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Honduras: Report On Child Trafficking

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Honduras: Report On Child Trafficking

by Deborah Tyroler

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In statements to reporters on Nov. 20, Deputy Rosario Godoy said results of a private investigation indicate that since Jan. 1, illegal adoptions of infants had generated US\$3 million in revenue, most of which went to 200 lawyers. According to the report, foreigners pay between US\$8,000 and US\$15,000 to adopt Honduran babies. Godoy said young women were paid US\$55 per month during pregnancy and US\$370 upon delivery, while lawyers earned as much as US\$7,000 per adoption. The deputy said the report contained the names of clinics and lawyers involved in the network. One of the attorneys named is presidential adviser Ruben Zepeda. Godoy added that the National Registry of Persons was also implicated through providing false identification documents for the infants. Foreign adoption of Honduran children is arranged through 12 adoption agencies operating in the US, none of which are registered or have legal representation in Honduras. Godoy said 402 children were adopted thus far in 1991 by foreigners, although government records indicate 253 adoptions. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, Agence France-Presse, 11/20/91)

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