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Ariana-Leilani Margarita Alexandra KING-PFEIFFER

Ref. No. (please cite in response): RK 520. SE King-Pfeiffer

Washington, D.C., August 17, 2010

Dear Mr. Regan,

Please allow me to bring to your attention and seek your assistance in the case of seven year old Ariana-Leilani KING-PFEIFFER, a child with dual German and American citizenship. She is living with her father, the German national Dr. Michael Pfeiffer, in Washington, D.C. Her mother, Dr. Ariel King, a U.S. citizen, lives in Germany.

Earlier this year, the NGO Innocence in Danger International has brought serious concerns about possible medical mistreatment and possible sexual abuse of the child by the father to the attention of the Embassy. The concerns related to medical mistreatment, based on the child's extensive medical and school records, and were supported by physicians of the Severe Chronic Neutropenia International Registry and the German NGO Avalon.

The German Embassy so far has had no direct access to the child nor to information from an independent source. As of today, the Embassy has received documentation on the child's case consisting of medical test records from George Washington University Hospital (GWUH), opinions and school health records. Unfortunately, without the consent of the father who has sole custody, the Embassy has no way of verifying the status of the child, or the information it has been given.

In any event the allegations are of such a serious nature that we feel that a fully independent medical examination of the child should be ordered by the competent U.S. authorities. A divorce and custody case is currently pending in Bayreuth, Germany. The mother claims that the father refuses to agree to allow her, or anyone acting on her behalf, to have direct contact with her child, the child's sole treating physician at GWUH, and GWUH itself. The mother is represented by Mr. Roy L. Morris, Esq., Arlington, VA. The father is represented by Mr. Sean W. O'Connell, Arlington, VA.

GWUH health records, which were forwarded to the Embassy, state that the child suffers from Severe Chronic Neutropenia, a medical condition which consists of severely low immunity levels over an extended period of time that leave the child vulnerable to potentially fatal infections. The Embassy was also provided with opinions from international experts in the field of pediatric hematology who expressed serious concerns for the child's safety. In the opinion of these experts there is a lack of a thorough evaluation of the cause of the medical condition of the child and a lack of an appropriate treatment with a medical drug called GCSF which boosts immunity to more normal levels. However, these medical experts have not yet had the possibility to examine the child in person.

The mother believes that the medical condition of the child could have been induced by the administration of a particular psychotropic drug. According to her, the sole treating physician's reports are biased because he is an associate of Dr. Pfeiffer at GWUH, and his reports show inconsistencies with regard to the medical tests and school reports.

The Embassy was informed that Dr. Pfeiffer has been working at GWUH as a physician until 2008. Reportedly he is currently working for the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Washington, D.C.

The report from a guardian ad litem in a past child custody case notes that the child purportedly lives in a one-bedroom apartment with her father. The representative of the mother, Mr. Morris, forwarded documents which include a statement of a clinical psychologist from Maryland who, based on medical records, interviews of the mother, and other documentation, offers her professional opinion in writing that the child Ariana-Leilani "...continues to be at risk in her current environment of both physical and medical neglect, and likely sexual abuse."

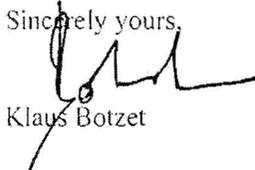
The German Embassy has a legal obligation under Art. 5 of the German Consular Act to support German citizens in need of assistance. A written proposal from the Embassy dated March 30, 2010, to let the child undergo a full independent medical examination on a voluntary basis – and which costs the mother's health insurance in Germany would cover - has been declined by the father's lawyer, Mr. O'Connell. So far, the father has refused to communicate with the Embassy directly.

The possibilities of the Embassy are limited to voluntary cooperation and have been exhausted. The German Embassy would therefore be grateful if the Department of State could take up this matter in order to obtain an independent medical examination of Ariana-Leilani King-Pfeiffer. Once her true health status is clarified, optimal medical care for her seemingly serious medical condition can be ensured.

If you have questions in this matter please do not hesitate to contact me. I am including a list of points of contact and a copy of a letter from the University of Washington, Department of Medicine, in this matter for your information.

With many thanks for your support.

Sincerely yours,



Klaus Botzet