



Right to Identity

#Right2Identity

*Overcoming the struggles of
Illegal Intercountry Adoption*

Host of the evening



Barbara Wachter

Swiss UN Youth Delegate 2015/16

A program directed by the Swiss National Youth Council (SNYC) in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Program



- Welcome
- Hervé Boéchat, Director of Program, International Social Service (ISS)
- Patrick Noordoven, Founder, NGO Brazil Baby Affair
- Jacqueline Arias, Director, MyMedia
- Q&A
- Apéro

The grey zones of intercountry adoption and (some of) their consequences

Hervé Boéchat
International Social Service

ISS and its International Reference Center

- ISS:**
- founded in 1924, to support families whose members are living in different countries;
 - a network present in more than 100 countries
 - 5000 cases/ year (migration, unaccompanied minors, international family mediation, etc.).

- IRC:**
- created during the drafting process of the 1994 Hague Convention;
 - funded by 20 countries
 - free access for countries of origin
 - activities: monthly review, provision of legal expertise, sharing good practices, etc.

Projects: - **Assessments** of child protection and adoption systems (Moldova 2006, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan 2007, Vietnam 2009, Ivory Coast, Guatemala 2010, Laos 2011; Colombia, Haiti, DRC, Ghana 2013, Armenia 2014).

- **Research:** “Investigating the grey zones of ICA”
“Finding abuses when searching for roots”

« The grey zones »

- **Child production and harvesting:** children being “produced” for adoption through paid pregnancies, kidnapping, purchase;
- **Forced relinquishment and abandonment:** manipulation of birth parents to obtain their consent under false reasons
- **Child abduction in emergencies situations**
- **“Child laundering”,** or how the child “legally” enters the adoption process

CONCLUSIONS:

- Abuses are taking place before the adoption process itself
- The Hague Convention is not a guarantee per se
- Remedies: legislative reviews, informing prospective adopters, control of adoption agencies, control of money, strengthening cooperation, etc.
- Which answers to the adoptees?

Project: « Finding Abuses When Searching For Roots »

- Is there any answer on the legal side?
- Is there any past experience to build on?
- What are the experiences of adoptees and association of adoptees?
- What can be said about the psychological, social, familial consequences when discovering abuses?
- What are the role and responsibilities of the States?
- How to develop good practices, guidelines, etc...



Implementation of article 8 UNCRC

Article 8 UNCRC:

- 1. States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference.**
- 2. Where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, States Parties shall provide appropriate assistance and protection, with a view to re-establishing speedily his or her identity.**



#Right2Identity

Overcoming the Struggles of Illegal Intercountry Adoption

Patrick Noordoven



Personal Story



- Searching without information
 - Birth place; location; date; time and weight
- Listing possible mothers



Beginning of the end



Origins and Consequences of the Brazil Baby Affair



- What happened?
- [How did it happen?](#)
- Why did this happen?
- What *were* the problems?
- What *is* the problem?

Mission of the NGO Brazil Baby Affair



- What can be done?
- How to achieve this?
- Through the NGO's Mission!



#Right2Identity

Imaginary Mothers

Birth Mothers in Costa Rica



My adoption story



In 2008 my adopted sister & I visited our family in Costa Rica. We heard a very different story than the one we were told about our adoption.

Me, my brother & my sister were adopted without my mother's permission.



Mayela Arias

Jacqueline's sister
Raised in Costa Rica

Angela Arias

Jacqueline's mother



Jeannette Arias

Jacqueline's sister
Adopted and raised in Panama



2008

ARIAS FAMILY



After hearing my family's story about our adoption, I wanted to know more.



2010

Were there others who had similar experiences?



Imaginary Mothers

[Film Trailer](#)

I Deserve The Right To Speak



Helen Xiomara Barrantes Mora

"I went to the patronato and this is what they told me. We cannot help you, we can only help your baby. They said there is a couple outside who cannot have children. They need a child and your child needs a home. And they can give it to them, they are professionals. I remember only crying."



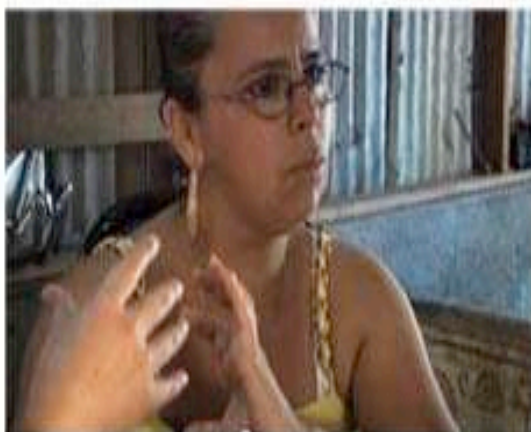
Xinia Sancho Viquez

"I don't do this with the purpose of being the target of laughs of anyone, or that someone will laugh at my pain. I am a mother. Every mother has the right of knowing who her son is."



Doris Benavides Morales

"It's like living a half life. You can never live a full life. Because your heart will always be talking and complaining to you. I will not be tranquil until the day I see my daughter."



Crescencia Maria Castro Chaves

"You know when a child of yours dies, you say well that was god's will. He took her and I can take her flowers wherever she is, but living like this, not knowing where she is. Is she alive? Is she dead? Does she need anything. I do not wish this upon anyone. Living like this is horrible."

Imaginary Mothers
Documentary

Imaginary Mothers

Is the era of International Baby Adoption over?

Imaginary Mothers

Film will be released this spring.

Imaginarymothers.com

This film is not just about mothers in Costa Rica, but also about women all over the world who have lost their children through adoption.

It is also about Adoptees' right to hear and voice the truth.

Latin American Adoptee Community

Our Journeys, Our Stories

[Home](#) [Community](#) [About](#) [Resources](#) [History of Adoption in Latin America](#) [Events](#) [News](#) [Conversations . . .](#)



A horizontal timeline on a dark background showing key events in adoption history from 1997 to 2001. The timeline is marked with months (Apr, Jul, Oct) and years (1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001). Three callout boxes provide details:

- HAGUE**
1st January 1999
Brazil, Chile & Panama became a party to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague...)
[More](#)
- VENEZUELA RATIFIES HAGUE**
10th October 1997
Venezuela is party to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention...)
[More](#)
- KIDNAPPING MASKED AS ADOPTION**
17th January 2001
Parents Julio Cesar Pineda and Rebeca Arbizurez reported their daughter Kimberly Siomar Pineda Arbizurez missing from her daycare. They later learned...
[More](#)



New Timeline about the History of Adoption in Latin America



Live Monthly Chats



¡Bienvenidos a tú país!



We need your help!

THE BABIES FROM BRAZIL

UNRAVELING A CHILD TRAFFICKING NETWORK





Q&A

#Right2Identity
