Parker, Christine D

Sent: Thursday, November 04, 2010 12:36 PM
To: Jacobs, Susan S; Dilworth, Alison E; Stott, Erinn C; Larsen, Jim A
Cc: Parker, Christine D; Ladenson, Jeffrey L
Subject: FW: FW: PEAR releases Ethiopia Survey
Attachments: DOS response-1.doc

PORTIONS ILLEGIBLE

Susan, Alison,

I wanted to make sure you’ve gotten this report. We have a couple of initial thoughts:

- These allegations just lend credence to what we continue to suspect about what’s happening in adoptions here but have yet been able to confirm. There are so many weaknesses in the process that fraud/mismanagement/misinformation can occur at every level, and this is proof.
- The allegations reference a number of agencies – some (like Better Futures, AAI and [redacted]) were on our radar as problematic, but others (Wide Horizons) were more of a surprise. Also, given all of the press on Christian World, we were surprised they were not mentioned at all.
- While the allegations are quite disturbing, I can imagine that it will be hard for any regulatory body (Hague, GOE, or state licensing authority) to follow up in a concrete manner with the agencies without having specific family or case information. I understand that PEAR wishes to safeguard confidentiality but it makes it much more difficult to get to the truth of the accusations when we can’t check specific records.
- It’s also worth mentioning that we have not been contacted by families directly with this information, and we’d like to ask PEAR to forward an email from us asking families who responded to the survey to also reach out to us so we can follow up with them.
- We will share with UNICEF and GOE (including at a yet-to-be confirmed meeting between the Ambassador and the new MOWA minister) and will let you know what responses we get.
- Will you be forwarding to Hague or state licensing authorities for their review? Is this something that should be flagged for Senator Landrieu?

Please let us know your thoughts and if you have suggestions for other steps we can take to address these allegations.

Best, Abby

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Strand, Senior Reviewer

SBU
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 01, 2010 5:33 PM
To: Rupp, Abigail M
Subject: RE: FW: PEAR releases Ethiopia Survey

Thank you Abby. And, yes, it is fine to share with UNICEF.

I was hoping to hand deliver the information to Sarah Shaffer at State this morning in DC, but I blew a tire on the highway and couldn’t make it.

Please see the attached listings. I would also like to let you know that we received some very disturbing reports prior to conducting the survey from families using [redacted] and [redacted]
concerning mistreatment of the children in the care centers run by these organizations. We do not have releases from any of the families to share their stories with DOS or USE, but have encouraged the reporting families to contact the Embassy with their complaints (in the case over 20 families). I am not sure if they have contacted anyone, so I did want to bring it to your attention and maybe you can alert MOWA to investigate the conditions at the centers related to ____ and _____.

Gina Pollock
www.pear-now.org

BE the change you want to see in the world. - Gandhi

--- On Mon, 11/1/10, Rupp, Abigail M <RuppAM@state.gov> wrote:

From: Rupp, Abigail M <RuppAM@state.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: PEAR releases Ethiopia Survey
To: 
Cc: "PEAR Board" <pearboard@yahoogroups.com>
Date: Monday, November 1, 2010, 3:58 AM

Dear Gina,

This would be shared within the US government (SBU), but also with the Government of Ethiopia through official channels. If you feel it is appropriate we would also like to share it with UNICEF, which works closely with us on adoption issues in Ethiopia.

Thank you again for your assistance. Abby

Abigail M. Rupp,
Consular Chief
U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa
+251-11-130-7117
ruppam@state.gov
SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: 
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2010 9:43 PM 
To: Rupp, Abigail M 
Cc: PEAR Board 
Subject: RE: FW: PEAR releases Ethiopia Survey

Dear Ms. Rupp,

Just a quick check on how this information is going to be classified and shared. I am assuming this will be SBU, is that correct? What departments, organizations, etc will this information be shared with?

We have everything ready to send.

Gina Pollock
president
PEAR
www.pear-now.org

BE the change you want to see in the world. - Gandhi

--- On Thu, 10/28/10, Rupp, Abigail M <RuppAM@state.gov> wrote:

From: Rupp, Abigail M <RuppAM@state.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: PEAR releases Ethiopia Survey
To: 
Cc: "Dilworth, Alison E" <DilworthAE@state.gov>, "Shaffer, Sarah F" <ShafferSF@state.gov>, "Larsen, Jill K" <LarsenJK@state.gov>
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2010, 5:47 AM

Ms. Pollock, thank you very much for your quick reply and information. We look forward to learning more about your report. Best regards, Abby

Abigail M. Rupp
Consular Chief
U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa

+251-11-130-7177

ruppuim@state.gov

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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

The Embassy’s website is: http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov
This email is unclassified according to E.O. 12958