

To the Belgium Government,

I have known Samui and Carlos for about 2 years and would eat dinner with them weekly for most of that time. I also would advise Samui on-line about pursuing a career in art and creating projects with her to help develop her skills. In addition, I introduced her to art mentors who could help her improve. More importantly I discussed and advised her about things she had not learned about life.

Samui struggled with emotional issues and did not really understand when she was being inappropriate or whether she was feeling happy or sad. I believe she had a dissociative disorder caused by an unloving mother who abandoned her, and a stern and stoic father who does not know how to put into words that he loves his daughter.

I can say without a doubt that Trivino Y Garcia Abelardo (who I will refer to as Carlos henceforth), loves his daughter Samui. For the time I have known him, his life revolved around making sure that Samui was getting a proper education at her school. He took an active role in helping her learn how to speak and write English when the school proved lacking. He also helped her participate in a variety of activities like self-defense training and horseback riding. Carlos is poor at expressing his emotions in words because he believes his actions prove his intent. I wish that he could have been more emotionally available to his daughter, but I would say that he was a good father to her in all the ways that mattered.

Concerning claims of physical abuse. While I did see moments of anger between Carlos and Samui due to behaviors he found frustrating, I never witnessed Carlos inflict physical harm on Samui. I also never saw bruising or injuries on Samui (despite her being involved in self-defense training and horse-back riding), and the one incident she told me of where Carlos may have laid hands on her happened before I had met them. Based on her description of events it seemed to me that she crossed a line that could have pushed Carlos over the edge. While I disagree with physical violence in every circumstance except self-defense, I would not characterize Carlos and Samui's relationship as physically abusive. In fact, I often would bring my own daughter on trips with Carlos and Samui for dinner, and I still bring my daughter to dinners with Carlos because I have no fear of him causing her any harm.

Samui has been disconnected from the internet recently, which has been disconcerting for me. I had established a measure of trust with her and she has confided in me events and feelings that she has not shared with her father or others. Without this connection on-line, I am concerned she may have no one she trusts to talk to, particularly since all her established friends were on-line. I believe it is critical that Samui be allowed to connect to the internet and have access to her accounts on Facebook, Discord, and LINE. Primarily so her father can contact her, but also so her friends can keep in touch and give Samui an outlet for expression via art and conversation. I worry that she may not be able to converse with people in Belgium the same way she could communicate with her friends on-line.



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I hope that she is doing well and that you see fit to returning custody to Carlos. He has been her primary parent for her entire life and I don't think she understood fully what she was doing when she made allegations against him. It seems uncharacteristic of her to do so and I imagine there is someone in Belgium manipulating her for some unknown purpose.

I am happy to answer any and all questions you may have.

Please contact me,

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Best Wishes,

-David Kristofer Fried

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David K. Fried", written over a horizontal line.

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