

June 3, 2014

Dear Readers, Students, and Educators:

Breaking Free: True Stories of Girls Who Escaped Modern Slavery recounts the harrowing stories of three women—Somaly Mam, Minh Dang, and Maria Suarez—each of whom have become leading advocates and activists in the anti-trafficking movement.

Within a few weeks of the book's release, *Newsweek Magazine* published an article (May 30th, 2014 issue) reporting that Somaly Mam had fabricated and embellished her life story. As a result, Somaly Mam has resigned as president of her Foundation.

To say the least, this news came as a complete surprise to us. These accusations are extremely disturbing and disappointing, and we sincerely apologize for any alleged fictitious content in our book regarding Somaly's story. Nonetheless, we continue to believe that the work of Minh, Maria, and other human rights activists and organizations should not be tarnished as a result of these revelations concerning one individual. The work they do to rescue girls who have fallen victim to the scourge of human trafficking can and should be respected, even in light of this recent development.

The author and staff of Barron's Educational Series hope that you still find this book to be an informative and thought-provoking call-to-action for all those committed to ending human trafficking.

Sincerely yours,

Abby Sher

The Staff of
Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

