



HopgoodGanim

LAWYERS

9 May 2011

Against Child Trafficking
info@againstchildtrafficking.org

Our Ref: 1024751 - Martin Klapper

Dear Sir/Madam

Ato Lakew Gebeyehu

We act for Ato Lakew Gebeyehu (**Lakew**).

We are instructed to seek vindication of Lakew's reputation against defamatory imputations published at:

<http://www.againstchildtrafficking.org/2010/07/families-in-the-dark-as-adoption-chief-quits/>

The material at that website republishes material formerly posted by ABC Online at the following sites:

"Australians caught in Ethiopian adoption nightmare" (Cassie White, 16 March 2010, www.abc.net.au)

"Families in the dark as adoption chief quits" (Cassie White, 8 July 2010, www.abc.net.au)

We **attach** a letter from the ABC dated 16 November 2010 concerning those stories, and refer you to the ABC websites where those stories were formerly published, at which a similar statement as in the letter now appears.

In light of the ABC's actions in respect of the material that you have republished, we require that you remove the defamatory material and post a statement similar to that made by the ABC in its place for at least 6 months.

If you do not take these steps by 5 pm AEST on 18 May 2011 then we are instructed that our client will take such further legal action as he is advised.

Yours faithfully

HopgoodGanim Lawyers

Contact **Martin Klapper**
 Partner
 T 07 3024 0325
 F 07 3024 0025
 E m.klapper@hopgoodganim.com.au

16 November 2010



ABC

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

News

To Whom It May Concern

ABC Ultimo Centre
700 Harris Street
Ultimo NSW 2007

GPO Box 9994
Sydney NSW 2001

Tel. +61 2 8333 1500
abc.net.au

Dear Sir / Madam

Ato Lakew Gebeyehu – alleged defamation

On 8 July 2010 the ABC published a story titled "Families in the Dark as Adoption Chief Quits" and on 16 March 2010 the ABC published a story titled "Australians Caught in Ethiopian Adoption Nightmare", which reported on matters concerning the Australian Ethiopian adoption program. The ABC has received a complaint from Ato Lakew Gebeyehu claiming these publications were defamatory of him. The ABC would like to make clear that it did not intend to infer that Mr Gebeyehu created false documents or that he otherwise engaged in corrupt or improper conduct or activities detrimental to children in his care or the performance of his functions, and retracts any such inference. The ABC apologises to Mr Gebeyehu and his family for any distress caused by any readers believing he was personally involved in those matters. The ABC also acknowledges that problems in the Australian-Ethiopian adoption program were reported by the parents of three Australian families but that other parents involved in the program have reported positive experiences with the program.

Yours faithfully

Alan Sunderland
Head of Policy
ABC News