

WINDY FAMILY BUT JUNE 2003 News Reporter

Embassy should urgently consider Kissoon's medical case

THE GREAT difficulty Guyanese experience trying to obtain a visa to travel to the United States is well known, and I tend not to get involved in such matters; as for myself - I have enjoyed multiple indefinite (10 years validity) visas from the US Embassy in Barbados (where I was born) on three occasions since I was 2 years old. But that is my luck and it has nothing to do with this letter.

I wish to draw the attention of your readers to the plight of Mr. Benjamin Kissoon - an East Indian married to an Amerindian lady and resident of the Amerindian territory of St. Cuthbert's Mission on the Upper Mahaica River - where Mr. Kissoon and his wife live with their 3 sons.

I have known Mr. Kissoon since 1993 and I have watched his physical condition steadily deteriorate. He was badly burned many years pre- and the scar

grant visa, letters from The Ministry of Health, Amerindian Affairs, the Village Council, doctors, lawyers, sponsor in the USA, bank statements attesting to his ownership of a home, 3 vehicles, monthly income etc, etc.,

In overview, I could find no reason for him not to be granted this visa on humanitarian grounds - and I cannot conceive of anyone satisfying the U.S. Embassy visa criteria better than Mr. Kissoon. He seems quite over-qualified in my opinion. Luckily for me I had an American friend who is the head of the Consular section at another U.S. Embassy in the Caribbean review the photocopies of Mr. Kissoons' 2-inch

thick dossier submission. The gentleman concurred with me and was dumbfounded as to why Mr. Kissoon was not granted a visa. He went so far as to state, "I hate to say it but this might be a case of blatant discrimination on the part of one officer at the embassy in Georgetown against Mr. Kissoon."

Bear in mind that it was not I but a member of the U.S. Diplomatic Corps, that uttered these words.

I have known several American Ambassadors in Barbados in my short 30 years of life and I am confident that Ambassador Godard is totally unaware of

this case. The U.S. Congress does not approve of Ambassadorial nominees lightly. I further trust that Ambassador Godard will be informed of this unfortunate incident.

If/when this information I have supplied is printed in your respected publication, I trust that he will give it his urgent attention. An innocent man's life depends on it



DAMON GERARD CORRIE HEREDITARY CHIEF OF THE EAGLE CLAN ARAWAKS (LOKONO), & THE PAN-TRIBAL CONFEDERACY OF MONGOLOID TRIBAL NATIONS

CONTACT INFORMATION :

OFFICE OF THE HEREDITARY CHIEF OF THE PAN-TRIBAL CONFEDERACY OF MONGOLOID TRIBAL NATIONS #13 HIGHGATE GARDENS, WILDEY, ST. MICHAEL, BARBADOS WI BH-10 TEL (246) 228 - 6227 FAX (246) 437 - 2018