



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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The Board		31 January 2007
About the Board	CUB102203.E	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	Cuba: Treatment of family members of persons who left Cuba to immigrate to other countries	
Employment	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa	
Legal and Policy		
References	No specific information related to the treatment of family members still in Cuba after a relative had left to immigrate to another country could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, a report published by Human Rights Watch (HRW) states that	
Publications		
Tribunal		
Refugee Protection Division	Cuba ... regularly denies visas to the relatives of those whom it calls "deserters": people who left the country without permission or refused to return at the end of an authorized trip. It also refuses these "deserters" permission to return to Cuba, thereby cutting them off entirely from their families on the island (Oct. 2005, 3).	
Immigration Division		
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions	This information was corroborated in <i>Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005</i> which notes that "[t]he government [has] denied exit permits for several years to relatives of individuals who migrated illegally (for example, merchant seamen and sports figures who defected while out of the country)" (US 8 Mar. 2006, Sec. 2d). According to the HRW's report, this forced separation of Cuban families causes significant "distress [to] children forced to grow up without seeing their parents" (Oct. 2005, 2). In addition, the report indicates that	
Forms		
Statistics		
Research		
Research Program	Cuba's travel restrictions provide the authorities with a powerful tool for controlling what its citizens say about the government. One Cuban rights advocate who has been denied permission to visit his family in Florida, described the travel policy as a "weapon of deterrence used to intimidate, repress, and control various types of activities." Similarly, [a] prominent neurologist who was denied an exit visa described the restriction on travel as "a form of psychological blackmail" that discourages people from criticizing the government (HRW Oct. 2005, 3).	
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets		
Responses to Information Requests		
Recent Research		
Media Centre		
News	No further information on the treatment of family members of persons who left Cuba to immigrate to other countries could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.	
Information Sheets		
Media Relations		
Proactive Disclosure	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

Human Rights Watch (HRW). October 2005. Vol.17, 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]

United States (US). 8 March 2006. Department of State. "Cuba." *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005.*
<<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61723.htm>> [Accessed 18 Dec. 2006]

Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources: The Center for a Free Cuba and Cuba Solidarity Campaign did not provide information within the time constraints of this Response.

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

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