Scenario:

The case studies below are examples of the dilemmas faced by the IRB when deciding whether someone is a refugee. (**IRB = Immigrant & Refugee Board**)

Case Study 1:

Ms. H, who has no political affiliation, belongs to an ethnic minority, many members of which want independence from the ethnic majority governing her country. In support of their ideas, some members of the minority group have undertaken guerrilla activities. Each time one of the guerrilla actions took place, Ms. H was threatened by some of her neighbours, her neighbours belong to the ethnic majority. In addition, Ms. H has received anonymous phone calls from members of her own ethnic group, who criticize her for not taking their side. She went to the police and asked for protection, but they were so overwhelmed by the events that they were unable to help her. Tension grew in Ms. H's country, and many people were killed in clashes. Frightened, Ms. H obtained a passport, left her country by plane, and arrived in Canada, where she is now requesting asylum.

 Is Ms. H a refugee? Why or why not?

Case Study 2:

Ms. F is a citizen of Magnolia. She has been suffering from a serious disease for the past three months. Her doctor believes that she only has a few more months left to live. Her only hope is a new, but very expensive, medical treatment. Unfortunately, Ms. F is very poor, and the Magnolian government has suspended all free health care services. All citizens are now required to pay the full cost of their medical care. Ms. F will never be able to afford the treatment that she needs to survive. However, if she comes to Canada health care is provided by the government. If Ms. F is allowed into Canada, she is guaranteed free health care. With the help of a friend, Ms. F travels to Canada and applies for refugee status. She claims that she will not survive if she remains in Magnolia. Do you think her application will be accepted? Why or why not??