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NO. 10-1628

RELEASED IN PART B6

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and has the honor to forward the following information to the Ethiopian Ministry of Women and Youth Affairs, Ethiopian Charities and Societies Agency, and the Federal First Instance Court.

Our office has received documentation regarding the below mentioned adopted children from Ethiopia through Holt Adoption Agency.

Adoptive parent's name:

Contact information:

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Adoption Agency: HOLT International

Date of Adoption: March 2010

Adopted children:

1.
2.

After returning to the U.S. in March 2010, the adoptive parents have told the Embassy that they believe their agency falsified information in order to process as siblings, knowing full well that they are not related. Further, the adoptive family believes that their daughter was unwillingly taken from her mother, who is alive, and their son is not an orphan at all. Additionally both children have alleged that they were physically abused while under the care of Holt International's orphanage in Durame, Ethiopia. The parents are willing to provide detailed evidence of these claims.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Strand, Senior Reviewer

Our embassy would like to bring the issue to your attention since it raises concerns about Holt International's ability to protect children under their care.

We therefore request your prompt involvement in working towards implementing preventative measures to protect orphans under the care of this agency.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia the assurances of its highest consideration.

Embassy of the United States of America,

Addis Ababa, November 17, 2010



- cc: Ato Tebeje Berha, Acting Director General for Europe and the Americas Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ato Zenebe Kebede, Acting Head of International Law and Consular Affairs Directorate General
- W/o Zenebu Tadesse, Minister of the Ministry of Women and Youth Affairs
- Ato Desalegn Berhe, President of the First Instance
- Ato Ali Siraj, Director of Charities, Societies Agency