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NEW DELHI PLEASE PASS TO DHS/USCIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, CASC, KFRD, KOCI, NP
SUBJECT: GON INVESTIGATING OVER 50 CHILDREN'S HOMES

1. (SBU) The Government of Nepal (GON) is investigating over 50 children's homes in the Kathmandu Valley for alleged child abuse, forced begging and buying and selling of children. Confirmed that of the 50 organizations under investigation five were homes approved to process international adoptions. Post is working to identify the five homes to determine whether any have previously provided children for U.S. adoption.

2. (SBU) Over 600 organizations are registered with the Government of Nepal (GON) to work with children in the Kathmandu Valley; of these, 366 are authorized to function as orphanages. According to the GON registered over 100 new orphanages in the last year. Commented that the GON had found that over 60 percent of the 600 organizations were not fully compliant with regulations. In the last year, the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare approved 10 new orphanages to process international adoption cases, in addition to the 25 orphanages already permitted to process international adoptions.

3. (SBU) According to the GON had already found five of the 50 organizations under investigation guilty of abuses, none of which
processed children for adoption. The District administration Office (DAO) had revoked the organizations' registration. Nepalese NGO's, including children's homes, must be registered with relevant ministries through the Social Welfare Council and with the DAO in order to function legally.

COMMENT

4. (SBU) Nepal's legal framework for child protection is limited and insufficient to combat the problems created by poverty and corruption. However, it is encouraging that the GON is at least beginning to enforce the laws, however inadequate, that are already on the books.

Moriarty

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