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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Strand, Senior Reviewer
From: Parker, Christine D  
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 2:20 PM  
To: Teklu, TSION  
Subject: FW: Cases of 90 birth families in Arba minch demanding kids back

TSION can you please either call or work w/ Elias and Merid to call the SNNPR BOWCYA office to talk to the Alternative Care Task Force about these cases, and find out if there is any truth to this? If you can’t get through there, please try UNICEF since they are working closely w/ the alternative care task force. Thanks!

Christine Parker  
Deputy Consular Section Chief  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
ParkerCD2@state.gov

The Embassy’s website is: http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov  
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From: Riedmann, Scott R  
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 2:14 PM  
To: Parker, Christine D  
Subject: RE: Cases of 90 birth families in Arba minch demanding kids back

Let’s call SNNPR first and find out what the Alternative Care Task Force knows about this.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Parker, Christine D  
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:20 PM  
To: Riedmann, Scott R  
Subject: Cases of 90 birth families in Arba minch demanding kids back

Several blog posts today about 90 families who have filed petitions in Arba Minch to seek to reclaim children they had TEMPORARILY left at SOS enfants in Arba Minch. Those children were allegedly adopted out without their knowledge or consent.

SOS Arba Minch was the orphanage where the director was accused of illegally transferring several busses of children to Addis Ababa (no one was sure of the exact number) last June/July just before the orphanage was physically closed. That is also the area that had 160+ “abandoned” children in 2010-early 2011 and 0 after the orphanage closed. We processed hundreds of cases through SOS Arba Minch in the last couple of years – it’s a good bet most of those are US cases.

Should we have TSION call over to MOWCYA, or do we want to try SNNPR regional office first?

Christine Parker