

June 4, 2014

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary of State
US Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Subject: 2010 – Present; Suspension of International Adoptions from Nepal

Dear Secretary Kerry,

We write to share with you our report titled *Paper Chains* that Both Ends Burning has just released and to ask you to use your authority to reverse unjustified and harmful decisions made by the US Government. A copy of our report can be found at bothendsburning.org/paper-chains.

Both Ends Burning fielded an investigative team under the leadership of our Counsel, Kelly Dempsey, to make a systematic examination of the circumstances surrounding the US Government's decision to suspend international adoptions from Nepal in 2010. Our team combed through thousands of documents, many provided through a FOIA request, interviewed 45 American families who were directly impacted by the US Government's decision, and reviewed each family's extensive case documentation.

After a six-month investigation, we have come to the conclusion that the US Government acted inappropriately in its decision to suspend adoptions from Nepal, created a campaign of misinformation to justify its decision, shielded the truth of the situation from the public and Congress, and inflicted unnecessary harm on the children and families whose cases were in-process at the time of the suspension. Most tragically, we believe hundreds, if not thousands, of Nepali orphans have wrongly been denied their right to a family as a result of the US Government's suspension, which is still in effect.

We hope you will share our serious concerns over the handling of this situation by the Department of State. Both Ends Burning requests that you investigate this situation and hold the responsible parties accountable for their actions. We also request that you take the steps necessary to re-open adoptions from Nepal so that orphaned children who have little hope of finding a permanent family in Nepal can be adopted by loving American families.

Both Ends Burning is prepared to help you in any way we can. We will be in Washington DC on Friday, June 6, 2015 with many of the Nepal families and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our findings and a path forward.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. We look forward to your response.

With great respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Juntunen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Craig Juntunen
Founder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Dempsey', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kelly Dempsey
Counsel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Leppanen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter Leppanen
Strategic Advisor