

Iwakiri...

(Continued from Metro)

care center.

But Iwakiri said he and his wife never cared for the children and have no knowledge of them. He said it would not be worth it to conceal information and possibly lose their own children.

"What can we do to make the judicial system believe we are innocent?" he asked. "If we had any knowledge of this case, do you think I would let my wife go to prison and sit there hurting and let my kids hurt if all they wanted is their whereabouts?"

Juanita Iwakiri has been in prison since July 24 at the Northern Idaho Correctional Institution at Cottonwood, where her husband visits her three hours a day on Saturdays and Sundays.

During the week, Mike Iwakiri, 33, collects bills for a utility in Boise and cares for his two sons, Kelly, 8, and Jerry, 2.

Because of legal expenses, the Iwakiris' had to sell their \$50,000 house, spend \$13,000 in cash and declare bankruptcy. He said he kept his car and household goods.

Iwakiri said he could not afford the \$5,000 it would have cost to appeal his wife's conviction. The public defender's office is working on an appeal, he said.

Judge Robert Newhouse retained 120-day jurisdiction of the case and could reduce her sentence or place her on probation at the end of that time. Otherwise, she will be eligible for parole in about 18 months.

Meanwhile, Iwakiri said he plans to mail copies of the letter and picture to the National Enquirer (it ran a story about the missing girls shortly after they disappeared), the National Examiner and Grit as well as Redbook, McCall's and Cosmopolitan magazines.

Iwakiri said he is asking the people who have the girls or have information about them to call him, because "we have suffered enough pain and heartache."