



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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ZWE101381.E

Zimbabwe: Documentation required and procedures to be followed by a parent wishing to travel abroad with a minor child in the absence, or without the consent, of the second parent (May 2006)
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

In 26 April and 8 May 2006 correspondence sent to the Research Directorate, a Zimbabwean human rights lawyer, who is also the executive director of Zimbabwe Exiles Forum (ZEF), provided the information contained in the next paragraph. ZEF is a non-partisan and non-profit organization based in South Africa, the main objective of which is to "help victims of torture and other abuses who have fled Zimbabwe for fear of prosecution. Its central focus is the recording of evidence of abuses, humanitarian and legal support for refugees" (Rights & Democracy n.d.).

The Zimbabwean human rights lawyer stated that the consent of the mother is not required when a minor child is travelling out of Zimbabwe with his/her father. However, a Zimbabwean woman cannot travel with a minor child whose surname is in the name of the husband without a letter, affidavit or express oral consent of the said husband. Furthermore, it has recently become imperative for a minor child to obtain his/her passport before travelling out of Zimbabwe.

Corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

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 additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Rights & Democracy. N.d. "International Advocacy and Litigation on Human Rights Abuses in Zimbabwe." <http://www.dd-rd.ca/site/what_we_do/index.php?subsection=projects&id=1556&lang=en> [Accessed 15 May 2006]

Practising human rights lawyer and executive director of Zimbabwe Exiles Forum (ZEF). 8 May 2006. Correspondence

_____. 26 April 2006. Correspondence.

Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources: The Canadian Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe, the Embassy of Zimbabwe in Washington, DC and the Executive Director of the Human Rights Trust of Southern Africa (SAHRIT) did not provide information within time constraints.

Websites, including: European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI.net), Factiva, International Crisis Group (ICG), IRIN, ReliefWeb, UNHCR, United Kingdom Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND), United States Department of State, Passports Plus, *Zimbabwe Daily*, Zimbabwe Government Online, *Zimbabwe Independent*.

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