

May 8, 2009

Mrs. Michelle Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Obama,

My name is Pedro Arturo Lopez Vega. I am the son of Consuelo Vega Nava, one of the workers that was caught in the May 12, 2008 Postville Raid at Agriprocessors, Inc. She was sentenced to five months in jail and then deported to Mexico on October 25th, 2008. She did not talk about me and my little sister because she was afraid that they would send us to jail with her. I don't want anybody to suffer the way I did because it is very painful when they take away the one person you can always trust and count on.

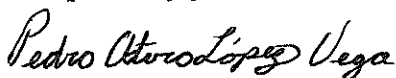
It has been almost a year since I last saw my mom. I know that as a mother, you can imagine how my mother must have felt spending days and nights without knowing anything about her children or her husband.

The raid has affected me and my family in many ways. My 9-year old sister Samantha would go into her room and "talk" to my mom while she was actually not there. My nephew who was 8 months at the time, would always crawl to the front door and wait for my mom and after she would not show up, he would start to cry. As for me, instead of my mom waking me up, giving me a kiss, and sending me to school, my older sister Juanita has do it. When I come back from school I don't receive the warm hug that my mom used to give me and when I go to sleep I miss her goodnight kiss and her blessing for the night.

I don't wake up with the same desire to go to school as I used to but I get up, go to school, and do my homework because I promised my mom that I would get my education and try to be successful in life.

I would very much appreciate it if you could ask your husband to give my mother a three day visa so she can come to Postville and see my graduation from 8th grade on May 29 of 2009 and allow me to show her that I kept my promise.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pedro Arturo Lopez Vega".

Pedro Arturo Lopez Vega
332 North Reynolds Street
Postville, Iowa 52162