

P. is a young man from the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville). He speaks French and lives in Chicago, IL. (13-0079869)

After his mother passed away, P. moved to Brazzaville where he lived with his father, who worked as a bodyguard for a high-ranking government official. In March 2012, explosions occurred at a weapons depot in Brazzaville, causing hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries. The Congolese president thought the explosions were deliberate and commissioned an investigation, resulting in the arrest and interrogation of several military officials. In late March, the government official for whom P.'s father worked was arrested and accused of staging the explosions in an attempt to overthrow the government. The following night, masked military men invaded the home of P. and his father and began beating them with batons. They handcuffed P. and his father, drove them to a remote location and locked them in a cellar. Hours later, three men returned and began torturing them by burning their feet and beating them with hot objects. They demanded that P.'s father reveal the truth about the explosion plot, and cut off several of his fingers and toes when he said he had no information. In attempt to extract information from P.'s father, the men burned P. and removed a toenail. Several hours later, the officers led P. and his father into the forest where they bound P.'s father to a tree and then shot his father in each foot and then in the head. After P.'s father died, they took P. back to the cellar and said they would kill him too. Several hours later, another military man came to the cellar and explained that he was a friend of P.'s father and knew that he was innocent. He helped P. to escape, and P. fled to a train station. Hiding in the cargo hold of a train, he traveled to his hometown where he went into hiding at his maternal aunt's house. Several months later, P.'s aunt was able to arrange for P. to leave the country, and P. entered the United States on September 4, 2012 on a student visa. USCIS should receive P.'s asylum application by September 3, 2013.