



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Somalia - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 1 November 2012

Treatment of those associated with the Barre regime, including returnees

A paper issued in May 2010 by the *UNHCR* notes:

“In light of Somalia's long history of armed conflict, serious human rights violations and transgressions of international humanitarian law, exclusion considerations under Article 1F of the 1951 Convention may arise in relation to individual asylum claims by Somali asylum-seekers. Exclusion considerations may be triggered in any individual case if there are elements in the applicant's claim that suggest that he or she may have been associated or involved with criminal acts that fall within the scope of Article 1F of the 1951 Convention. In the context of Somalia, exclusion considerations may arise in the cases of Somali asylum-seekers with certain backgrounds and profiles, including persons who have been engaged in the hostilities and armed conflict. In particular, careful attention should be given to the following profiles: (1) members of the previous Barre regime and its armed forces, especially if active in conflict with opposition groups such as in Somaliland... (2) members of the previous Barre regime associated with the police, the security and intelligence apparatus, especially persons linked to the National Security Service, National Security Courts... the military police (who also served as presidential guard), the military intelligence service, the militia-styled Victory Pioneers... (3) members of armed groups opposing the Barre regime which participated in the subsequent competition for control of Somalia after the collapse of the State, including the United Somali Congress (USC), Somali National Movement (SNM), Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), Al-Itihaad al-Islamiya (AIAI), Rahanweyn Resistance Army (RRA)...” (UNHCR (5 May 2010) *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Somalia*).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

References

UNHCR (5 May 2010) *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Somalia*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/print/members/country-report/unhcr-eligibility-guidelines-assessing-international-protection-needs-asylum-1>

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International
BBC News
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Refugees International
Reliefweb
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
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