



## PRESS INVITE

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Venue: Press Club Lawns, 1, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110 001

Time: 3:30 pm

### **Child trafficking and intercountry adoption: Need to unveil the reality**

*The Indian Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) holds an international meeting on adoption on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20th February 2013 in New Delhi. The objective is to promote India's mutual cooperation on intercountry adoption and to discuss issues and challenges on the subject. Some 400 participants are expending, including many foreign delegates.*

*For this reason, a number of Indian parents of children lost to intercountry adoption are holding a press conference, in order to remind that their cases of missing children are unresolved.*

In India, a child goes missing every eight minutes. According to data from the National Crime Records Bureau, almost 60,000 children in 2011 were reported missing.

Among the various purposes for which children are sold or trafficked, adoption has been one of the most challenging areas.

In 1984 the Supreme Court of India ruled clearly in favour of domestic adoptions over intercountry adoptions. The Supreme Court also looked at the issue of child trafficking and ways to regulate adoptions in a manner that would prevent illegalities and exploitation of children.

However, the implementation of the judgment has failed to prevent child abduction for adoption, as adoption instead has become a booming industry.

On 10-11 January 2009 a National Consultation on Adoption was held in New Delhi, organised by the Campaign Against Child Trafficking (CACT) - a campaign initiated with support from terre des hommes (Germany) – which brought this issue to light. The Consultation discussed the practice of intercountry adoptions, as intercountry adoptions had turned out to be responsible for the difficulty faced by Indians in adopting a child domestically, as well as for trafficking of children in the name of adoption. A clear law was

sought on adoptions to do away with any ambiguity vis-à-vis the adoption process and to bring adequate checks and balances into the system.

This law ought to be in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that considers intercountry adoption as a last resort after exploring the possibility of all other suitable manners of in-country care. Majority of the participants at the National Consultation voted for a moratorium on intercountry adoptions for a period of 10 years.

Today, there are parents looking for their missing children: children who were sent for intercountry adoption. Justice needs to be done. The damage is irreparable, considering the change of country, language and culture, and the time passed.

Voices of these parents must not go unheard, as they point to a serious problem that has remained unaddressed.

**We demand a full-fledged international criminal investigation into the below outlined cases and all others which may come to the surface.**

**We invite the Press to interact with some of the distressed parents to understand the problem and help them in their struggle for justice.**

**Parents: Ramesh Kulkarni**

**Soloman Raj**

**Kisabai Lokhande**

**Fatima (AP)**

**Fathima A. and Salya**

**Laxmi and Malkaiah**

**Nageshwar Rao, Sivagamma**

**Nagarani and Kathirvel**

### **Organisations and individuals in solidarity -**

**Against Child Trafficking (ACT), Brussels:** Arun Dohle, Roelie Post

**Sakhee, Pune:** Anjali Pawar

**HAQ : Centre for Child Rights, Delhi:** Bharti Ali

**Deported Adoptee:** Jennifer Haynes

**For any further details contact Ms. Anjali Pawar on 09822206485 or Ms. Krinna Shah on 09650057955**