

# **PARENT RELEASED by FEDERAL COURT after petitioning Sen. Clinton for reform.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, September 18, 2007**

Syracuse, NY (Hanley Federal Building) – After spending 4 nights in a local jail, Mr. John Murtari of Lyons, NY, was released on Tuesday (Sep 17), by US Magistrate Judge DiBianco. In the last two weeks Murtari has been arrested on three separate occasions in front of the US Federal Building in Syracuse. Two of the earlier arrests were caused by his writing with kid's chalk on the ground of the Federal Plaza. The words were "I Love Dom" (a reference to his son), and "Sen. Clinton Help Us". The most recent arrest, on the 13<sup>th</sup>, occurred when Murtari was standing quietly in front of the Federal building holding a picture of he and his son, along with other parents, and a similar message. Murtari was accused of violating an earlier order by US Magistrate DiBianco that prohibited from walking on the Federal Plaza without prior permission of the Court.

During recent Court appearances Murtari apologized to the Judge for violating his order, but also spoke of the need for Family Law reform and protecting the Civil Right of mothers, fathers, and children to be secure as family. A need to control the ease of parent/child splits that presently occur due to divorce, separation, or the actions of social services. He tried to make a comparison to the actions of the black 'Freedom Riders' from the 50s who would peacefully sit in the front of a bus, accepting arrest to call attention to the injustice of segregation.

Murtari's group, AKidsRight.Org, hopes that a local meeting between group members and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) may be near. Local and national members have been calling and faxing the offices of Senator Clinton regarding the recognition and protection of their Civil Right to raise their own children. The group hopes this simple act will demonstrate their love for the kids and their deep convictions that serious reform is necessary.

The Group would like Senator Clinton to respond to their petitions for Congressional Hearings into the need for National Family Law reform and potentially a Family Rights Act, by meeting with local parents. The Group is hoping for Congressional Hearings into Family Law reform so that group members affected by the present patchwork of laws across the nation will have a chance to tell their stories.

The Group's web site highlights the NonViolent philosophy and practice Martin Luther King used to break the grip of segregation. It hopes a similar attitude will help bring reform and also healing to parents who are often involved in bitter child custody disputes with each other or social services.

Mr. Murtari, a native of Lyons, New York and a former Air Force pilot and Academy graduate is a local coordinator for the group. He is the President of a small Internet startup company located in Baldwinsville, NY. Last year he was involved in a hunger strike which gained national attention and caused a movie producer, Mr. Angelo Lobo, to visit Syracuse and interview Murtari in jail. Lobo includes footage of Murtari in his upcoming film, "Support?", on the failures of the Nation's family law system. Film trailers including Murtari are visible at <http://www.supportthemovie.com/>

In contrast to the bitterness and anger which is normally associated with protest efforts and

family issues -- Murtari plans a positive attitude. He says they are NOT there to condemn Senator Clinton as a "bad person" or as someone who doesn't care about family or children's issues; however, as a natural part of the political process they want to show their concern over the issue and to increase her sensitivity to their cause.

**For more information:**

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Background information at the web site: [www.AKidsRight.Org/clinton](http://www.AKidsRight.Org/clinton)

An electronic version of the release is available at:

<http://www.AKidsRight.Org/clinton/release38.pdf>