

RELEASED IN PART B6

6-37

**From:** Rupp, Abigail M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2010 5:59 PM  
**To:** Ladenson, Jeffrey L; Stott, Erinn C; Dilworth, Alison E; Larsen, Jill K  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Agata D; Parker, Christine D  
**Subject:** RE: Adoption Avenues Terminates Contract of its Ethiopia Country Director

Adding Alison and Jill in. CI folks, can you provide us with some guidance about the Hague complaint process? When a complaint is received, are posts ever asked for input to confirm/deny an allegation?

Also (and I may be opening a can of worms here), there were over 70 visas issued to Adoption Avenues cases over the past year; given what we know now about their country director and what we find from looking very closely about new cases, we may want to revisit the legality of those previous cases. IF/IF we decide to do that we would appreciate some guidance on what that means for the children who are already in the US.

We will scan all of the documents we received from Adoption Avenues and send them to you. Should we also submit a Hague complaint?

Thanks, Abby

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

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**From:** Ladenson, Jeffrey L  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2010 5:15 PM  
**To:** Stott, Erinn C  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Agata D; Parker, Christine D; Rupp, Abigail M  
**Subject:** Adoption Avenues Terminates Contract of its Ethiopia Country Director

Erinn-

A belated welcome to the Ethiopia adoption portfolio.

For your information, Embassy staff met with the President of the Board of Adoption Avenues today regarding the termination of [REDACTED]. Documents provided by Adoption Avenues indicate that he was fired for soliciting funds for his personal gain from prospective adoptive parents, skimming money from agency donations to local orphanages, threatening families, and misrepresenting the agency. There are also allegations of inappropriate behavior to at least one prospective adoptive mother in June 2010.

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We understand that at least one prospective family brought their concerns to the Hague Council on Accreditation on April 24, 2009. IVO notes indicate that the adoptive child of this family received an IR3 visa on May 11, 2009.

On June 7, 2010, the Embassy informed Adoption Avenues via email about our concerns that Mr. [REDACTED] was providing factually incorrect information to prospective families. In early August 2010, at Adoption Avenues request, we met with [REDACTED] and their U.S.-based international program director, Radu Balia. During this meeting the agency did not mention any of these allegations.

Needless to say, we are monitoring the situation closely. As of today, we have asked Adoption Avenues to inform their PAPs that travel arrangements should not be made until further notice from the Embassy. We hope that such a measure will allow us to fully investigate cases prior to the PAPs presence in Ethiopia.

Regards,  
Jeff

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Jeffrey L. Ladenson  
Adoption Unit Chief  
U.S. Embassy  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia