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,

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**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.

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