On Dec 2, 2011, at 4:27, "Riedmann, Scott R" <RiedmannSR@state.gov> wrote:

Dear

I wanted to write to you personally about this situation.

As you know, the Embassy has been very active on this issue and has been engaging the Government of Ethiopia for resolution. We have had several high level meetings with Ministers trying to work this out. The Ambassador met with the President of SNNPR and with the Minister of Women’s, Children’s and Youth Affairs. I have accompanied him on many meetings and had several of my own with Ethiopian interlocutors.

What we have learned is that the process of reunification is still ongoing. The regional authorities have already reunited some children with their families; others cannot be reunited; others cases are still ongoing. However, we were specifically inquiring about 14 children that had been taken to St. Francisco Orphanage and that we were under the impression had cleared court. As it turns out, all had not. Of these fourteen, 10 were cleared and their adoptions are are, as far as we know, proceeding and being processed by the adoption service providers. Some already had court decrees and we are processing those cases at the Embassy. The remainder are awaiting court dates, again as far as we know.

Four of these children died as a result of a measles outbreak at the St. Francisco orphanage. The information we have received about the measles outbreak and the orphanage’s handling of it indicates that the orphanage did the best it could to manage the situation. St. Francisco received 68 children from the closed orphanages in SNNPR and none had any medical or historical records. My understanding is that the children came to St. Francisco in very bad condition. One child came down with the measles after entering St. Francisco and infected a few other children. They were taken
to a hospital and treated, but four of them died. It was tragic, but I suppose it could have been much worse. Outbreaks like this are a sad reality in this part of the world.

From the information we received, there were a few other children that passed away during the shift from the closed orphanages to other orphanages. To our understanding these other children did not die because of measles but from other maladies. As I said, most of the children coming from the closed orphanages were in very bad condition.

From the information we received, there was one child named [redacted] female, age 7 months that passed away on 24Sep2011. I do not know if this is the child you were matched with or not. Only your adoption service agency can answer that, and they should be in my opinion. I believe your adoption service provider is [redacted]. Please correct me if I am wrong. [redacted] should be talking to you about this and explaining what is going on. I find it unconscionable and unethical that they would not share information with you all about the situation.

If there is anything you would like to share with us about your relationships with [redacted] we would like to know. I would be more than willing to discuss this over the telephone if you would like.

Sincerely

Scott Riedmann
Chief of the Consular Section
U.S. Embassy, Addis Ababa
http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov

Privacy/PII
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.
---Original Message---
From: Addis, Adoption <ConsAdoptionAdcis@state.gov>
To: 
Sent: Tue, Nov 29, 2011 2:16 am
Subject: Adoption 11.29.2011

family,

Thank you for your email regarding your adoption case. We understand that these children have been released and are hopefully travelling to Addis Ababa for the final paperwork. From our side of things we are expediting these cases as quickly as possible.

From your email it appears that you do not yet have a court decree. Please continue to work with your agency or any other representative that you feel will be able to process the case. Once the case is complete we will work quickly to send it through our process here at the Embassy.

If you are still unable to locate your child please let us know. We believe that all of the children are free but if you have heard otherwise please keep us informed.

Adoption Unit
US Embassy
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia