Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): The situation of Kivutians living in Kinshasa

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa


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).

Two sources consulted by the Research Directorate indicated that Kivutians are represented in all of the country’s institutions (Hj 22 Feb. 2010; Le Phare 22 Feb. 2010). In correspondence sent to the Research Directorate on 22 February 2010, the director of the Kinshasa daily Le Phare, corroborating that Kivutians are not [translation] “threatened” in Kinshasa, stated the following:

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.

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.

Additional information on the situation of Kivutians living in Kinshasa could not be 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.

References

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


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


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.


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