

could have been handled in 30 minutes in a straightforward manner. If a bond is what was required, that could have been signed right at the beginning.

“Special precautions may be required by the Immigration Department to ensure that a person on a visit leaves at the right time. But what is totally unacceptable to me is the rude, insensitive behaviour of the immigration officials that evening.”

“I have been told that there have been cases of Guyanese people using their visits to Canada as a way of staying here illegally. That may be, and special precautions may be required by the Immigration Department to ensure that a person on a visit leaves at the right time. But what is totally unacceptable to me is the rude, insensitive behaviour of the immigration officials that evening.

“We have another Guyanese friend who was detained in similar fashion with three young children. For five hours he was not allowed to provide for their feeding or toilet needs. They would not allow him to get his bags. Incidents like this and like ours leave a very bad image of immigration and of the Canadian government.

“What is ironic about this whole affair is the treatment my cousin subsequently received from the United States immigration people during his visit here. My husband and I were invited to a wedding in the States and we wanted to take my cousin with us. We applied to the U.S. Embassy here, and he received a visa in just 45 minutes. They couldn't have been more kind, courteous and helpful.

“This whole affair was deeply upsetting for all of us. My cousin returned to Guyana three weeks later with a very bad image of Canada. For my part, I intend never to go through this kind of experience again.”

“In the end, I had to post a \$1000 bond to ensure that he would leave the country—even though he had a return ticket, a letter from his employer stating the date he would return to his job in Georgetown, and the letter from me clearly stating that I would take financial care of him for the three weeks that he was here.

“This whole affair was deeply upsetting for all of us. My cousin returned to Guyana three weeks later with a very bad image of Canada. For my part, I intend never to go through this kind of experience again. I have no assurance at this point that another relative of mine will be treated any better. It makes me very reluctant to invite anyone here.

