

MASTER EXHIBIT SERIES

HAITI

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

[ME/HTI/93.003L]

JULY 1993

All the sources of information contained in this document are identified and are publicly available.
Master Exhibit prepared by Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services, Harvard Immigration & Refugee Program, in cooperation with Church World Service, Documentation Exchange, Florida Rural Legal Services, Haitian Refugee Center, National Immigration Project, National Lawyers Guild.

INS RESOURCE INFORMATION CENTER
425 I STREET, N.W.
(ULLICO BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR)
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20536

PRODUCED BY:

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL
IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE PROGRAM
CAMBRIDGE AND SOMERVILLE LEGAL SERVICES
SUITE 16, 432 COLOMBIA STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

DISCLAIMER

The July 27, 1990 Regulations, "Aliens and Nationality: Asylum and Withholding of Deportation Procedures," mandated the creation of a new corps of Asylum Officers to provide an initial, nonadversarial adjudication of asylum claims. Asylum Officers use asylum law, interviews with asylum applicants, and relevant information on country conditions to determine the merits of individual claims for asylum.

The Resource Information Center was created to assist Asylum Officers domestically, and Immigration Officers determining refugee status overseas, by collecting and disseminating credible and objective information on human rights conditions. As specified in the Regulations (8 CFR 208.12), such information may be obtained from the Department of Justice, the Department of State, and "other credible sources, such as international organizations, private voluntary organizations, or academic institutions."

Master Exhibits are one means by which credible information on a given group deemed "at risk" is presented to Asylum and Immigration Officers. Master Exhibits are submitted by private voluntary organizations, law firms, or other groups, which are credited on the title page of the Exhibit. The contents of each Master Exhibit distributed by the Resource Information Center, taken as a whole, meet certain basic standards on credibility, relevance and format, and can provide Asylum Officers with valuable background material for evaluating country conditions.

This Master Exhibit provides publicly available information, analyses, or comment. All sources are cited. Updates to this Master Exhibit may be made from time to time. This Master Exhibit, however, cannot be, and does not purport to be, either exhaustive with regard to the country surveyed, or conclusive as to the merits of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. It is for the Asylum Officer adjudicating a particular case to determine what evidentiary weight to give to the information in this Master Exhibit.

The inclusion of this Master Exhibit in the collection of Master Exhibits compiled by the Service does not constitute an endorsement of the information in this Master Exhibit. *The views expressed in this Master Exhibit, therefore, do not necessarily represent statements of policy of the United States Government, nor does this Master Exhibit reflect foreign policy concerns of the United States Government.*

Rev. 10/08/92

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

- | <u>Item</u> | <u>Citation/Description</u> |
|-------------|---|
| I. | <p>Robin Kirk, United States Committee on Refugees, Issue Paper, <u>Stone of Refuge: Haitian Refugees in the Dominican Republic</u> (June 1992).</p> <p>Describes how open racism and cultural differences create tensions and have traditionally placed Haiti and the Dominican Republic at odds. Current actions by Dominican Republic government imply support for Haitian military and current coup leaders. Haitian refugees in the Dominican Republic who are not forced back to Haiti are often impressed to work on sugarcane plantations in slavelike conditions. UNHCR treatment of Haitians in DR is described as "improvised."</p> |
| II. | <p>Americas Watch/National Coalition for Haitian Refugees, "Dominican Authorities Ban Creole Radio Program and Crack Down Protesters" <u>News From Americas Watch/National Coalition For Haitian Refugees</u>, Vol. 4, No. 3 (New York: Human Rights Watch, April 10, 1992).</p> <p>Concludes that the government-ordered suspension of broadcasts of Haitian news program "reflects the Dominican acquiescence in the Haitian junta's effort to silence this remaining source of uncensored information for the Haitian people." Notes that the radio ban coincided with a general crackdown on groups and individuals known to support the Haitian refugees.</p> |
| III. | <p>The Haiti Commission, <u>Lavalas vs. Duvalierism: The Struggle for Haiti's Future</u> (New York: March 1992), pp. 21-23.</p> <p>The Commission reports that the Dominican Republic is cooperating with the Haitian military to discourage and harass refugees from Haiti. (The Haiti Commission was formed in early October 1991 by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark to investigate the causes and consequences of the September 29 coup d'etat in Haiti. Members of the Commission include E. Faye Williams, counsel and special assistant to US congressman Mervyn Dymally, member of the Foreign affairs Committee, and John Brittain, President of the National Lawyers Guild.</p> |
| IV. | <p>The Haiti Commission, <u>On the Dominican/Haitian Frontier: A Report From the Haiti Commission</u> (28 November 1991).</p> <p>Based on interviews with Haitian refugees in the Dominican Republic, the report describes the imprisonment of many refugees. Dominican authorities did not respect international human rights codes or agreements concerning the treatment of these prisoners.</p> |
| V. | <p>Amnesty International, <u>Urgent Action, Haiti, 'Fear of Refoulement [lists twenty three persons and one unnamed child]'</u>, 14 November 1991, "UA 398/91."</p> <p>Reports detention in early November of 1991 and possible refoulement of 23 Haitians and one unnamed child from the Dominican Republic to Haiti.</p> |
| VI. | <p>Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, <u>Expulsion of Haitians and Dominico-Haitians from the Dominican Republic</u> (New York: Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, September 1991).</p> <p>Reports the forced expulsion of Haitians and Dominican citizens of Haitian descent from the Dominican Republic from July to September 1991. Describes military roundups and expulsions from the Dominican Republic of Haitians, Dominico-Haitians, Arrayanos, and dark-skinned</p> |

Dominicans. Documents numerous cases of separated families caused by this forced repatriation.