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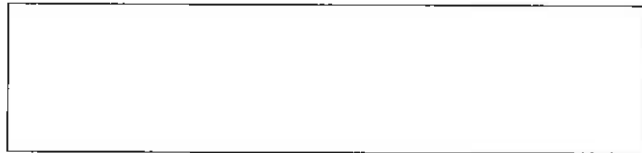
**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Strand, Senior Reviewer**

**RELEASED IN PART  
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No. 11-XXX

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.

Our office has received documentation regarding the below mentioned child, adopted from Ethiopia through the Hope International Adoption Agency.



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Information presented by Hope International to the Government of Ethiopia and the U.S. Embassy indicated that the birth mother of the child was deceased, and that the birth father relinquished the child in Federal Court. According to an email received by the U.S. Embassy on June 5, 2011 from the adoptive parents, they indicated that they were told by Hope Adoption agency at the time of the referral that the child's father was unknown and that the birth mother had relinquished her. They were also informed that the child's birthdate was April 16, 2009, and that she was from the town of Kambata. By the time the Roach family came to Ethiopia for the court date they were told that the child's mother was deceased and father relinquished her, and that her birthdate had been changed to September 24, 2009. The Embassy's panel physician report indicated that the child was likely six months older than the birth documents stated.

The [redacted] family indicated that recently they received information from a former Hope social worker in Ethiopia, that the child is not from Kambata, but from Addis Ababa, and that her mother is not deceased, but is living in Addis and the father of our daughter is indeed unknown. The [redacted] family was told that Hope goes to Kambata as it is less expensive to complete the paperwork required for adoption, and it happens more quickly. The family was also told that government officials there are paid by Hope to complete the paperwork and individuals are paid by Hope to appear as the parent of the child to relinquish them. The social worker said that the man who relinquished the child in court ([redacted]) was not in fact her birth father but was paid to pose as the birth parent to facilitate the adoption. The social worker further said that the birth mother did intend to relinquish her child, and that the child was born in February 2009.

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Therefore, while it does appear that the real birth mother intended to relinquish her child, the [redacted] family alleges that Hope adoption agency altered the child's history and age, and presented an imposter at court as the birth father.

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The Embassy is also attaching a letter from [redacted] explaining her concerns about the Hope adoption agency, including poor conditions at the orphanage, verbal abuse and mismanagement, and misinformation. The child that Ms. [redacted] adopted is:

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The Embassy would like to bring these issues to your attention since

it raises concerns about Hope International's ability to protect children under their care. The Embassy is willing to provide the contact information of the adoptive parents upon the Government's request.

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, June 13, 2011

cc:

Ambassador Taye Atskeselassie, Acting Director General for  
American Affairs, 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 Federal First Instance Court

Ato Ali Siraj, Director of Charities, Societies Agency