

Vietnam. Adoption in the spotlight

Sweden, Germany, Norway, Ireland ... One after the other, Western countries have decided to withdraw the adoption process in Vietnam due to irregularities.

More and more countries have followed in the wake of a damning report by the United States, challenging adoptions in Vietnam. The risk of trafficking of children had already led to a temporary halt in proceedings a few years ago. Washington had denounced in April of corruption cases, fraudulent reporting of dropouts and recent increases in the number of children that had lost all traces of parents in orphanages allowed to practice Inter-country Adoption.

2,000 children adopted in 2007

The report had sparked anger in Hanoi. Since September, Americans no longer take in the communist country. In October, Sweden has in turn given to renew the agreement that allows its citizens to adopt in Vietnam. Germany and Norway are still currently in negotiations. Ireland, itself undergoing a full legislative review on the subject, does not automatically renew its bilateral agreement. For its part, Vietnam defends its management of "disciplined" international adoptions, which the spokesman of Foreign Affairs Le Dung says, "limit the negative things that have occurred in the past." According to Hanoi, nearly 2,000 small Vietnamese have been adopted by foreigners in 2007, by Americans, Italians, and French.

UNICEF in the debate

Given these concerns, "he shared to some extent by Hanoi, the United Nations Fund for the Children (UNICEF) involved in the discussions. Not "take sides," says his agent, but to improve the situation. According to UNICEF, about 15,000 abandoned children, orphans, disabled or suffering from AIDS, are in centers of government welfare.