



*Embajada de Guatemala*

*Washington, D.C.*

Washington, D.C., September 26th, 2007.

The Honorable  
Barney Frank  
United States Representative  
2252 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Frank:

I am writing you in response to the letter dated September 7, 2007, sent to the President of Guatemala, Oscar Berger, which you co-signed with several Members of the United States Congress, expressing your concern in regard to the situation with Casa Quivira.

Let me first thank you for your support towards Guatemala's efforts in reforming the current legal system of adoptions and the implementation of the standards set by the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoptions through pending legislation to ultimately protect the well-being of our children. As you might be aware of, this year the Guatemalan Congress approved the Hague Convention, amid strong opposition by adoption lawyers who benefited from the loopholes in the current legislation. The convention will enter into force on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

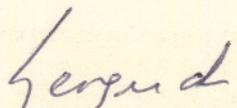
The purposes of the changes to the current legislation were to further protect the well-being of the Guatemalan children, and to strengthen the safeguards to both biological and adoptive parents. In the meantime, both the notary system and the "PINA" legislation are the current legislation, and it is our obligation and right to enforce them.

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007, after several accusations and reports to the Prosecutor's Office, a court of law declared the intervention of Casa Quivira in Antigua Guatemala. During the intervention, every case underwent additional scrutiny, implemented by both the Guatemalan Government and the U.S. Government. Nevertheless, adoption processes that were open and that were in order have continued their timely processing and, up to now, the adoptions of four children who had legally required documents have been approved and they are now with their new adoptive families. All the actions undertaken have been in accordance with the current legislation.

For the remaining cases, the lines of communications are open, and all the information can be provided by the judge that oversees this particular case. The prospective parents that need information on the status of their adoption case or the whereabouts of the child that they intend to adopt, should contact the judicial court in charge of the case, and those who have approached the judge in charge, have had complete access to that information.

The U.S. Government, as well as various members of the U.S. Congress have been strong allies of the Government of Guatemala in our efforts to improve the adoption processes and regulations. Should you have any additional questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you again for your concern.

Sincerely,

  
Georges de La Roche  
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

