



Somalia – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 9 July 2010

Whether Mogadishu is an ethnically mixed city and whether Medina in Mogadishu is a predominantly Reer Hamar area.

In a section titled “Present situation of minority groups in Somalia” (section 4.2) a *Danish Immigration Service* fact-finding mission report states:

“A UN source in Nairobi estimated that in the present situation there are no longer any generic threats to any of the minority groups in Somalia. But the delegation was also told that the Reer Hamar community of Mogadishu and the Bravanese community of Brava have almost ceased to exist in Somalia. They have been dispersed, number a few thousand at the most along the southern coast, and have nothing to go back to.” (Danish Immigration Service (24 September 2000) *Report on Minority Groups in Somalia*, 23)

See also *Danish Immigration Service* fact-finding mission report which, in a section titled “Reer Hamar and Bandhabow” (section 4.7.2), states:

“Abdi Mamow estimated that 90% of the Reer Hamar population in Mogadishu have left the city as a consequence of civil war and lack of security for this group. The majority of Reer Hamar who are still in Mogadishu are older people who live in Mogadishu’s traditional Reer Hamar district; Hamar Weyn. However, Hamar Weyn is not controlled by the Reer Hamar but by militias of the Habr Gedir sub-clan Suleiman. Wolken had no information concerning the number of Reer Hamar still living in Mogadishu but according to two Tunni businessmen from Mogadishu, Abdulrazak Omar Nurein Scego and Omar Jailani Sheikh perhaps 2,000 persons of the Reer Hamar were still living in Mogadishu.” (Danish Immigration Service (17 March 2004) *Human rights and security in central and southern Somalia*, p.39)

In a section titled “Who remains in Mogadishu?” (Section 3.1.1) a report published by the *Norwegian Country of Origin Information Centre* (Landinfo) states:

“Half of the population of Mogadishu belongs to the Hawiye clan Abgal, and the majority of those remaining in the city belong to this clan. They are well established not only in the city, but also in the neighbouring region of Middle Shebelle. They therefore have withdrawal options, and will not leave so readily. They are also to a large extent TFG supporters. According to a well-informed observer, the Hawiye clan Suleiman is still represented in Hamar Weyne, Hamar Jabjab, Karaan and Medina, but those who do not control areas in the capital have mostly left. The minorities’ areas are ghost towns and it is unknown how many minority group members remain in Mogadishu.” (Norwegian Country of Origin Information Centre (Landinfo) (12 November 2008) *Conflict, security and clan protection in South Somalia*, p.13)

This section of the report also states:

“The districts of Karaan and Medina are overpopulated because many inhabitants from other districts have settled there.” (ibid, p.13)

See also *Norwegian Country of Origin Information Centre* (Landinfo) query response which, in a section titled “Security situation”, states:

“During fact finding missions to Nairobi in June 2008 and March 2009, Landinfo discussed the security and human rights situation related to minorities, i.e. Bantu, Midgan-groups and Benadiris, with both international and Somali sources. None of them had specific updated information concerning Benadiris, and there is for instance no credible information on the number of Reer Hamar living in Mogadishu today.” (Norwegian Country of Origin Information Centre (Landinfo) (17 December 2009) *Somalia: Reer Hamar*, p.1)

In a section titled “Minority and other groups with affiliations to major clans” (Reer Hamar) a COI Workshop report published by the *Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation* states:

“As the Reer Hamar belong to Benadiri, they can be regarded as minorities in terms of language and culture. They live in the central parts of Mogadishu, in Hamarweyne and Shangani, where they own property. The Reer Hamar, who mainly are of Arabic descent, is not exactly a homogenous ethnic group, but a reference made to the early urban people of Hamar and Shangani Districts of Mogadishu, which are the old historical parts of Mogadishu.” (Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) (15 December 2009) *Clans in Somalia - Report on a Lecture by Joakim Gundel, COI Workshop Vienna, 15 May 2009 (Revised Edition)*, p.17)

This section of the report also states:

“The Reer Hamar do live in Hamarweyne and Shangani, where they do own property.” (ibid, p.18)

References:

Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) (15 December 2009) *Clans in Somalia - Report on a Lecture by Joakim Gundel, COI Workshop Vienna, 15 May 2009 (Revised Edition)*

http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/90_1261130976_accord-report-clans-in-somalia-revised-edition-20091215.pdf

(Accessed 8 July 2010)

Danish Immigration Service (17 March 2004) *Human rights and security in central and southern Somalia*

<http://www.nyidanmark.dk/NR/rdonlyres/FFA212EA-0DC7-4D8F-B31B-198639854515/0/Somalia2004.pdf>

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Danish Immigration Service (24 September 2000) *Report on Minority Groups in Somalia*
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/3ae6a5fa0.pdf>
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Norwegian Country of Origin Information Centre (Landinfo) (17 December 2009) *Somalia: Reer Hamar*
http://www.landinfo.no/asset/1091/1/1091_1.pdf
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Norwegian Country of Origin Information Centre (Landinfo) (12 November 2008) *Conflict, security and clan protection in South Somalia*
http://www.landinfo.no/asset/784/1/784_1.pdf
(Accessed 8 July 2010)

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:

Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD)
Danish Immigration Service
European Country of Origin Information Network
Google
Human Rights Watch
International Crisis Group
Landinfo
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
United Kingdom Home Office
UNHCR Refworld