



## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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22 February 2006

### GUY101028.E

Guyana: Current existence of a special police forces unit called "men in black"; its impact on society, especially on criminal deportees to Guyana (2004 - 2006)  
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

Information as to the current existence of a special police forces unit called "men in black" and its impact on society could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, some information was found regarding the "Black Clothes" police unit, which is also referred to as the "Target Special Squad" (Guyana Under Siege n.d.) or the "Quick Reaction Group" (Guyana Dec. 2005).

The Website Guyana Under Siege states that "[i]n the mid-to-late 1990s, certain police members from the elite Target Special Squad ("Black Clothes" police), became enforcers for a United States (US) Immigration officer stationed at the US Embassy in Guyana, who engaged in the corruption of granting US visas in exchange for money" (n.d.). According to the monthly newsletter of the Guyana Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela, a committee was established to investigate allegations that the Black Clothes were "involved in criminal activities and soliciting sexual favours" (Dec. 2005). Other sources indicate that the Black Clothes do not operate anymore, referring to them as a "former" police force (*Stabroek News* 6 Nov. 2005) or as a "disbanded" police squad (GuyanaPalace.com 20 Dec. 2005; *Guyana Chronicle* 20 Oct. 2004).

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

Guyana. December 2005. Embassy of Guyana in Caracas, Venezuela. "Guyana Diary." <<http://www.guyana.org/Update/dec2005.html>> [Accessed 21 Feb. 2006]

*Guyana Chronicle* Online [Georgetown]. 20 October 2004. "Cops Fight Back - One Dead." <<http://www.guyanachronicle.com/ARCHIVES/archive%2020-10-04.html>> [Accessed 21 Feb. 2006]

GuyanaPalace.com. 20 December 2005. "'Gangster' in Custody."

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Guyana Under Siege. N.d. "Police Killings."  
<<http://www.guyanaundersiege.com/Topical%20Affairs/Police%20Killings.htm>>  
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*Stabroek News* [Georgetown]. 6 November 2005. "Unreal Debate."  
<<http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/print?id=35285528>> [Accessed 21 Feb. 2006]

### **Additional Sources Consulted**

**Internet sites, including:** Amnesty International, Factiva, Freedom House, Guyana Government Information Agency (GINA), Human Rights Watch, Interpol, National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Office of the President of Guyana, United States Department of State, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

**Publications:** *Latin American Caribbean and Central America Report*, *World Police Encyclopedia*.

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