



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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The Board		25 February 2010
About the Board	ISR103377.E	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	Israel: The presence and roles of Druze Arabs and Israeli Arabs in the Israeli police force	
Employment	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa	
Legal and Policy		
References	Information about the presence and roles of Druze Arabs and Israeli Arabs in the Israeli police force was scarce among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, a 2008 article addressing the ethnic composition of Israel's police force was published in the international academic journal <i>Policing & Society</i> (Weitzer and Hasi 2008). The following information is contained in the article.	
Publications		
Tribunal		
Refugee Protection Division		
Immigration Division	According to the 2003 government statistics cited in the article, 17 percent of Israel's population (not including Gaza and the West Bank) is Arab (Weitzer and Hasi Dec. 2008, 366). Of this population, 65 percent are Muslim (non-Bedouin) and 9 percent are Druze (ibid.). The authors note that the Arab population is "not homogeneous" and that other Arab groups living in Israel include Christians and Bedouins (ibid.).	
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions		
Forms		
Statistics	In both the Israel Police and the Border Police, the majority of police officers are Jews (ibid.367). Specifically, 93 percent of the Israel Police are Jews, according to the 2003 government statistics cited in the article (ibid.). "Non-Jews" make up the remaining 7 percent of the force (ibid.). Of the "non-Jews," 50 percent are Druze and 18 percent are (non-Bedouin) Muslim (ibid.). Overall, the authors state, Muslims comprise 1.8 percent of the Israel Police (ibid., 373). The authors do not provide a similar overall statistic for Druze members of the Israel Police.	
Research		
Research Program		
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets	Jews make up three-quarters of the Border Police, also according to 2003 government statistics (ibid., 367). One-quarter are "non-Jews" (ibid.). Of the "non-Jews," 66 percent are Druze, and 10 percent are Muslim (ibid.).	
Responses to Information Requests	According to the report's authors, statistics indicate that the Druze are over-represented in both the Israel Police and the Border Police, while Muslims are under-represented (ibid., 373). The authors further cite a 1990 Hebrew article that states that the Druze are considered by Israelis to be a " 'model minority' " who "occupy a privileged position relative to other Arabs," and who have "historically...been welcomed into the police force" (ibid., 366).	
Recent Research		
Media Centre		
News		
Information Sheets		
Media Relations		
Proactive Disclosure	Information on the specific roles of Arab and Druze police officers could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time frames of this Response.	

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

Reference

Weitzer, Ronald and Badi Haisi. 2008. "Does Ethnic Composition Make a Difference? Citizens' Assessments of Arab Police Officers in Israel." *Policing and Society*. Vol. 18, No. 2.

Additional Sources Consulted

Internet sites, including: Al Jazeera, Arab Association for Human Rights, Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), *Haaretz*, Government of Israel, International Relations and Security Network, Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), Middle East Review of International Affairs (MERIA), Minority Rights Group International, Ynet News.

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