"The official told me and other moms not to ask for our children and told us that we would never see our children ever again."

- KM, a Honduran mother forcibly separated from her son

These first-person accounts were shared with Caitlin Dickerson for her definitive investigation into the Trump administration's family separation policy in The Atlantic which won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting.

"When we arrived, we were put in freezing cold rooms. They put my son in one room and me in another but in the same facility - separating us."

"About 2 days later we saw each other again and they took us somewhere else - to la perrera. There, again they separated us. Then I was taken out of there a day later and I didn't see my son again for a month."

"I went in front of a judge at first shackled from my hands and ankles - it was humiliating - on my waist as well. It hurt very much and was really hard to walk and get on the bus, etc. The judge said we were guilty for having crossed the border illegally."

"After that, they sent us to a detention center. From when I got there, it felt like I was being punished. On the way there, they told us we would see our kids when we got there, but then when we arrived, the official told me and other moms not to ask for our children and told us that we would never see our children ever again and that we were in prison now."

"We were in a tiny room that was freezing. They took away our sweaters so we were even colder. The next day they took us to a place to put on uniforms and put us in a cell. They said we couldn't go anywhere. We didn't know where our children were."

"Then about a month later, they reunited us. He was angry I had left him alone - I tried to explain that I hadn't wanted to. It made me feel very bad. Living with him was very difficult. I had a lot of problems trying to take care of him. He would say he wanted to go back to Honduras and didn't want to be with me. He wasn't acting up before - he would have never disrespected me."

"My son is indifferent towards me now and only speaks to me when he asks for food or money, but doesn't speak more than that. He always wants to be alone and is locked up in his room. I feel like he feels like I'm his enemy - and it wasn't like this before."