

8-1-1990

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Deborah Tyroler

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Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "Honduras: Police Report On Child Abduction, Illegal Adoption." (1990). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/4229>

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Honduras: Police Report On Child Abduction, Illegal Adoption

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, August 1, 1990

On July 28, police in Tegucigalpa reported that an average 10 children are abducted or "purchased" from parents to become candidates for adoption by foreigners. Many children are "purchased" from low-income parents, mainly single mothers, for about \$100. Child traffickers receive between \$3,000 and \$5,000 for their efforts, which include the preparation of counterfeit birth certificates. Police also reported that more than 5,000 minors have been taken into custody on the streets of Tegucigalpa since 1982. In 1985 alone, 1,129 children were picked up by police. Most were returned to parents, and the remainder taken to temporary homes for eventual adoption. (Basic data from AFP, 07/28/90)

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