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## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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The Board		18 January 2007
About the Board	<b>CUB102202.E</b>	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	Cuba: Checks and balances to protect against government employees taking bribes or giving favours for issuing exit visas to persons who have been deemed unreliable or been refused permission to travel, or both; whether records are kept of exit visas that would be accessible when a person failed to return on time; whether the issuer of the exit visa could be identified through a paper trail	
Employment		
Legal and Policy		
References		
Publications	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa	
Tribunal		
Refugee Protection Division	Information about checks and balances to protect against government employees taking bribes or giving favours for issuing exit visas to persons who have been deemed unreliable or been refused permission to travel, or both, could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, a report published by Human Rights Watch (HRW) indicates that Cuban authorities often deny exit permits to citizens who wish to travel abroad, and that the "efforts [of those who want to leave] to circumvent the restrictions can prove very costly, whether it is the grave dangers faced fleeing the country on the high seas or the exorbitant bribes paid to corrupt officials to arrange travel permits" (Oct. 2005, 3). In addition, HRW's report states that	
Immigration Division		
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions		
Forms		
Statistics		
Research		
Research Program	[u]nder Cuba's criminal code, individuals who, 'without completing legal formalities, leave or take actions in preparation for leaving the national territory' can face prison sentences of one to three years in prison. Similarly, an individual who 'organizes, promotes, or incites' an illegal exit can be punished with two to five years of imprisonment, while someone who 'provides material assistance, offers information, or in any way facilitates' an illegal exit, risks two to five years behind bars (Oct. 2005, 9).	
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets		
Responses to Information Requests	Information about whether records are kept of exit visas that would be accessible when a person failed to return on time or whether the issuer of the exit visa could be identified through a paper trail could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.	
Recent Research		
Media Centre		
News	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.	
Information Sheets		
Media Relations		
Proactive Disclosure		

### Reference

Human Rights Watch (HRW). October 2005. Vol.1, No. 5 (B). "Families Torn Apart.

The High Cost of U.S. and Cuban Travel Restrictions."  
<<http://hrw.org/reports/2005/cuba1005/cuba1005.pdf>> [Accessed 15 Dec. 2006]

### **Additional Sources Consulted**

**Internet sites, including:** Amnesty International (AI), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Cuban American National Foundation, Cubanet, United States Department of State.

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