Hi Folks,

I just wanted to share this was the response I got today from the Embassy.

Warmly,

-----Original Message-----
From: Addis, Adoption <ConsAdoptionAddis@state.gov>
To: Addis, Adoption <ConsAdoptionAddis@state.gov>
Cc: Landenson, Jeffrey L <Landenson.JL@state.gov>
Sent: Mon, Apr 4, 2011 7:03 am
Subject: RE: PLEASE forward to Consul Landenson

Dear Mr. and Mrs.

Jeff is out today but I can provide you with an update. We have not received anything additional from the Government of Ethiopia regarding your report concerning the allegations of abuse and the discrepancies in your children's life histories since we passed that information to them in December. However, we did meet with Holt representatives today and they gave us the same information that you did about the actions they've taken to address your concerns. I agree that they took your concerns seriously and took further actions not only on your case, but to reduce the possibility of these incidents happening again in future.

If you have any more information or additional questions, you are always welcome to contact us.

Sincerely,

Abby Rupp
Consular Chief

Privacy/PII
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

-----Original Message-----
From:
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 4:56 PM
To: Addis, Adoption
Subject: Fwd: PLEASE forward to Consul Landenson

PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO CONSUL LANDENSON IN ADDIS ABABA.

-----Original Message-----
From:
To: Landenson.JL@state.gov
Sent: Fri, Apr 1, 2011 6:56 pm
Subject: Adoption of

April 1, 2011
Regarding the Adoption of:

Dear Vice Consul Ladenson;

I have written to the American Consulate several times requesting information regarding the adoption of our children, who were adopted in March of 2010. I had previously shared our concerns with the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa via e-mail surrounding the details of our adoption and our quest for answers. I am also contacting MOWCYA via fax to try and obtain a copy of the apparent investigation that they have conducted involving the circumstances surrounding the adoption of our children. It has been very frustrating up to this point not receiving any communication regarding our children's adoption from neither the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa or MOWCYA. Any assistance that you may be able to give us to obtain a copy of the investigation would be greatly appreciated.

I would also like to give you an update on what has been happening with HOLT since initially contacting the U.S. Embassy in December 2010. I believe we have had several fruitful meeting. At our initial meeting we were told our concerns had been taken very seriously and several systemic changes had been made to help insure that accurate information was obtained in the field. Holt shared that they were sending a team of social workers from the US to better train intake workers in Ethiopia how to more efficiently interview birthparents/caretakers to obtain more complete and accurate family history information. Secondly, Holt informed us that several people working at the Childcare Center were fired for the inappropriate use of discipline. HOLT further reassured us that they are actively re-training their Ethiopian staff in all of the many aspects of international adoption. It is my understanding that HOLT has been using our case as a teaching tool and a catalyst for learning and growth. My husband and I are both very pleased with HOLT's rapid and systematic response to our concerns. We feel very satisfied that HOLT has listened to our concerns and is taking actions to address them. In our opinion HOLT has stepped up to the plate with honesty and integrity to help us.

During one of our meetings with HOLT we shared that we were very anxious to get more information regarding the family history of our daughter. In order to help us to obtain more information HOLT initiated their own field investigation. In February 2011 two social workers from Eugene visited the village in and met with her aunt. They videotaped the interview with an interpreter. In the video aunt stated that she had raised since she was 5 months old and had even breast-fed by her as an infant. Naturally, our daughter called her mom and believed that she was her birth mother. We were given photographs of . Aunt as well as other family members in the household where she grew up. We were able to share these pictures and videotape with our daughter. This has really made a difference to us and to our children. Many of the conflicting stories about our children's family history have been put to rest. We are happy that our children's reality has been validated and that we have gotten much more information regarding family background before she came to us.

We have decided to share this update with the U.S. Embassy to inform you about the progress in our case. We feel satisfied that HOLT has done everything within their power to help us find the answers to the questions we were looking for. We also believe that HOLT's field investigation went above and beyond the call of duty and are grateful to have this family history to share with our daughter. At this point we feel HOLT has done all that they can and have been very transparent in sharing information with us. We are pleased with their efforts.

In closing we are respectfully requesting that any additional information that you or MOWCYA may have regarding and adoption please be shared with us.

Sincerely,