



International Ethiopian Woman Organization IEWO **ዓለም አቀፍ የኢትዮጵያ ሴቶች ድርጅት (ዓኢሴድ)**

IEWO, 1515 South 4th street #1801, Minneapolis, MN 55454, USA

Stop " Harvesting "Children

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AESED/IEWO, the International Ethiopian Women's Organization believes that denouncing adoption abuse should be everyone's obligation. The recent audio and written documentary presented in the Australian ABC television program and website reports a lot of sad things about how Ethiopian children who still have their parents are treated as if they are orphans. This information, which had been reported by SOCEPP since a decade, unmasks the inhuman practices concerning the fate of children and that of their parents who are desperate because of dire poverty.

It is a fact that there are millions of orphans through out the world that have been deprived of their parents especially because of wars and the HIV Aids pandemic. It is also a fact that Ethiopia is among the first 5 most affected countries in this respect. However, these tragedies should not be a fertile ground for opening a flourishing market of babies, not only of children who are really orphans but going as far as giving children away even if they still have their parents. The UN convention on the Human Rights of the child to which many countries have adhered has been transgressed in many ways. Under the guise of adoption, children are becoming victims of human traffickers.

In Ethiopia alone, there are 70 NGOs that are dealing in this adoption business. The EPRDF regime, several organizations, religious institutions and individuals both foreign and local have been actively involved in the massive sale and transportation of babies and young children for many years now. The way these transactions have been carried out, under the guise of dealing in kindness and with a lofty ideal of people who really are concerned with the welfare of the young ones, makes it even more cynical and cruel. In reality, it has been and still is a very enriching business which pays well per head given the increasing number of adopting parents and the avoidance of the due legal process.

What is being exploited is the poverty, the ever growing need of a population that is becoming more and more destitute. Helping these parents and enabling them to take care and nurture their children should have been the first choice instead of encouraging them to give away their children. Many mothers who were not at all clearly informed about the process thought that their children were being granted free schooling and would be coming back home afterwards and are now desperately crying because they have found out the truth of the swindle.

AESED/IEWO, calls on all organizations, institutions and governments to denounce and help stop such inhuman activities.

www.aesed.org

aesed.iewo@gmail.com