

6-63

Parker, Christine D

Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2011 7:47 AM
To: Jacobs, Susan S
Subject: RE: Initiative Ethiopia
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; Final - Initiative Ethiopia Orphanage Investigation.docx

RELEASED IN FULL**Categories:** Working

Hi Susan,

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Strand, Senior Reviewer

This case is actually the case we are writing up as a reporting cable highlighting some of the most egregious and troubling patterns we've seen in the southern region that may shed some light on why MOWCYA has clamped down on adoptions from the region.

As all of our agencies know, because we tell them repeatedly (including Scott himself on his last visit), when we find evidence of wrongdoing we report that to the GOE. In this case our dip note (which Abby had reviewed before her departure, and which was transmitted on Monday and attached for your reference) is critical of IE but we took pains to point out the positive things Gladney is doing to dig out of the hole IE created and find appropriate solutions for the children involved.

We started hearing about this case about three months ago and encouraged Gladney multiple times to raise their concerns about the IE cases directly to MOWA, so that we could all work together to resolve the cases. We were told that Gladney did not want to do that because they were hoping to get their last cases "through" before the government found out – even though the vast majority of children involved were known to be falsely documented and likely unethically recruited into ICA. While Gladney has shared with us some of the results of their own investigations on individual cases, our investigation uncovered links between the IE director and local government officials that cast a more nefarious light on things than Gladney wanted to admit.

Please let me know if you have questions about this case, and we hope to have the reporting for you next week.

Best,

Christine Parker
 A/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

Privacy/PII

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Jacobs, Susan S
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2011 11:36 PM
To: Parker, Christine D

Subject: Fw: Initiative Ethiopia
Importance: High

What are your thoughts on this?

This email was sent from a wireless Blackberry device.

This e-mail is unclassified based on the definitions provided in E.O. 12958

From: J. Scott Brown <scott.brown@gladney.org>
To: Jacobs, Susan S
Sent: Wed Jun 22 13:50:04 2011
Subject: FW: Initiative Ethiopia

Hi Susan,

I am not sure if you are in the U.S. or are traveling, but I really need your assistance with the children in the care of an orphanage called Initiative Ethiopia whom Gladney worked with in the past, but due to concerns we had, we decided to cancel our agreement and wind down our involvement with them.

Please see the email below which our in-country representative sent to Abby concerning a dip note that the Embassy is preparing to send to MOWCYA about Initiative Ethiopia and the children in their care. Gladney has performed the due diligence necessary on making sure the background of the children who are referred to us from that facility are in fact valid. We have done this by having our social workers interview the bio relatives and/or neighbors and on top of that requesting external investigations done by a police investigators who are currently retired from the Federal Police force, whom we hired to investigate all of the cases. We even brought our police investigators to the Embassy for training, so they have been fully trained by the Embassy investigation staff. If MOWCYA does suspend adoptions of these children who we have found to be legally adoptable, this of course would definitely not be in the best interest of these children and there will be 45 prospective adoptive parents on the phone to you, their congressmen, the media, me and anyone else they feel can help them. Honestly, I sometimes feel they are working against the best interest of these children.

Not that you don't have enough on your plate, but would you please get involved and speak with Abby before they send this dip note to MOWCYA so we can avoid the potential harm this will inevitably cause? We all should work toward a reasonable solution to this quandary.

Thanks in advance,
Scott

P.S. - I am going to give you a call to make sure you received this. If you are out, I will leave a voice message.

| J. Scott Brown | Executive Vice President / International Programs | The Gladney Center for Adoption | (817) 922-6022 |



From: BELAYNEH@aol.com [mailto:BELAYNEH@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2011 1:07 AM
To: ruppam@state.gov
Cc: J. Scott Brown
Subject: Re:Initiative Ethiopia

Abby,

As you probably know, we have been helping Agatha gather information about our investigation on referrals from Initiative Ethiopia. We had already informed Initiative Ethiopia that we will discontinue our relationship after August of 2011, and we have not taken any referrals from them since January of 2011. We are working on reintegrating the thirty three kids that are currently residing at the Initiative Ethiopia Awasa center. We also have another forty five kids that are in various stages of the adoption process.

The director of Initiative Ethiopia has informed us that he does not want to continue operating the orphanage after our relationship ends in August. I received an e-mail yesterday stating that the Embassy intends to send a diplomatic note, about Initiative Ethiopia, this week. I had an informal discussion with W/O Yayesh at MOWCYA yesterday. I informed her about the investigation that we have done and our intentions to stop our partnerships with Initiative Ethiopia. She informed me that if MOWCYA makes a decision to suspend the operations of Initiative Ethiopia, no paperwork can be processed for those children that are in the process of being adopted.

Putting all these facts into consideration, I urge you to look into the decision of sending a diplomatic note at this time. I am asking this based on the best interest of the children and the families that are in the midst of the process.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional information.

Belay Tafesse
The Gladney Center for Adoption
Country Representative
Phone US 817 308-1178
Phone ET 251 911 211764
Fax 1-815-301-8517

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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