Parents to Storm State House, American Embassy

Tuesday, 19 July 2011

Twenty five surviving parents of an unknown number of children who were trafficked out of the country by the Non-Governmental Organization Help A Needy Child International (HANCI) have _ _ State House and the American Embassy to protest how they have been treated by the Adeliza Commission of Inquiry.

The parents who met with the Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs, Dennis Sandy in his New England Office on Thursday last week expressed their complete disappointment with the commission set up to investigate the disappearance of their children from the Child Welfare Centre set up by HANCI in Makeni between 1997/1998.

“The Commission has not been sitting for the past five weeks and nobody told us what was happening. It was as if they want to _ state us _ we can go back to our villages,” said the Spokesman, Abubakar Kargbo.

The parents are totally convinced that this is a replay of what happened some years back when the Executive Director of HANCI and the others were on court of three charges of child stealing for this same issue. The parents were not given any relevant information concerning the case and when they did not attend the court proceedings, since they were not properly informed, the case was thrown out of court for want of evidence.

In an interview with the Punch Newspaper after their meeting with the Minister Dr. Dennis Sandy, the parents said they believe big and influential people are working very hard to see that this case dies a natural death. They also strongly believe that money has changed hands in this matter and so those who should see that justice is done are dragging their feet on the issue.

“We have sent a letter of protest to His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma through the Minister Dr. Dennis Sandy. If we notice any delay or foot dragging, the women among us have vowed that they will march naked in State House and the American Embassy.”