o Rune Johansson
Alva Gudings 363
623 46 Hemse
SWEDEN

DONATE money through PayPal. All donations go directly to the Johansson's fight for justice. Information about how to donate can be found on the Friends of Domenic blog at <http://friendsofdomenic.blogspot.com>. This blog also provides continual updates on the situation.

THE JOHANNSON SAGA: THE FULL STORY

The Johansson's tragic saga began when Domenic was six and his father, Christer Johansson, contacted the Swedish Ministry of Education to inquire about home education. (In Sweden, seven is the age when compulsory education begins.)

Because they were planning on relocating soon to India to be with Annie's family, Christer thought it would be best to homeschool Domenic during the interim. While Christians, the parents were not committed to homeschooling on ideological grounds and had planned on putting their son in public school once they reached India.

Annie has two Masters Degrees and is highly qualified in the task of educating her son. Moreover, homeschooling was not illegal in Sweden at the time.

When Mr. Johansson got in touch with the Swedish Ministry of Education to inquire about home education, the Ministry told him to contact his local school principal in order to obtain the necessary curriculum. However, when Mr. Johansson contacted the principal of the nearest public school, the principal refused to provide the materials, saying "You don't have the right to educate your son and I will be taking this further."

What the principal meant by "taking it further" was that the family would be reported to the social services. Mr. Johansson didn't know that at the time, but he did know that the Ministry of Education, Swedish law and Europe's Universal Declaration of Human Rights all allowed them to homeschool. So he

and Annie began homeschooling Domenic.

Officials at the local school district were furious about this and called Mr. Johansson before a hearing of the Child and Education Department. During the hearing Mr. Johansson explained to the judge that the family was planning on relocating to India in six weeks to be with Annie's family. It did not make sense to keep Domenic in the state school only to withdraw him shortly afterwards. The judge replied, "Ok, fine" and asked for the date of travel.

No court order was issued prohibiting the family from leaving the country. Domenic is a dual citizen of Sweden and India and had every right to accompany his parents on the move. Thus, Christer and Annie were shocked when the authorities boarded the airliner and forcibly abducted Domenic.

Social Services' only purpose in removing Domenic from the flight was to prevent him moving to India where he would be outside the jurisdiction of the Swedish state schools. He was not truant from school at the time because it was summer break. As the Alliance Defence fund have pointed out in their application of appeal to the European Court of Human Rights:

"Domenic Johansson was removed from that plane only because social services believed it knew better than his parents what was in Domenic's best interest; a belief steeped in discrimination against their religious and philosophical beliefs with regard to Domenic's upbringing and education...Swedish

officials removed this boy from an international flight solely to prevent his parents from moving to another nation and from educating him in a manner that is lawful in India, in Sweden, and in a majority of nations..."

"PLEASE LET ME COME HOME"

For the Johansson family, that was just the beginning of their troubles. After the plane incident, the immediate problem was how to get Domenic back.

Christer and Annie were only able to visit their son, now in foster care, for one hour every five weeks.

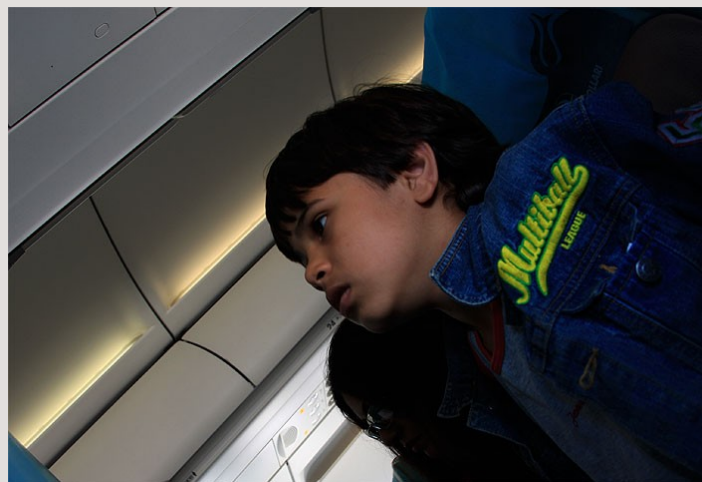
But they soon faced a new dilemma. The visits with their son were allowed to continue but only on the condition that they pretend to their son that they did not want him to come home with them and were happy for him to be in foster care. Social Services said they would lose visitation rights forever if they did not keep up the pretence.

During every visit there was always a social worker in the room, listening to every word and taking notes.

I interviewed a man who spoke to Christer last September when this was going on. He said:

"In September Christer expressed his frustration to me that social services was putting extreme pressure on him and his wife to pretend to Domenic that they don't want him back and that they are happy with his current custodial arrangement, in order to be allowed to have continued visitation.

Christer said that the requirement to pretend to be happy with the situation was putting a great deal of additional mental and emotional stress on his family, beyond what you would expect from the situation itself."



Domenic in the plane watching as police board to put him into foster care. The Swedish Social Services' purpose in preventing the family moving to India is because they wanted Domenic to attend the state schools in Sweden

After 18 months, the Johannsons finally exhausted all the legal appeals available to them in the Swedish court system. They had hired one of the best human rights lawyers in Europe, but the judge dismissed her from the case. Last December, the Supreme Administrative Court of Sweden rejected their final appeal on the grounds that by preventing the family moving to India, the court was protecting Domenic's "right to education."

Meanwhile, it became increasingly difficult for Christer and Annie to keep lying to their son. Every time the visits occurred, Domenic would ask, "please let me come home." And every time the parents were forced to try to pretend that they didn't want Domenic back.

Christer knew what often happened to other Swedish chil-

dren in foster care, and worried for his son's safety. In Daniel Hammarberg's shocking exposé of the Swedish social services, *The Madhouse: A Critical Study of Swedish Society*, Hammarberg gives alarming evidence of what happens to the mental health of children like Domenic who have been taken away from their parents. Some of the victims of the Swedish Social Services, such as 13 year old Elin, have even committed suicide. Christer began to worry what might happen to Domenic if he continued to think that his parents were rejecting him.

"My life is ruined, thanks to the Linköping social services... The only thing they do is destroy other people's lives, so stay away from them. If your parents need help, just tell them to ignore getting help, because that's the safest." -penned by 13 year old Elin shortly before she took her life. Social services cannot exercise LVU over her anymore.

This put the parents in an agonizing dilemma. Should they continue to lie to their son and destroy his faith in the only two human beings in this world that truly love him? Or should they tell Domenic the truth - that they love him and want him back?

After an excruciatingly difficult time of deliberation, Christer decided to tell his son the truth and suffer the consequences. So earlier this month during visitation, Domenic once again begged his father to take him home. This time, instead of lying, Christer said, "ok, let's go." The social workers in Sweden are unarmed so there was nothing they could do to stop him from walking out of the room with Domenic.

Domenic was able to spend a beautiful day and a half with his parents and grandparents, whom he had not seen in 18 months. During this time Christer and Annie explained to Domenic the truth. They explained that they had not rejected him, that they loved him and had been fighting for his freedom all this time. They told him that whatever happened they would always love him.

'HELD HOSTAGE' BY THE GOVERNMENT

The police wasted no time. When they found out where the family was, several squad cars descended upon the Johansson home. Armed police swept in, dragging Domenic out into the unseasonably frigid temperatures without even giving him an opportunity to get his jacket. Christer was thrown into jail, charged with kidnapping his own son. He faces up to 10 years in prison if he is convicted.

"I have never in 20 years of practice seen a case more badly handled," commented Harrold-Claesson, a noted international human rights lawyer and president of the Nordic Committee for Human Rights. She continued:

"This family has been so traumatized that they may never recover. The Swedish government has grossly violated this family's human rights, both under Swedish law and under the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR). Under the ECHR people have the right to leave their country. But in this case the social services took this poor little boy and prevented him from leaving with his parents. He is being held a hostage—essentially kidnapped by the Swedish government. It is an absolute embarrassment for Sweden and for every person involved in this case. Each person, from the social workers to the judges, should be ashamed of their behaviour and their continuing callousness towards this family. They all must be brought to justice for their crimes against the Johansson family."