

Analysis of US Department of State position and policy towards Guatemalan Intercountry Adoption

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Background - The Hague:

What is the status of the US and the Hague Convention?

The United States is in the final stages of ratifying the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Convention). The US has come to this point after more than fourteen years of preparation, negotiation, and revision to develop a system that it believes can successfully be implemented. Once the US ratification process is complete, all intercountry adoptions (ICA) between the US and countries that are parties to the Convention must adhere to Convention guidelines, unless the US objects to a country's accession to the Hague, in which case ICA may continue on a non-Convention basis.

What is the goal of the Convention?

The Convention is intended to protect the rights of the children placed for ICA, their birthfamilies, and adoptive families, by ensuring government oversight, adding transparency to the adoption process and providing standards that allow adoptions completed in one party nation to be accepted in all other party nations. The Convention provides broad, general guidelines for ICA and requires party nations to have a governmental agency to serve as the Central Authority for ICA with responsibility for regulation, certification, and oversight of the adoption system in each country. Under the umbrella of the general requirements, the Convention allows each party nation the latitude to develop a system of adoption that is consistent with that nation's existing constitution, legal framework, and societal infrastructure.

Is Guatemala a true member of the Convention?

Guatemala's status vis-à-vis the Convention is equivocal. Guatemala became a contracting nation to the Convention in March, 2003, and although its entrance into the Convention was ruled illegal by its Constitutional Court in August of the same year it has not made any application to withdraw. Therefore it must still be considered a party by other Convention nations in spite of the fact that its adoption system does not meet the requirements of the Convention.

Must Guatemala modify their adoption system in order for adoptions to continue with the US once the US finalizes implementation of the Convention?

Not necessarily. Article 44 of the Convention states that member and contracting nations may object to the accession to the Convention by another country within 6 months of the accession or at the time when they ratify, accept or approve the Convention after an accession.¹ Objections can be filed if it is evident that the ICA system in the other country does not meet Convention standards, which clearly is the case for Guatemala. The US could exercise its option, upon ratification, to object to Guatemala's application of the Convention and to continue ICA on a non-Convention basis. This would allow Guatemala adequate time to pass enabling legislation and establish a fully workable ICA system that is Convention-compliant, more transparent, limits the possibility of fraud, and still provides the opportunity for eligible children to find permanent families in other countries without undue delays.

Background - The current state of intercountry adoptions in Guatemala:

Are most Guatemalan adoptions processed without government supervision?

No. The vast majority of ICA from Guatemala are relinquishment adoptions processed through a notarial system. These adoptions involve a birthparent who willingly places the child for adoption through private attorneys, one of which is a specially trained lawyer known as a notary. The adoption is subject to the approvals of the Guatemalan Family Court, the Guatemalan attorney general's office (PGN), and the US Embassy. The process is considered "extrajudicial" since it is not finalized at a judicial proceeding, but that term does not reflect the significant government involvement and protections that are an integral part of the process.

What are some key features of the relinquishment process?

- Birthmother consents on multiple occasions - The relinquishing parent is required to give her consent for adoption on four separate occasions during the process, and has the right to reverse her decision up until the final adoption decree is signed at the end of the process, many months after relinquishment.
- DNA matching – An embassy-approved lab takes a DNA sample of the birthmother and the child following strict chain of evidence protocols. Identity of the parties is established by the birthmother's identification card, signature or fingerprint (if the birthmother is unable to sign), as well as the child's finger and footprints. A photo record is taken of the birthmother and child together.
- Family court review - The birthparent and foster mother (or orphanage representative) are interviewed by a court-appointed social worker who also reviews the adoptive family's home study and supporting documents. The social worker confirms the freely-given consent of the relinquishing parent and qualifications of the adoptive family, and issues a report which indicates whether the adoption is recommended for approval.
- PGN review - Final approval of each case is the responsibility of the attorney general's office (PGN) and is required before the final private contract between the relinquishing parent and adoptive parent can be prepared by the notary and signed by the birthmother. PGN reviews the extensive set of documents, which includes adoptive parents' dossier, the birthmother's documents, the child's birth certificate, and the social worker's report. PGN can, and frequently does, request additional or corrected documentation. An investigative unit of PGN can conduct additional inquiries.
- US CIS review – The Embassy reviews each relinquishment adoption case file on four occasions, involving more than two dozen documents. The Embassy conducts investigations in cases where there they find cause for concern, performs random investigations, and has the right to interview the birthmother.
- Notarial process – This is a well-established method whereby non-litigious legal matters can be resolved without extensive involvement of an overworked judiciary. It is analogous to other such systems throughout Latin America. The role of the notary in Guatemala legal matters is deemed so important that it is constitutionally protected.

What are the key benefits of the current ICA process from Guatemala?

- The right of birthparents to voluntarily relinquish their children for adoption - This is constitutionally protected in Guatemala and is considered a great benefit by adoptees and adoptive parents because it often can result in the child having access to information about the birthfamily and the circumstances that led the birthmother to relinquish the child. This information can even lead to an "opening" of the adoption, whereby the adoptive family establishes contact with their child's birthfamily months or years post-adoption, benefiting all parties in the adoption triad.
- The birthmother's participation in the process also enables DNA matching to verify the relationship between birthmother and child. Further, the availability of a relinquishment option can prevent anonymous abandonments like those common in countries such as China, which result in child endangerment and in which children can never learn their birthname, birthdate or basic familial information.
- The prevalence of private foster and health care - This is arranged and paid for by the adoption attorneys. Although largely unregulated, foster families in Guatemala generally provide a loving family environment and excellent care for the children awaiting adoption. It is generally accepted that children adopted from Guatemala are more likely to be healthy and developmentally on-target than those in state-run institutionalized care such as China or Russia.ⁱⁱ Further, in the only study published on the matter, children provided private foster care in Guatemala were healthier, had better growth patterns, and were developmentally more advanced than children who had been cared for in Guatemalan orphanages.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Children typically join their permanent families in a short amount of time - There is no mandatory delay between relinquishment and placement, unlike many other ICA programs that require children to first be placed for many months on national adoption registries. Therefore, children generally spend much shorter times awaiting permanent placement. It is well-documented that the less time a child spends in temporary care (foster or institutional), the better his/her adjustment to a permanent family^{iv}.

- Minimal discriminatory practices – Unlike many ICA programs, Guatemala has been open to adoptive parents regardless of age, weight, marital status, disability, or number of other children in the home.
- Flexible travel requirements – Some ICA programs require extensive travel or in-country residency on the part of the adoptive parents. These types of policies can present insurmountable obstacles for families who have limited finances, limited time off, or other children at home. Guatemala provides a wide range of travel possibilities, from the families that choose to have the child escorted home to the families who temporarily move to Guatemala to “foster” their child-to-be throughout the process.

DOS’ involvement in pressuring Guatemala to reform adoptions:

What is the DOS position regarding adoption reform in Guatemala?

As the US prepares to ratify the Convention, the DOS (the Central Authority for the US) is pressuring Guatemala to implement adoption laws that adhere to a very narrow and restrictive interpretation of the Convention. DOS has stated that, in the absence of such laws, it will decline to issue immigrant visas to any children adopted from Guatemala by US parents, effectively halting such adoptions^v. Specifically, the DOS has publicly applauded^{vi} a blueprint for adoption reform advocated by the executive branch of the Guatemalan government. This document - the Manual of Good Adoption Practices - was announced on March 2, 2007 by the Vice President and First Lady of Guatemala.

Would the DOS-backed plan continue the benefits the current system offers to birthparents, children and adoptive families?

No. Unfortunately, it would virtually eliminate many advantages that the current adoption system offers to birthparents, children, and adoptive families, as follows:

- Birthmothers would be deprived of the ability to determine how they wish their child to be placed. - The birthparent could only relinquish the child to the custody of the Court of Minors but it would be solely up to the government to decide if, when and by whom a child would be adopted. The birthmother could no longer make an adoption plan directly with a private attorney. The cultural impact of this change could be significant since Guatemala has a very recent history of government-sponsored genocide against the indigenous people and mistrust of government institutions persists. A birthmother, especially one who is indigenous, who is unable to care for her child might be unwilling to surrender the child to the government, and may be forced either to raise the child in a detrimental situation, abandon the child, or make some other desperate choice with potentially tragic consequences.
- Relinquished children would not become available for ICA for many months. – The Manual requires an extensive and costly search for biological relatives to raise the child, which if unsuccessful could result in delayed and potentially more traumatic permanent placement for the children. This requirement overrides wishes of those birthmothers who believe that relatives are unable to provide the child with a loving, non-abusive environment with sufficient financial resources to provide food, health care and basic education. This also deprives the birthmother of the right to keep her pregnancy a secret from her extended family, which could prove harmful or even fatal to her. Further, extensive delays in placement can negatively and profoundly impact the child’s ability to easily adjust and attach to his new parents.
- Privately-funded foster care would no longer be an option since the adoption attorneys would no longer have custodial responsibilities for the children. - Granting custody of all relinquished children to the Court of Minors would require the State assume the financial responsibility for caring for the children. Therefore, children are likely to be institutionalized during determination of their adoptability and any subsequent adoption proceedings. Such extensive institutionalization is not consistent with the best interests of the children. Currently Guatemala has only four government childrens’ homes, none of which is equipped to care for infants. There is no state-supported foster care system in place. It is likely that the only option for the children will be private orphanages, but many of these rely on adoption fees to finance the care of all the children, including the many who may never be legally available for adoption.

Would funding and infrastructure be available to implement the plan?

Very unlikely. It would require significant funding to create the governmental and orphanage infrastructure that would be required to assume many of the functions that notaries currently provide in adoption cases including child care and health care. Governmental resources would be significantly strained to provide

quality care for the children during the pre-adoption investigation and estimated six-month search for biological or in-country placement plus time required for an adoption. Guatemala's ability to provide both initial and ongoing funding for this plan is highly questionable, thereby jeopardizing both the viability of ICA and the lives of thousands of children.

Is the system viable politically and legally?

Within Guatemala, the Manual is considered constitutionally problematic.^{vii} It is the product of the executive branch and does not have the legal force of a congressional act. Additionally, its provisions likely violate the constitutionally guaranteed rights of birthmothers and notaries. On April 16, 2007, the ADA, an adoption advocacy group of Guatemalan attorneys, filed a constitutional challenge against the Manual. The law proposed by Jose Luis Ortega and supported by UNICEF, if passed, would almost certainly be subject to similar legal challenges

Likely outcome if DOS-backed Plan is implemented:

Will in-process adoptions be allowed to proceed?

No. The Manual of Good Practices threatens to terminate in-process adoptions, in spite of extensive assurances by the DOS that in-process adoptions will be honored by any new plan. Specifically, the Manual provides for the "discontinuance of any voluntary adoption proceeding" in PGN^{viii}.

What has happened when other countries have tried to implement similar adoption reforms in this way?

In recent years, several other countries in Latin America have implemented state-administered adoption systems without providing adequate funding or staff. These include Honduras and El Salvador, whose state-run systems have essentially eliminated the possibility of needy children finding permanent loving homes through ICA. For example, the government-run Instituto Hondureño de la Niñez y la Familia (IHNF), the entity responsible for approval of domestic and ICA in Honduras, reports only 200 adoptions from 2002-2005; 56 of which were domestic adoptions.^{ix} According to a review by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2000, 3000 children living in privately-funded orphanages in Honduras could be adopted if legal paperwork was completed - yet only 59 children were adopted in 2002 under the Honduran government-run system.^x This number of 3000 does not count children in orphanages that could not become eligible for adoption, or those who reside in public institutions.^{xi} In El Salvador, the state-run adoption system is considered, even by the US DOS, to be cumbersome and difficult to complete.^{xii} The process averages 18-36 months, requires the prospective adoptive parents become registered foster parents in El Salvador, and reside there with the child for no less than one year. There have been 55 visas issued for newly adopted Salvadoran children to immigrate to the US between 2001 and 2005.^{xiii} It is highly likely that similar adoption reform would have an analogous effect in Guatemala.

What programs are available to help children and women who may be adversely affected by this plan?

There are virtually no government-sponsored social service programs in Guatemala that provide care for orphaned or abandoned children, or that would assist birthmothers to enable them to parent children they might otherwise relinquish for adoption, if that remained a viable option. There is no public access to health care or nutrition assistance, and opportunities for women to gain an education or other job skills are very limited. In addition, private orphanages that currently process adoptions generally reserve a portion of the fees charged to adoptive families to provide care for children who are deprived of family but are not eligible for adoption. The future of thousands of such children, not just the 4500 per year adopted internationally, is at stake.

If Guatemala closed to ICA, how would that impact US citizens?

In 2006, the US granted orphan visas to more than 4000 Guatemalan children. As many countries, including Russia, Mexico, El Salvador and Cambodia, have closed or restricted ICA, numerous Americans have discovered the joys of forming their families through Guatemalan ICA. Guatemala is now the 2nd most popular country for Americans seeking to adopt overseas. With China now implementing numerous restrictions on adoptive parents, Guatemala will be particularly important to single or older adoptive parents.

Alternative solutions:

Is extensive reform necessary?

Although there are acknowledged problematic areas of the current adoption system, many of these can be rectified by consistent and rigorous application of existing Guatemalan laws that regulate adoption professionals and protect the rights of birthfamilies and children. Moderate modifications or additions to existing regulations would be welcomed, as outlined below. However, complete revision of the current system of adoption is not justified based on the extent of the current problems, nor is it necessary for compliance with the Convention.

What other legislative options is Guatemala considering?

There are numerous adoption law reforms being considered by the Guatemalan Congress. Some similarly endorsed by the US and UNICEF are even more restrictive and problematic than the Manual of Good Practices. For instance, the law proposed by Jorge Luis Ortega and endorsed by UNICEF would likely signal an end to Guatemalan ICA. There also are more moderate reforms, supported by adoption advocacy groups, which maintain many of the benefits of the current program and could be considered by the DOS.

What reforms can be put in place within the framework of the existing system?

- Regulation of finders and improved fee transparency - Under the existing system, a large but undisclosed portion of the adoption attorneys' fees may be paid to unregulated intermediaries, sometimes called "buscadoras" or "finders" who introduce the relinquishing birthparent to an attorney that handles adoptions, provide her with transportation to mandatory appointments, and may assist with medical or prenatal care. While these intermediaries can play an important logistical and support role, they currently are entirely unregulated and are not held accountable for their involvement in the adoption process. Further, the reportedly high fees paid to these intermediaries raise concerns that some birthmothers are given financial compensation for relinquishing their children. This is expressly prohibited by US immigration law. If such payment is discovered, a child cannot qualify to immigrate to the US under an orphan visa (IR-3 or IR-4) and the adoption would not be completed. By regulating the finders and eliminating exorbitant fees, the financial incentive to compensate birthmothers would be greatly reduced.
- Eliminating the use of the birthmother's Power of Attorney – Occasionally, some notaries have obtained the birthmother's power of attorney early in the adoption process to allow a third party to sign the adoption deed. This practice can eliminate the burden on the birthmother to return to the attorney for the fourth and final declaration of her intentions, often many months into the process. It also might be used in cases where the attorney has lost contact with the birthmother or she is otherwise unavailable, and the adoption could otherwise not proceed. However, use of such an instrument could deprive the birthmother of her last opportunity to change her mind about the adoption prior to finalization. The US Consulate could eliminate the use of such POAs by requiring the birthmother's actual signature on the final adoption decree before granting the child a visa.
- Additions to DNA safeguards – There are allegations that DNA testing can be circumvented by having a false birthmother with fraudulent ID and her biological child stand in place of the child who is ultimately adopted abroad. This could be prevented by supplementing the DNA study evidence already required by the US government with fingerprints of the birthmother and footprints of the child which could be matched at each step in the adoption process. This technique, already required by the UK for Guatemalan adoptions, would reduce further any potential for baby stealing or baby switching in the Guatemalan adoption process.
- Stronger repercussions by PGN and the USCIS against adoption professionals suspected of fraud – In fulfilling their responsibility to verify the authenticity of all documents presented for final approval of each ICA, PGN is in a position to identify adoption proceedings which involve fraudulent documentation. PGN can then exercise their right to withhold approval of any such adoption, as well as refer the associated adoption professionals for possible prosecution. These deterrents would be more effective if Guatemala would allocate additional resources to more aggressively pursue prosecution of corrupt adoption professionals. On the US side, the USCIS similarly inspects all documents related to adoption and, on occasion, has temporarily banned attorneys and facilitators suspected of fraud from presenting adoption

cases to the US Embassy. Of those adoption professionals who have been banned, many have subsequently returned to conducting adoptions of children who immigrate to the US, or continue to participate in adoptions on behalf of US citizens during the ban by working through other parties. The CIS could impose a permanent ban against such offenders as a strong deterrent, and implement restrictions on those discovered to facilitate adoptions in which they are involved. Further, the USCIS could maintain a list of the names of these banned professionals on their web site to allow US prospective adoptive parents to avoid contracting with agencies that use, or have used, unethical professionals in the completion of Guatemalan adoptions.

- Birthmother counseling - To further ensure that the birthmother is aware of the implications of her decision and of her right to stop the adoption during the process, additional counseling can be added to the process to supplement the information provided in the social worker's interview.
- Regulation of foster care - While the foster care provided in Guatemala enjoys an excellent reputation, there are cases of preventable developmental delays, neglect and even abuse. Licensing and training of foster parents would further enhance this critical component.

Is it reasonable to expect a workable Convention-compliant ICA system to be in place in Guatemala this year?

Probably not. While Guatemala became a contracting party to the Convention in 2003, little was done to implement the treaty. Now the DOS is pressuring Guatemala to implement conforming legislation under a plan that would require the construction of an entirely new government child-care infrastructure within the next few months. By comparison, the US had a significant role in drafting the Convention, and signed it in 1993. Even so, it has taken the US over 14 years to craft and legislate an adoption system that is consistent with the laws culture, and resources of this country. The US already had in place a social service system to provide care for children in the process of ICA, state-level regulation and accreditation of adoption agencies and practitioners, and significant funding for legislation and implementation of the Convention. None of these luxuries is available in Guatemala. If it has taken 14 years for the US to find acceptable legislative solutions to implement the Convention, it is unlikely that Guatemala will be able to identify, implement, and fund such solutions in a matter of months.

Analysis of the DOS March 14, 2007 statement on Guatemalan ICA:

What is the DOS statement?

On March 14, 2007 the DOS posted a notice titled "Frequently asked questions: prospective adoptive parents of Guatemalan children"^{xv} on its website. The FAQ contained numerous inaccuracies, sweeping generalizations and unsubstantiated allegations regarding the current system of Guatemala. It irresponsibly portrayed corruption as being rife, and told prospective parents that they could not be assured that their child-to-be was placed or even conceived ethically. The FAQ concluded that "we cannot recommend adoption from Guatemala at this time."^{xv}

Are the points in the DOS statement valid?

A comprehensive rebuttal to the FAQ has been prepared by Focus On Adoption, an advocacy group for ICA. We refer you to their excellent analysis is available at their web site at http://www.focusonadoption.com/images/FAQ__DOS_Rebuttal%20final.pdf

Is the DOS statement consistent with the best interests of the children?

According to Thomas Atwood, president of the National Council for Adoption, "The State Department's announcement that it cannot recommend Guatemalan adoptions amounts to a de facto suspension of new adoption cases from Guatemala and puts at risk Guatemalan children in foster care waiting to be adopted internationally."^{xvi} Since there is no system in place in Guatemala to care for these children, the DOS is putting the very lives of these children at risk, while purporting to act in the best interests of the children. This is especially unconscionable since the DOS is asserting that these children have been victimized by unethical adults, and yet they further victimize them by abandoning them without any social services.

But if there is corruption, shouldn't the system be shut down?

Although there are known “bad players” in ICA in every country, including the US, neither the DOS nor the PGN have presented evidence to substantiate that fraud and corruption are pervasive in Guatemalan adoptions. Perpetrators of adoption crimes should be prevented from participating in ICA, and the children, birthparents, and adoptive parents should be protected from victimization by unethical adoption professionals everywhere. Corruption in adoption should be handled the same way that corruption in government, schools, churches and corporations is handled – enforce the laws in place and implement additional deterrents and protections. Taking extreme measures that jeopardize all adoptions victimizes the children to an even greater extent.

Will the DOS continue to process adoption cases in a timely manner?

Not without additional staffing. The DOS has warned of significant delays to allow for increased scrutiny of all cases in process. While this scrutiny is commendable, it is unfortunate that the DOS has not committed to allocate sufficient staff to provide more extensive reviews without unreasonable delays. These delays will be on top of chronic delays resulting from the dramatic increase over the past five years in the number of orphan visas issued in Guatemala; from 2419 visas issued in 2002 to 4135 in 2006.^{xvii} USCIS staffing has not kept pace with this increased workload. Just within the past year, the standard Embassy estimates of processing times have increased by at least 4 to 6 weeks.

What is the position of Families Without Borders?

We recognize that reforms are needed in adoption law in order for Guatemala to comply with the Hague Convention and we applaud efforts on the part of the US and Guatemalan governments to decrease the incidence and appearance of fraud and corruption in ICA from Guatemala. However, we feel that the broad changes supported by the DOS could unnecessarily eliminate the many child-centered benefits of the Guatemalan adoption system in an overzealous effort to address the system’s shortcomings. The DOS-backed reforms go far beyond the requirements of the Convention which demands government oversight, not government administration. This restrictive stance creates a real possibility that ICA will virtually cease to be an option for thousands of desperate women and their innocent children, as has happened too frequently in other countries who have attempted similarly misguided ICA reforms. We believe that the public position of the DOS with respect to ICA from Guatemala is inflammatory, unsubstantiated and counterproductive. We strongly encourage both countries to consider adoption reform measures that maintain the possibility for Guatemalan children to find permanent families outside of their birth nation in as efficient a manner as possible. The current proposals by the Guatemalan government and endorsements by the US do not achieve this goal.

ⁱⁱ The Hague Member nations. 1993. Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. Available at: http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.text&cid=69 accessed 4/5/07

ⁱⁱ Rogu, G. What are some the medical concerns and health issues associated with International adoption from Guatemala? Available at: <http://international.adoption.com/foreign/physician-guatemala-adoption-medical-issues.html> accessed 4/4/07. Miller, L.C., N. Kelly, M. Tannemaat and R.J. Grand. 2003. Serologic prevalence of antibodies to *Helicobacter pylori* in internationally adopted children. *Helicobacter* 8: 173-178.

ⁱⁱⁱ Miller, L., W. Chan, K. Comfort and L. Tirella. 2005. Health of children adopted from Guatemala: comparison of orphanage and foster care. *Pediatrics*. 115: e710-e717.

^{iv} Triseliotis, J. and M. Hill. 1990. Contrasting adoption, foster care, and residential rearing. In D. Brodzinsky and M. Shechter (Eds) *The Psychology of Adoption*, (pp. 107-120). New York: Oxford University Press.

^v DOS. 2007. Public Notice. Available at: http://www.travel.state.gov/family/adoption/intercountry/intercountry_3210.html accessed 4/9/07

^{vi} DOS. 2007. Announcement of “Manual of Good Practices in Guatemalan Adoptions” available at: http://www.travel.state.gov/family/adoption/intercountry/intercountry_3146.html accessed 4/9/07

^{vii} Asociacion Defensores de la Adopción. 2007. Position of ADA Regarding Manual of Good Practices. available at: http://www.adaguatemala.org/English/news/2007/03/position_of_ada_regarding_the.html accessed 4/9/07.

^{viii} ADA News. 2007. Manual of Good Practice of local and international adoption article II, section 2, subsection 1. available at: http://www.adaguatemala.org/English/news/2007/03/manual_of_good_practice_of_loc.html accessed 4/9/07.

^{ix} Available at: <http://www.ihnfa.hn/Adopciones.htm> accessed 4/3/07

^xInstituto Hondureño de la Niñez y la Familia Available at: <http://www.ihnfa.hn/Adopciones.htm> accessed 4/3/07

^{xi} Available at: [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/abc26ce54e08140e802568700043181f?Opendocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/abc26ce54e08140e802568700043181f?Opendocument)
accessed 4/3/07

^{xii} DOS Intercountry Adoption – El Salvador, available at:
http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/country/country_378.html accessed 4/4/07

^{xiii} *ibid*

^{xiv} Available at http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/convention/convention_3170.html# accessed 3/21/07

^{xv} *ibid*

^{xvi} National Council for Adoption. March 14, 2007. “Department of State Announcement Puts Children Waiting in Guatemalan Foster Care at Risk” available

https://www.adoptioncouncil.org/documents/NCFA_StateDept_Guat_statement.pdf accessed 3/22/07

^{xvii} USDOS. 2007. Intercountry adoption – Guatemala. Available at:

http://www.travel.state.gov/family/adoption/country/country_389.html accessed 4/5/07.