



Embassy of the United States of America
**Consular Section, Diplomatic Enclave,
Ramna 5, Islamabad, Pakistan**

December 3, 2009

[REDACTED]

Re: Application for Immigrant Visa –IR4- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

Over the past month you have been very patient with our office concerning your adoption application for [REDACTED]. After an investigation by our office, we found disturbing evidence that the Pakistani contacts with whom you were working in good faith to adopt this child may have broken Pakistani laws. We turned our information over to the Pakistani police, and I want to update you on their current investigation.

The police believe they have located the biological parents of [REDACTED], but they are carrying out DNA tests to confirm the relationship. If the tests are positive, the police will return [REDACTED] to the custody of her parents. So far, Pastor Kamran John, Sadeem Shargeel, Pastor Afzal Bhatti, Mr. Sadeem, and Daniel Lagu have been arrested by the police and the police have informed us they are seeking to have charges filed under the Pakistan Human Trafficking law. They continue to investigate the role others may have played in illegally putting children up for adoption, and are hopeful that further arrests can be made. We will stay in contact with the authorities for updates on how the investigation progresses. They have asked us to thank you for the cooperation and assistance you have provided in this investigation.

You obtained a court order in the courts of Pakistan, granting you as legal guardian of [REDACTED]. However, due to the circumstances of how [REDACTED] was transferred to your custody, the Government of Pakistan has temporarily placed her in the custody of Edhi Foundation. Any questions as to the legal status of the court order issued to you would need to be directed to Pakistani legal authorities. Our office cannot provide legal advice, but in an effort to assist you I'm attaching the list of attorneys in Pakistan who are listed on the Embassy's website.

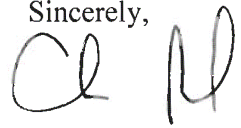
If [REDACTED] is returned to her family, it would be extremely difficult for you to obtain an IR-4 immigrant visa even if the parents decide to surrender her to you. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Act sets out various guidelines under which a U.S. citizen would be able to

petition for a child who has become an orphan by virtue of the death, disappearance, abandonment, desertion, or separation of the parents.

If it turns out the natural parents cannot be located, it would unfortunately still be difficult for the IR-4 visa to be issued. Because adoption is a concept which is alien to Pakistani law and custom, the procedures that authorities would follow to determine who would assume legal custody is not at all clear. Based upon our past experience, in practice authorities would likely leave the child in the custody of Edhi Foundation without going through a formal legal process. Generally the Edhi Foundation, which is an Islamic charity institution, does not transfer custody of children under its guardianship to Christian parents. There might be a legal means, given the existing court order, for you to acquire guardianship from the Pakistani authorities but you would need to consult with a Pakistani attorney on that subject.

We are truly sorry for the emotional pain and loss this experience has brought to you. We are sure you understand fully that the Government of Pakistan has the ultimate determination and responsibility over the status of [REDACTED]. We have been advised that if the natural parents can be verified, she will be returned to them. Please feel free to contact Thelma McDonald in the Office of Childrens' Issues in the U.S. Department of State [mcdonaldtb@state.gov], who may be able to provide guidance to you regarding any questions you may have or other issues concerning the welfare of [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CJ Richard', written in a cursive style.

Christopher J. Richard
Consul General