



CANADA

# Debates of the Senate

---

3rd SESSION

• 40th PARLIAMENT

• VOLUME 147

• NUMBER 6

---

## CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

### Regulations for Refugee Status

Question by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

## THE SENATE

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

[*Translation*]

### CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

#### REGULATIONS FOR REFUGEE STATUS

**Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I want to begin by thanking the Leader of the Government in the Senate for her diligence in following up last Thursday with her colleague, the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism.

I would like to return to the topic raised by Senator Dallaire: the deportation of Rwandan nationals. Following the Rwandan genocide in 1994, Canada imposed a moratorium on deportations to Rwanda. The moratorium was lifted on January 23, 2010, at a time when the government was advising its own citizens not to travel to Rwanda and when many cases of persecution and 16 cases of murder of witnesses to genocide had recently been reported. Why, then, was the moratorium lifted?

[*English*]

**Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, the issue of removal from Canada of individuals is handled by border security officials.

In terms of the moratorium, I will take Senator Tardif's question as notice. As honourable senators know, issues with regard to travel advisories to Canadians or citizens in this country and their status are complex.

However, with regard to Senator Tardif's specific question on the moratorium, I will take the question as notice.

[*Translation*]

**Senator Tardif:** Some of the Rwandan nationals threatened with deportation speak French, are studying in French and have integrated into francophone minority communities, including a number in my community in Edmonton.

Could the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration not regularize the status of these people in order to support and promote the vitality and renewal of francophone minority communities?

[*English*]

**Senator LeBreton:** Again, all the conditions and the regulations whereby Canadians come into this country, whether through the immigration process, the refugee process or other means, are complex, as honourable senators know. Dealing with these individual cases is difficult.

With regard to the specific question Senator Tardif raises about Rwandan individuals who are living in Canada and seeking to make Canada their home, I will take the question as notice and refer it to the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism.

---