



## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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13 August 2004

**TJT42908.E**

Tajikistan: The passport renewal process for Tajik citizens outside Tajikistan (January 2003 - August 2004)  
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Information on the passport renewal process for Tajik citizens outside Tajikistan could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, the following information is relevant.

According to a 2003 Freedom House report entitled *Nations in Transit 2003*, bribery and corruption in Tajikistan

...have become ingrained in nearly all transactions with the government and government service providers. ...Applying for a passport can take three months to a year with minimal bribes and fees to the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of the Interior. For the right price, though, a passport can be acquired in less than a week (4 Aug. 2003).

*Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003* noted that there is no emigration law in Tajikistan (25 Feb. 2004, Sec. 2.d). In addition, the report stated that in 2003, those Tajik citizens outside the country who had difficulty renewing their travel documents were members of the political opposition (*Country Reports 2003* 25 Feb. 2004, Sec. 2.d).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

### References

*Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003*. 25 February 2004. United States Department of State. Washington, D.C. <<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2003/27868.htm>> [Accessed 13 Aug. 2004]

Freedom House. 4 August 2003. "Tajikistan." *Nations in Transit 2003*.  
<<http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/nitransit/2003/tajikistan2003.pdf>> [Accessed 13 Aug. 2004]

### Additional Sources Consulted

The Embassy of Tajikistan, in Vienna, Austria, did not respond to a letter requesting information.

The Embassy of Tajikistan to The United Nations, in New York, did not respond to a letter requesting information.

**Internet sites, including:** BBC, Dialog/WNC, European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI), Government of Tajikistan [in Russian], Human Rights Watch (HRW), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Passport Express, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), ReliefWeb, Travel Tajikistan.

  
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