

RELEASED IN PART B6

6-40

**From:** Lincoln, Ruth A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 02, 2009 6:17 PM  
**To:** Rupp, Abigail M  
**Cc:** Parker, Christine D; Rosalik, Linda L; Bistransky, William J; Wilcock, John D; Urbancic, Michelle M; Fuller, Gerry W; Stebbing, Mikiko D; Leone, Christina A; Nystrom, Jill A  
**Subject:** FW: [redacted] - America World  
**Importance:** High

B6

Dear Abby,

I find this information of great concern as well. I think the director of the agency and the head of its Ethiopia program need to be told in no uncertain terms that they are responsible for the manner in which their local reps conduct business in-country and will be held accountable.

Please keep a file on problems with this agency and be sure to share this information with VO/F/P, FPP, and CI. Any PAPs who express concern over the way in which their case was handled by the agency should be referred to the Hague Complaint Registry and told that, although Ethiopia is not a party to the Hague Adoption Convention, AWA is a Hague-accredited agency and any adverse information about them will be taken into consideration by the Accrediting Entity when their license comes up for renewal. They may also contact the state licensing authority and Better Business Bureau in the state in which the agency is licensed (in AWA's case, Virginia) to file a complaint.

Ruth

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

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**From:** Rupp, Abigail M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 02, 2009 9:21 AM  
**To:** Parker, Christine D; Bistransky, William J; Lincoln, Ruth A; Wilcock, John D  
**Cc:** Rosalik, Linda L; Hill, Patty L; Mattingley, Donald G  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] - America World

B6

Colleagues, we wanted to let you know about this case. I alluded to this in yesterday's email. [redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted] The local rep kept pushing us to 'just issue the visa' but we were certainly not going to proceed until we verified the child's biographic information.

[redacted]

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We are satisfied that the father was not coerced into giving up his child, and that the child is an orphan as described under INA, but it is also clear to us that there was a concerted attempt by the agency to make this child four years old. Why? Because the family's I600A only allowed for a child up to four years old.

Thus, the next step in this particular case is for the [redacted] to get a revised home study and 600A, and for the agency to go back through the document process to provide correct information about the child.

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This is now the third America World case ([redacted] are the other two, of course) that has caused serious concern. And as a result, we plan to investigate each and every AWA case from here on out. We will do anything from a full paper review of the original case file up to and including a field investigation, and that means that many cases will be delayed in processing. We will tell [redacted] this when we see him on Friday.

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Best regards, Abby

*Abigail M. Rupp*  
*Consular Chief*  
*U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa*  
*+251-11-517-4106*  
[ruppam@state.gov](mailto:ruppam@state.gov)

Any information in this transmission pertaining to the issuance or refusal of visas or permits to enter the United States shall be considered confidential under Section 222(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) [8 U.S.C. Section 1202]. Access to and use of such information must be solely for the formulation, amendment, administration, or enforcement of the immigration, nationality, and other laws of the United States under INA 222(f) and as specified in FAM guidance. If you have received such information in error, do not review, retransmit, disclose, disseminate, use, or take any action in reliance upon this information, and contact the sender as soon as possible.

This email is Unclassified based on the definitions provided in 12 FAM 540.

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**From:** Parker, Christine D  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 02, 2009 9:36 AM  
**To:** Rupp, Abigail M  
**Cc:** Rosalik, Linda J  
**Subject:** [redacted]

B6

Elias found headphones and was able to listen & watch the entire tape today. Some key facts:

- Video was made on November 21, 2009
- The biological father speaks Hadinya. On the tape his words are translated from Hadinya to Amharic, then from Amharic to English.
- The biological father first says that Tigist is the 4<sup>th</sup> child in the family. That is changed by the Hadinya-Amharic translator (it is not clear if this translator is an employee of the orphanage or agency) to say the child is four years old. The Hadinya-Amharic translator then pushes the father to change his story to say she is 4 years old. The father reluctantly states that she is 4 years old. That information is then translated into Amharic, and then from Amharic to English.

- The biological father then tries to correct the story and says specifically that Tigist is eight years old, which he says in broken Amharic. That is ignored by the translators.