

**John Denker**  
PhD CFII-ME

8913 E Harborage Dr.  
Tucson, AZ 85710-6226  
520 903 8090 voice or text  
520 526 2497 fax  
pol@av8n.com

Senator Jeff Flake  
Senate Russell Office Building 413  
Washington, D.C. 20510

202 224 4521  
202 228 0515 fax

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Hi –

Separating families at the border is hostage-taking, pure and simple. Taking children as hostages. It's immoral and sinful. It would make a nice article of impeachment, as a crime against international law. One article among so very many.

Here's a scholarly paper from 2003 that analyzes the legal issues:

<https://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1239&context=bjil>

The UN Human Rights Office recently made the same point:

[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jun/05/](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jun/05/un-says-us-must-stop-separating-migrant-children-from-parents)

[un-says-us-must-stop-separating-migrant-children-from-parents](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jun/05/un-says-us-must-stop-separating-migrant-children-from-parents)

The administration has *admitted* their policy is a “negotiating tool,” which is a transparent euphemism for hostage-taking, to extort funding for their wall:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-cites-as-a-negotiating-tool-his-policy-of-separating-immigrant-children-from-their-parents/2018/06/15/ade82b80-70b3-11e8-bf86-a2351b5ece99_story.html)

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They are exploiting the DREAMers, too. Same tactic, different hostages.

As I assume you know, it is standard good policy to never negotiate with hostage-takers. Even if you think you can get them to give up the current set of hostages, you just embolden them to take more hostages in the future. No wall unless Mexico pays. The campaign promises were explicit and emphatic. Not one red cent of US funding for the wall. And stop using people as pawns and hostages!

When are you going to do something to stop these outrages?

Yours truly,

*John L Denker*