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[Home](#) > [Research](#) > [Responses to Information Requests](#)

## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

[New Search](#) | [About RIRs](#) | [Help](#)

The Board		23 March 2010
About the Board	<b>COD103416.FE</b>	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): The situation of Kivutians living in Kinshasa	
Employment	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa	
Legal and Policy	Several sources consulted by the Research Directorate indicated that Kivutians (people from the Kivu region) living in Kinshasa [translation] "do not face any particular problems" ( <i>Le Soir</i> 9 Mar. 2010; VSV 22 Feb. 2010; Hj 22 Feb. 2010).	
References		
Publications		
Tribunal		
Refugee Protection Division	In a 22 February 2010 telephone interview with the Research Directorate, a representative of Voice of the Voiceless for the Defence of Human Rights (La voix des sans voix pour les droits de l'homme, VSV), a non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to defending human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (VSV n.d.), stated that his organization has never been aware of a case in which a person was ill-treated by the authorities or the general public in Kinshasa based solely on the fact that that person was a Kivutian. The VSV Representative added that, in Kinshasa-as everywhere else in the country-Kivutians are considered just like other Congolese citizens and are not victims of any form of discrimination (22 Feb. 2010).	
Immigration Division		
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions		
Forms		
Statistics		
Research		
Research Program	Two sources consulted by the Research Directorate indicated that Kivutians are represented in all of the country's institutions (Hj 22 Feb. 2010; <i>Le Phare</i> 22 Feb. 2010). In correspondence sent to the Research Directorate on 22 February 2010, the director of the Kinshasa daily <i>Le Phare</i> , corroborating that Kivutians are not [translation] "threatened" in Kinshasa, stated the following:	
National Documentation Packages	[translation]	
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets	Kivutians are considered the children of the regime in power. They are highly represented in all institutions (Parliament, Government, Presidential Services of the Republic), including the army, police force, security services, and management of government business enterprises.	
Responses to Information Requests		
Recent Research		
Media Centre		
News	Also, during a 22 February 2010 telephone interview with the Research Directorate, a representative of Heirs of Justice (Héritiers de la justice, Hj), a human rights NGO in the Great Lakes Region (Hj 2 Jan. 2010), stated that Kivutians occupy several influential positions-they are ministers, chairpersons and chief executive officers (CEOs) of public and private enterprises, army generals, high-ranking government officials, and police officers.	
Information Sheets		
Media Relations		
Transparency		
Completed Access to Information Requests	Additional information on the situation of Kivutians living in Kinshasa could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.	

## 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 sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

### References

Héritiers de la justice (Hj). 22 February 2010. Telephone interview with a representative.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2 January 2010. "Découvrez Hj." <[http://heritiersdelajustice.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=47&Itemid=54](http://heritiersdelajustice.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=47&Itemid=54)> [Accessed 17 Mar. 2010]

*Le Phare* [Kinshasa]. 22 February 2010. Correspondence from the director.

*Le Soir* [Brussels]. 9 March 2010. Telephone interview with a journalist.

La voix des sans voix pour les droits de l'homme (VSV). 22 February 2010. Telephone interview with a representative.

\_\_\_\_\_. N.d. "Présentation de l'organisme." <<http://www.vsv-rdc.com/>> [Accessed 17 Mar. 2010]

### Additional Sources Consulted

**Oral sources:** Attempts to contact a professor at the University of Antwerp in Belgium, an expert on matters regarding the African Great Lakes and representatives of the Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'homme (FIDH) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were unsuccessful.

**Internet sites, including:** Afrik.com, *Les Afriques*, AllAfrica.com, Amnesty International (AI), Freedom House, Human Rights Watch, International Crisis Group, *Jeune Afrique*, Minority Rights Group International (MRG), Office of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF), PANAPress (PANA), *Le Potentiel* [Kinshasa], Radio France internationale (RFI), Societecivile.cd, Syfia Grands Lacs, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Development Programme (UNDP), United States (US) Bureau of African Affairs.

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[Top of Page](#)

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