

**Table of Contents:**  
**U.S. government documents received via Freedom of Information Act requests about troubling adoption practices in Nepal, 2006-2008**

Date	Subject line	Identifying excerpt (if any)
<b>U.S. State Dept.</b>		
03/07/06	<a href="#">Adoption in Nepal Continues to be Problematic</a>	"Fabricated documents or real documents fraudulently obtained are readily available and often at variance with the facts of the case as related by orphanage personnel or adoptive parents...Adoptions continue to be problematic and fraught with inconsistencies."
02/06/07	<a href="#">GON Investigating over 50 Children's Homes</a>	"The Government of Nepal (GON) is investigating over 50 children's homes for alleged child abuse, forced begging, and buying and selling of children.... Five [were] homes approved to process international adoptions.... The GON registered over 100 new orphanages in the last year.... over 60 percent ... were not fully compliant with regulations."
03/19/07	<a href="#">Nepal: Adoption Under Fire in the Media</a>	"Allegations of child buying, corruption in the GON, bribes and the practices of an American adoption facilitator were included in the stories" run by several international news sources in 2007.
03/16/07	<a href="#">Nepal: Adoption Service Providers Comments</a>	An in-depth examination of very serious issues that arise in adoptions from Nepal, including surprise fees, requests for cash, lies about a child's age and other facts in his or her official documents, suspicion that the biological family did not consent to relinquishing the child for adoption, a lack of official Nepalese oversight or regulation of orphanages and adoption facilitators, and specific complaints about U.S. adoption agencies, with the names of the agencies and complaining U.S. adoptive families redacted.
03/21/07	<a href="#">Nepal: Adoption Update</a>	At a conference about adoption with some members of Nepal's government, various persons whose names are redacted "described the situation as 'very bad' and lamented that the 'whole system is corrupt from beginning to end.' [Redacted] added that the situation was 'even worse than we thought. [Redacted] cited lack of transparency, lack of oversight, possible exchange of money and questions about children's orphan status as issues of concern."
04/16/07	<a href="#">Adoptions: Delays Likely but Maoist Minister Allegedly Supportive</a>	The new Minister hopes to continue international adoptions after procedural reforms.
05/10/07	<a href="#">Nepal: Adoptions Suspended</a>	The Ambassador reports that the Nepal government is suspending international adoptions until it can reform its system. The Ambassador notes that he will advocate to allow Americans to bring home the children whose adoptions were underway.
05/25/07	<a href="#">Nepal: Foreign Minister Agrees to Raise Pending Adoptions in Cabinet</a>	The U.S. tells the government of Nepal that it supports adoption reform, but does not want U.S. citizens whose adoptions were already underway to have to start all over again.
05/30/07	<a href="#">Nepal: Adoptions Suspended</a>	Despite hold on international adoptions while awaiting reform, the government has been encouraged to complete pending adoption cases.
09/11/07	<a href="#">Update on Adoption Reform in Nepal</a>	The proposed reforms to Nepal's adoption process, key items listed here, look as if they will be ratified. Western parents are organized and advocating to allow the existing "pipeline" cases to go through the old system.

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11/06/07	<a href="#">Pipeline Adoption Cases to Proceed Under Existing Terms</a>	The Nepalese Cabinet has ordered the 440 pending adoptions to be processed under the old rules; the American Ambassador believes there will still be obstacles for the 53 waiting American families.
02/14/08	<a href="#">U.S. Hague Adoption Convention Ratification</a>	"The GON had already formed a task force to conduct a preliminary study to outline measures needed to enter the Convention" on international adoption.
09/15/08	<a href="#">Nepal Adoptions: UNICEF, Terre des Hommes Urge Reforms</a>	"At the end of August, UNICEF and the Swiss INGO Terre des hommes called on the Government of Nepal (GON) to tighten laws and procedures governing intercountry adoption, which they say has been open to abuses by orphanages and children's homes. Their recommendations were released August 29 in a 62-page report based on a six-month joint investigation that revealed widespread weaknesses, limited government influence, and inadequate transparency and accountability in the process. They concluded that intercountry adoption should not be allowed to resume without appropriate safeguards being put in place at all levels. In related news, Nepali police arrested three persons in August after a Nepalese woman accused a children's home of selling her daughter without consent to an American family for four thousand dollars."
09/26/08	<a href="#">Nepal: French Seek Consensus on Intercountry Adoptions</a>	The French Ambassador to Nepal holds a meeting of adopting countries' diplomatic missions where everyone in attendance agrees that Nepal's new rules will not curb adoption fraud. Citing lack of transparency, evidence of childbuying and fraud, France and Germany had unilaterally suspended the processing of adoptions from Nepal prior to May 2007, when the Government of Nepal initiated its own suspension. Neither Mission believes that its government should lift their own suspensions when the GON begins accepting new files, as there is general agreement that the new terms and conditions will do little to curb the corruption plaguing the GON's process. The French Ambassador says, according to the U.S. Ambassador Moriarty, that "despite intense pressure from French families who want to adopt at all costs, he will be tough on Spain and Italy in his diplomacy with their Missions in New Delhi (neither country maintains a presence in Nepal aside from honorary consuls) and seeks U.S. and others' cooperation and consensus among stakeholder countries in his continuing efforts to press the GON for real, effective reforms that will protect children from trafficking disguised as adoption."