

As Commission rejects parents...

Adopted child jets in

Personality clash at Immigration

By Mohamed Alimam

Sierra Leone's Immigration Department recently rejected the entry of a woman, who was the mother of a child, from one of the ports to the other, despite the fact that she had a valid passport and was accompanied by a professional translator.



Happy reunion - Adama Kamara poses with father Sheik Alimamy Kamara in Makeni recently

The taking of oaths at the HANCI-SL/MAFS Justice Adeliza Showers Commission of Inquiry set up by President Ernest Bai Koroma to investigate whether parents had consented to the adoption of children by the non-governmental organization Help A Needy Child International Sierra Leone (HANCI-SL) or not has put the biological parents in disarray. The episode unfolded when one member of the audience asked the parents at the Miatta conference hall, Brookfields that they should testify under oath as to the truthfulness or not regarding the adoption of their children some years ago.

However, these parents were very timid to testify before the commission when called upon because of a statement allegedly made by one Abu Bakarr Kargbo alongside Inspector A. Scale that any parent that acknowledges consent of the adoption would be sent to Pademba Road prison. According to Abu Bakarr Kargbo, the parents in question were not among those he had tutored to speak before the commission and that if allowed to testify, they might make statements that would likely spoil their case.

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A source told Concord Times that Inspector Scale, while interviewing the parents, threatened them with arrest should they work contrary to what they had detailed them to say before the commission. However, this act of travesty of justice as demonstrated by a custodian of the law and his accomplice Abu Bakarr, who claimed to have the backing of the powers-that-be, may not be to the knowledge of the learned commissioners as the whole drama took place outside the hall.

One of the parents uttered these words in tears: "Is this commission of inquiry set up only for specific parents? Is it these men that should determine who to testify before the commission and what they should say? How could a God-fearing person like me say something that is not correct, all I want to know is the whereabouts of my child".

In another development, Adama Kamara now Adama Laura Celeste Kamara - currently living in Louisville, Kentucky in the United State of America - was one of the twenty-nine children said to have been adopted by HANCI-SL. Concord Times learnt that the girl, who was informed that her father, Sheik Alimamy Kamara - who had denied her by telling HANCI-SL that her father was bitten by a snake for her to be adopted - was visibly angry about the development when she recently visited the country.

Sheik Alimamy Kamara was said to have deliberately refused to testify before the commission despite being strongly admonished by her daughter to tell the truth to the commissioners before departing for the United States on 21 March, 2011. Adama, who spent more than a week in Makeni under strict security during her visit in the country, had the opportunity to speak to top government officials and other senior citizens in the country about her experience in the whole adoption saga.

It could be recalled that Sheik Kamara, who is now very reluctant to speak to the commission, was one of the leading parents clamouring for the government to set up the commission to properly investigate the saga due to the huge publicity and public interest it was generating. The question being asked by many people following the matter is whether the Justice Adeliza Showers Commission of Inquiry has the powers to subpoena Kamara to forcefully testify should he fail to voluntarily do so.

Investigations carried out by this medium revealed that most of the parents who had been faking either by fainting or crying at the commission have no children among the twenty-nine that went through the adoption process facilitated by HANCI-SL. Up till now there are no records to show whether those parents' kids were actually adopted by HANCI or not.

It has now been discovered through investigations that Madam Humu Jalloh, who was said to have fainted while testifying before the commission and claiming that her twin kids - Alhassan and Senthon Jalloh - were adopted by HANCI and Madam Memunatu Turay - who also alleged that her son Yusufu Barrie was adopted by the organization, in actuality had no kids among the twenty-nine children that are now the subject of the commission's investigation.