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## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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The Board		19 August 2005
About the Board	<b>COG100398.E</b>	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	Republic of the Congo (Congo-Brazzaville): Airport security conditions and exit requirements for Congolese nationals (August 2005)	
Employment	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa	
Legal and Policy		
References	Exit requirements for Congolese nationals and current information on airports security conditions could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.	
Publications		
Tribunal		
Refugee Protection Division	According to various reports, an unidentified teenager was shot and killed by police in January 2004 while trying to hide in the undercarriage of an Air France plane at Brazzaville's Maya-Maya airport (PANA 10 Jan. 2004; Reuters 10 Jan. 2004; <i>Online Travel Review</i> 12 Jan. 2004). Citing the commander of the border police at the airport, a 10 January 2004 Panafrican News Agency (PANA) report added that another "fruitless" attempt took place a few days earlier at the same airport, while two sources revealed that in October 2003, a 20-year-old man was found dead in Paris; he was discovered in the landing gear of an Air France plane from Brazzaville (PANA 10 Jan. 2004; Reuters 10 Jan. 2004).	
Immigration Division		
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions		
Forms		
Statistics		
Research		
Research Program	According to a 10 January 2004 Reuters article, the "Brazzaville's Maya-Maya airport is built next to impoverished neighbourhoods in the run-down city [and] the runways are surrounded by grass, making it easy for people to hide and wait for planes to pass." Citing the commander of the border police at the same airport, a PANA article pointed out the consistent "malpractices" at Maya-Maya airport and "deplored the poor security barrier" at the same airport (10 Jan. 2004).	
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets	Referring to the same airport, another PANA report cited the Congolese director-general of police who compared the airport to "an open field through which every person goes without being checked and others mill about," and who concluded that "security arrangements at Maya-Maya airport were not as operational as expected" (21 Sept. 2001).	
Responses to Information Requests		
Recent Research		
Media Centre		
News	In addition, describing the security conditions at Pointe-Noire airport in Southern Congo where a dozen West Africans were arrested while they were trying to illegally board an Angolan-bound aircraft, a 10 October 2001 PANA report stated the following:	
Information Sheets		
Media Relations		
Transparency		
Completed Access to Information Requests	Passengers who land at Pointe-Noire airport are often struck by the funny behaviour of security officers, employees of the National Aviation Agency and airline workers. While the policemen can be rigorous against people they do not know, they are often very lenient when it comes to their acquaintances, whom they	

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even assist to complete boarding formalities. Civil aviation workers and airline employees have something to do with that disorder because they even allow certain passengers to board planes without paying airport tax. They are also blamed for checking in passengers without bookings ahead of those who had reserved seats in advance.

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

Online Travel Review. 12 January 2004. "Brazzaville Stowaway." <[http://www.onlinetravelreview.com/online\\_travel\\_review/2004/01/brazzaville\\_sto.html](http://www.onlinetravelreview.com/online_travel_review/2004/01/brazzaville_sto.html)> [Accessed 17 Aug. 2005]

Panafrican News Agency (PANA). 10 January 2004. "Congolese Police Kill Stowaway in Brazzaville." (Factiva)

\_\_\_\_\_. 10 October 2001. "Police Arrest 13 West Africans Said Involved in Raw Minerals Smuggling." (BBC Monitoring/Factiva)

\_\_\_\_\_. 21 September 2001. "Government Order Ministries to ensure Security at Airport." (BBC Monitoring/Factiva)

Reuters. 10 January 2004. "Congo Police Shoot Dead Boy Stowing Away on Plane." (Factiva)

### Additional Sources Consulted

#### Oral sources:

The following sources did not respond to requests for information within time constraints:

The Canadian Embassy in Abidjan, the Consular representative of the Republic of the Congo in Toronto; the Embassy of the Republic of the Congo in Washington, the Hôtel de ville of Brazzaville and The Pointe Noire-based Rencontre pour la Paix et les Droits de l'Homme (RPDH)

**Internet sites, including:** AllAfrica, European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI), Government of the Republic of the Congo, High Commission for the Republic of Cameroon, International Crisis Group (ICG), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United States Department of State.

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