

28/7/2008

Hi All,

the following is quoted from the URL below - and is the very reason great caution should be exercised in intercountry adoption -

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7011743585>

Amy Beeman - AHN

Briefly - Anna Escobar, a Guatemalan mother whose child was taken at gunpoint, continued to search for her baby, who was kidnapped from her at gunpoint for the adoption market. Anna and 5 other mothers went on a hunger strike to try and force authorities to assist them in getting back their children.

Beeman states: "Escobar's search paid off when she saw a glimpse of her daughter while at the **National Adoption Council** offices, Guatemala is second only to China in its export of babies for adoption to Western parents. To meet the demand for babies to adopt, **kidnapping has become a problem in both nations.**"

The above is a reminder of the Law Reform Commission's findings in 1994 - Discussion paper No. 34 <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lrc.nsf/pages/DP34TOC>

there are not enough orphans to satisfy the needs of those wishing to adopt in Western countries and the continued demand for adoption by wealthy foreigners has the potential to generate the trafficking in children. The BBC interviewed Anna. Escobar, and this received wide media interest overseas - is anyone aware of any coverage here?

kind regards

Chris