

## Everyone is silent when Adoption scandals appear



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### Reports of abduction, trade and childtrafficking for adoption, does not change the practices surrounding adoption

**Again another adoption scandal was published by the international press. Earlier the Dutch national newspaper ‘Trouw’ published in 2008 about adoption scandals in China, involving Chinese Adoptees from the Netherlands. But that it would not be the last one, was just a matter of waiting to happen. Even tough the Dutch Parliament did not want to believe these messages. After the many known, incidents in the nineties and the beginning of this century, it would be very coincidental, that this one post in 2008 would have been the last one.**

After adoption scandals in India, Sri Lanka, Haiti, and now from China, where the Netherlands in recent years was involved with, you would say that the Dutch government and the public surely would have become wiser and would immediately take measures. But nothing is less true.. The parliament went on summer recess and hopes quietly that this news will blow over again as it did before. Because the Netherlands is not served by a debacle with the Chinese authorities on a ‘minor issue’ like this. Diplomatic interests are apparently more important than lives of children and their parents. This analysis is even more evident after studying the letter from the Chinese Central Authority (CCAA), the authority on the adoption of children in China. In the letter of February 2008, addressed to the Dutch Central Authority (Ministry of Justice), appears clearly, that “ *It is better not to pursue, expand or elaborate on this issue further.*” With other words, Don’t ask questions about the abuses in China when it comes to abduction, childtrafficking and childlaundering for making children adoptable for intercountry adoption. Also in the same letter the CCAA says. “ *..to keep secret for related families in order not to interrupt the bond established between the adoptive parents and the children and impose any unnecessary pressure on them.*”. And all this in the interest of the child and within the rules and spirit of the International Hague Adoption Convention. At least according to the CCAA in the letter to the Netherlands.

Again this all shows, that the international community is not sensitive to such situations and that it is not willing to intervene to ensure that parents in non-Western countries being protected against theft, abduction and sale of their children for adoption. Because adoption is in the best interest of the child, it is always exclaimed. This is the reason why these criminal acts are still not punishable by the international criminal law. Because with adoption there is no question of exploitation, but a life-saving act, according to the international standards. But every human will understand that such adoptions can not apply to these principles. But until now, western countries refuse to adapt their laws to such criminal activities. Including the Netherlands.

The question is why the international community, especially adoptive parents and politicians, who are often the first to declare, that the interests of children should be safeguarded, are so silent when these kind of cases appear. It is in no way in the interest of adoptees.

They are faced each year with forged, lied and incomplete adoption records. But no government is willing to help them legally and financially to assist them to handle the many problematic issues they encounter. While so-called orphanages under agreeable eyes of Dutch diplomats in those countries receive cash donations by 'would be parents' 'sponsoring' them for amounts from 2500 to 5000 dollars per child, adoptive parents are State subsidized for more than 3500 per adopted child in the Netherlands.

But where can Adoptees go if they find wrongdoings regarding their adoption? To the same governments that previously participated in such transactions and activities, hoping for some understanding and cooperation? The first indictment of an adoptee against such a body is a matter of waiting to become.

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