



## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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<b>The Board</b>		18 August 2009
About the Board	<b>COD103228.E</b>	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): The Comités du Pouvoir Populaire (Popular/People's Power Committees, CPP) in Canada, including their mission and activities; membership requirements in Canada and in the DRC; activities and	
Employment	treatment of members by DRC authorities	
Legal and Policy	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa	
References		
Publications		
<b>Tribunal</b>	<b>Background</b>	
Refugee Protection Division	The Comités du Pouvoir Populaire (Popular/People's Power Committees, CCP) were created in 1999 by then president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Laurent-Désiré Kabila (RFI 14 Mar. 2003; Agence Belga 28 Dec. 2002; US 23 Feb. 2000, Sec. 2d). The CPP replaced the Alliance des Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Congo (Alliance of Democratic Forces of the Congo, AFDL) (AI 1 Nov. 2001, 33), a coalition of groups which had ousted former president Mobutu Sese Seko and put President Kabila in power (US 23 Feb. 2000).	
Immigration Division		
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions		
Forms		
Statistics	The CPP were officially created with the objective of devolving power to the people ( <i>Le Potentiel</i> 24 Apr. 2007; Agence Belga 30 Jan. 2003). In speeches given by Kabila posted on the website of the Coordination Lumumbistes-Mulelistes-Kabilistes (LMK), a grouping of nationalist and revolutionnary Congolese (n.d.), Kabila explained that the CPP were to act as alternatives to political parties (Coordination LMK 21 Jan. 1999). They were to provide the people's own perspective on their needs and administrate government projects in committees formed at the grassroots level in a form of direct democracy (Coordination LMK 21 Jan. 1999; <i>ibid.</i> 21 Apr. 1999).	
<b>Research</b>		
Research Program		
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets		
Responses to Information Requests	According to the United States (US) Department of State <i>Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1999</i> , Kabila decreed in July 1999 that all political activity had to be approved by the CPP (US 23 Feb. 2000, Sec. 2.b). <i>Country Reports</i> states that from 1999 to 2001 the CPP monitored the Congolese population and served as a security force on behalf of the Kabila regime (US 4 Mar. 2002, Sec. 2.a; <i>ibid.</i> 23 Feb. 2001, Sec. 2.a). Opposition parties were "effectively banned" until May 2001, when Kabila's son and successor, President Joseph Kabila permitted them (AI 1 Nov. 2001, 33; US. 4 Mar. 2002).	
Recent Research		
<b>Media Centre</b>		
News		
Information Sheets		
Media Relations		
Proactive Disclosure	<i>Country Reports for 2000</i> indicates that Kabila's presidential decree instituting the CPP and directing all political activity through them was widely criticized (US 23 Feb. 2001, Sec. 2.b). In March 2000, delegates at a National Consultation organized by church groups called on the government to ban the CPP as part of a	

list of recommendations to improve civil rights (ibid. 2001, Sec. 3).

The CPP reportedly "declined in significance" after the assassination of Kabila (US 31 Mar. 2003; *Le Potentiel* 23 Nov 2006; Coordination LMK 20 Mar. - 22 Apr. 2003). They were officially dissolved in March 2003 after a meeting held to unite "Kabilistes" (Laurent-Désiré Kabila's ideological supporters) and nationalists in a common political direction (Agence Belga 10 Mar. 2003; DigitalCongo.net 12 Mar. 2003; Coordination LMK 20 Mar. - 22 Apr. 2003; RFI 14 Mar. 2003).

The CPP, alongside other groups, were absorbed into Joseph Kabila's Parti du Peuple pour la Reconstruction et le Développement (People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy, PPRD) (Coordination LMK 20 Mar. - 22 Apr. 2003; RFI 14 Mar. 2003; DigitalCongo.net 12 Mar. 2003). However, the dissolution of the CPP by President Joseph Kabila reportedly caused a rift between some Laurent-Désiré Kabila loyalists and Joseph Kabila's supporters (*Le Potentiel* 23 Nov. 2006; Coordination LMK 20 Mar. - 22 Apr. 2003).

No further information on this movement or other people or organizations affiliated with the CPP in the DRC could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

### **The CPP in Canada**

Several postings by the president and vice-president of CPP-Canada on "Congonline", a news and discussion website dedicated to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, give an indication of some of the activities of the Canadian section of the CPP. An 1998 posting identifies the CPP-Canada president and vice-president as having previously served as, respectively, the coordinator and the assistant secretary-general of the Canadian section of the Alliance des Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Congo (AFDL-Canada 20 Aug. 1998). Other postings on CPP-Canada from August 1999 to November 2000 show that CPP-Canada organized a conference and issued calls to the Congolese community within and outside Canada to defend the interests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to support the policies of President Laurent-Désiré Kabila (CPP-Canada 21 Nov. 2000; ibid. 17 Aug. 2000; ibid 9 Aug. 1999).

In a 21 November 2000 posting, the CPP-Canada president argued that the CPP-Canada section was part of an effort to organize the Congolese people in a new type of democratic model and that the CPP was a continuation of the AFDL (CPP-Canada 21 Nov. 2000). According to this posting, the mandate of the CPP-Canada section included:

[translation]

- Influencing the Congolese in Canada to mobilize on behalf of our homeland the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- Raising awareness of the Congolese people in Canada so they take control of their own destiny;
- Consolidating national unity and the integrity of the national territory;
- Putting in place and defending the Congolese people's power in our host country of Canada;
- Encouraging the Congolese Diaspora of Canada to contribute to the social well-being of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- Offering to women, youth and the dispossessed segments of the Congolese population the best opportunities to effectively and efficiently participate in the political life of the Congolese nation;
- Ensuring that wherever Congolese people are found, they will always be actors in their history and masters of their destiny, not just spectators waiting on the sidelines (ibid.).

No further information on CPP-Canada, its membership, its recruitment activities and the treatment of its members by authorities were 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 sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

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**Internet sites, including:** AllAfrica, Congo Panorama, Europa World, Human Rights Watch (HRW), Mouvement Congolais pour la Democratie Directe, International Crisis Group, *Pambazuka News*; Réseau documentaire international sur la région des grands lacs africains

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