Blondin I, 19 F. Supp. 2d at 128. Moreover, in December 1999, the psychiatrist readily admitted that some of Marie-Eline’s “spontaneous” expressions of abuse, such as a fear of her father strangling her, or living in a shelter, could have come only from descriptions of abuse given to her by her mother, since such incidents occurred when Marie-Eline was too young to remember them. (A348-50). Notwithstanding this testimony, the district court summarily concluded that it did not believe Marie-Eline's statements were influenced by her mother. Given the circumstances, it is extremely unlikely that Marie-Eline's views could have been sufficiently free of her abducting parent’s influence to amount to an objection properly cognizable under the Convention.

We do not suggest that the testimony of a younger child cannot be considered as evidence that abuse has occurred or that return to the immediate custody of an abusive parent would pose a grave risk of harm. That is different, however, from giving effect to a carefully considered “objection” by an older child to returning to her former country of residence, based on her independent and mature assessment of her own interests.

**CONCLUSION**

T**he judgment of the district court should be reversed.**

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Respectfully submitted,

MARY JO WHITE,

United States Attorney for the

Southern District of New York,

Attorney for Amicus Curiae

United States of America.

WENDY H. SCHWARTZ,

GIDEON A. SCHOR,

Assistant United States Attorneys,

Of Counsel.

**Certificate of Compliance**

Pursuant to Rules 29(c), (d), and 32(a)(7)(C) of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, the undersigned counsel for the United States hereby certifies that this brief complies with the type-volume limitation of Rule 32(a)(7)(B). As measured by the word processing system used to prepare this brief, there are 6964 words in the brief.

MARY JO WHITE,

United States Attorney for the

Southern District of New York,

By:WENDY H. SCHWARTZ,

Assistant United States Attorney