

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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Questions

- 1. What is the location of Nazareth in Ethiopia?**
- 2. What prison is there in Nazareth or nearest to Nazareth?**
- 3. Are there reports of the government destroying the market area in Geneb, Nazareth?**
- 4. Are there reports of protests about the destruction of the market area in Geneb, Nazareth?**
- 5. Please provide all current reports, especially DFAT, regarding obtaining a passport in Ethiopia and whether a person of interest to the authorities could depart Ethiopia.**

RESPONSE

1. What is the location of Nazareth in Ethiopia?

The town of Nazareth is also referred to as “Adama” by ethnic Oromo people – it is situated at 76 km southeast of the capital Addis Ababa (Ryu, Alisha 2007. ‘Ethiopian police say they have foiled terrorist plot’, *Voice of America*, 15 August. - <http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2007-08/2007-08-15-voa42.cfm?CFID=156067451&CFTOKEN=65897768&jsessionid=8430cd56a49fab8d8f95713026393a2215e6> – Accessed 6 April 2009 - Attachment 1)

There are some variations in spelling and this town is also called Nazret (‘Watchdog urges amnesty for jailed journalists’ 2006, *Reporters Sans Frontières* (RSF), 12 May – Attachment 2)

Information on the socio-economic profile of the Adama district is contained in this excerpt from a report from the Oromia State Government:

Adama Profile

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF ADAMA DISTRICT

Physical Characteristics:- Adama district (968.27 km²) shares borderlines with Lume and Boset districts and Arsi zone (fig.6). Adama (Nazareth) is the district capital. The whole of the district comes within 1500-2300m range of altitude. The district is dominated by undulating plains with extended ridges along its western part. Awash is the only significant river in Adama and it flows along the eastern part of the district. The Koka Lake (the third largest lake in the zone) belongs to the district. Adama district comes under a sub-tropical agro-climatic zone. The major soil type in Adama is Andosol, accounting for 74.3% of the land area of the district. Cambisols and Luvisols cover 25.7%. Adama is dominated by sub-tropical grasslands. There are small scale state forests in the district. The major types of wild animals in the district are fox, ape, monkey, hippopotamus, hyena, walia, crocodile and porcupine. There is no reserved area for wildlife conservation in the district.

Population:- Adama is the most populous district in East Shewa Zone. The total population of the district was 286,198 in 1997. The urban population was 59.8% of the total population in the same year. About 38.7% of the populations were 0-14 years, 58.5% were 15-64 years, While 2.8% were 65 years and above. About 51.6% of the urban and 48.7% of the rural populations were females. The crude population density of Adama district was 295 persons per km².

Agriculture:- There were 41 Farmers' Associations with 13,929 member farmers (1572 females). Similarly, there were 10 Farmers' Service Cooperatives with 8631 member farmers in the mentioned year. About 30% of the total area of the district was under crops. Grazing, forests and degraded lands accounted for about 6.5%, 5.2% and 4.2% respectively. Cereals and pulses accounted for 96% of the cultivated land in the mentioned year. Among cereal crops, teff accounts for the largest area and production followed by maize. The only state farm in Adama is the Wonji Sugar cane Plantation. About 28,016 quintals of fertilizers (24,618 qts. of DAP and 3,398 qts. Of urea), 297.5 quintals of improved seeds and 200 litres of pesticides were distributed to farmers in the district. Fallowing, crop rotation and application of crop residue are traditional ways of maintaining soil fertility. African boll worms, stock borers, quela-quela and rats are crop pests in the district. The average farmland size per household was 2.5 hectares. On the other hand, the average number of farm oxen per household was 1.7 in the indicated year. Adama had 55,026 cattle, 19,293 sheep, 27,790 goats, 315 horses, 202 mules, 14,764 donkeys 10 camels and 37,578 poultry. There were 2367 traditional and 316 modern beehives in the district in the mentioned year. The major animal diseases are blackleg, anthrax, lumpy skin disease, sheep pox, internal and external parasites. Regarding veterinary services in the district, 41,997 different vaccines and 24,159 treatments were given to different livestock.

Mining and Industry:- The district is endowed with different construction materials and other minerals. These include Diatomite, Clay, Pumice, Scoria, Sulfur, Sand, Ignimbrite, Volcanic Ash, thermal spring, etc. There

were 12 government owned industries in the district. Similarly, there were 192 small scale industries in the district in the mentioned year. These small scale industries employed 1,181 persons.

Trade and Tourism:- Regarding cash crops, Adama is known for its fruits, vegetables and sugar cane. There were 4,471 licensed traders in Adama district. Among these, wholesalers were 783, retailers were 2,657 and service givers were 1,031. The most known tourist attraction sites in the district are Sodere and Gergedi hot springs and Boku femoral. Sodere hot spring is one of the major tourist attraction sites found in Oromiya. There are hotels in Adama, too.

Services:- Adama district had 110 kms of all weather and 18 kms of dry weather roads. Addis-Djibouti railway line runs across the district for about 28 kms. Regarding communications, Adama town had digital, Wonji Gefersa, Wonj Shewa and Sodere had semi automatic telephone services, while Awash Melkasa had manual telephone. Similarly, Adama and Wonji Gefersa towns had post offices. About 24% of the rural, 100% of the urban and 69% of the district's populations were served with potable water supply. Fire wood, dung and crop residue in rural and Charcoal, firewood and kerosene in urban are important domestic energy sources. The urban centers in the district are supplied with hydro-electric power. Regarding fuel stations, Adama district had 14 filling stations. Similarly, there were 7 banks and 5 insurance companies. The district had 36 elementary, 16 junior secondary and 5 senior secondary schools in the mentioned year. About 50.1% of the 41,692 students enrolled in Adama district were females. There were 1,212 teachers (36.2% females) in different levels of schools in the district. There were 2 hospitals, one health center and 36 clinics with 20 doctors, 51 nurses and 77 health assistants in the indicated year. Similarly, there was one animal health clinic and two health posts in the district.

Development Activities:- About 13 NGOs had on-going projects in Adama district. These include an integrated development program called Adama Area Development program run by World Vision International-Ethiopia; Adama Women Training project by ODIA (Oromo Development and Islah Association), Adama Lume community Based Integrated development by NACID; African Muslim Agency (AMA) with the objective of improving the living condition of destitute children and mothers, disabled people and unemployed youth, environmental rehabilitation and other development projects by CARE Shoa, Community based rehabilitation activities by RED BARNA and vocational training by Meserete Kristos Church (MKC).

Problems and Potentialities:- The problems include shortage of farm and grazing lands, deforestation, inadequate supply of agricultural inputs & uneven distribution of social services. Moreover, Educational and health institutions of the district lack adequate man-power, have problems of maintenance and shortage of facilities and equipment. Regarding potentialities, the district has potential areas for the development of commercial farms. The Koka lake and the Awash river are also potential areas of fishery development. The district is rich in construction and industrial minerals. It is highly suitable for tourism development, too ('Socio Economic Profile: East Shewa Zone' (undated), The Oromia State Government website [http://www.oromiagov.org/Socio Economic Profile/East Shewa/East Shewa.doc](http://www.oromiagov.org/Socio_Economic_Profile/East_Shewa/East_Shewa.doc) – Accessed 9 December 2008 – Attachment 3)

Two maps indicating the location of Nazrēt – one with the names and location of surrounding towns and another in relation to its distance from Addis Ababa are attached (Nazrēt' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive Atlas 2000* – Attachment 4 ;('Ethiopia' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive Atlas 2000* – Attachment 5).

2. What prison is there in Nazareth or nearest to Nazareth?

There is a reference to a prison in Nazret:

Freelance journalist Zegeye Haile was arrested and jailed in late July for "mendacious information and circulation of false news" because of a report he wrote in 2001 about conditions at Nazret prison (100 km. south of Addis Ababa). He was freed in mid-October ('Freedom of the Press throughout the world – Ethiopia – Annual Report 2003 [for 2002], *Reporters sans Frontières* – Attachment 6)

There is also a brief mention of the "Adama Prisoners Training Center" ('Ethiopian international Institute for Peace and Development First Quarter Report on CVEA Programme' 2007, Ethiopian International Institute for Peace and Development website, August-October <http://www.addis-eiipd.org/CVEA%20report.pdf> – Accessed 10 December 2008 – Attachment 7).

3. Are there reports of the government destroying the market area in Geneb, Nazareth?

Although a search of available resources has failed to find reports which confirm or deny that the government was involved in the destruction of the market area in Geneb, Nazareth; there are some references that police and security forces were involved in clashes with store owners:

On May 27, following clashes between local police and store owners, 180 persons were detained by security forces in the town of Nazret, Oromiya region, and charged with inciting uprising and destruction of property (see section 1.a.). At year's end most of those arrested had charges dismissed and were released; however, there was no information available on those still detained (US Department of State 2007, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2006 – Ethiopia*, 6 March, Section Section 1 Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom From: Arrest and Detention - Attachment 8)

Further reference is contained in this report:

There were no developments in the 2006 arrest by security forces of 180 persons in the town of Nazret, Oromiya Region, following clashes between local police and store owners. Initial charges included inciting an uprising and destruction of property, but most of those arrested had charges dismissed and were released by the end of 2006. However, there was no information available on those still detained (US Department of State 2008, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2007 – Ethiopia*, 11 March, Section 1 Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom From: Arrest Detention – Attachment 9).

4. Are there reports of protests about the destruction of the market area in Geneb, Nazareth?

There were protests in which security forces clashed with protestors:

Three were killed in Gimb Gebeya, Adama (Nazaret), and eight were injured when security forces fired on protestors, according to an Ethiopian Human Rights Council report in *Sendek* private weekly paper, 5 July. The authorities arrested 180 people who protested at the handing over of a large market property to investors instead of a cooperative of local businessmen (Oromo Support Group undated, OSG Press Release No. 43, July 2006-2007 <http://www.oromo.org/osg/pr43.htm> - Accessed 7 May 2008 – Attachment 10)

A report of casualties is contained in the following BBC article which is sourced from the Ethiopian opposition:

Clashes between police and civilians in the town of Nazret (100 km [north] from Addis Ababa) left several people dead.

The clashes occurred yesterday and continued this morning as the police tried to clear out a place at Gimb Gebeya. The government had sold the place to a pro-TPLF [Tigray People's Liberation Front, a dominant party in the ruling coalition in Ethiopia] businessmen without giving adequate compensation for the people who lived and worked there.

Angry protestors started throwing stones as the police forcefully tried to evict people from their homes and demolish houses. The heavily armed police responded by firing live bullets.

Eye witnesses told Ethiopian Review that they have seen dead bodies. The riot is continuing today. Currently, almost all shops in the town are closed ('Several said killed in violence in central Ethiopian town' 2006, *BBC Monitoring Newsfile*, 28 May – Attachment 11)

An unofficial source – Ethioblog – states that there were thirteen casualties:

Traders Riot in Nazret Main Market (Gimb Gebeya) at least 13 killed

Update:

I have called several sources in Nazret and confirmed at least 13 people were killed by Woyane forces (EthioBlog 2006, Traders Riot in Nazret Main Market (Gimb Gebeya) at least 13 killed', Nazaret.com, 28 May – Attachment 12.)

5. Please provide all current reports, especially DFAT, regarding obtaining a passport in Ethiopia and whether a person of interest to the authorities could depart Ethiopia.

Information about travel from Nazret is outlined by the following Department of Foreign Affairs report

Question J. How difficult would it have been in 1996, and now in 1998, for a person who feared persecution from the authorities and who lived in the Oromo region, eg, Nazareth, to have escaped from Ethiopia by land to e.g. Nairobi or to any country bordering Ethiopia?

Answer J. In view of the relative ease with which false travel documents can be obtained and the porous nature of the Ethiopia's borders it would be relatively easy for an Ethiopian to illegally leave the country.

The above comment would apply to an ethnic Oromo from the Nazret region who chose to travel to Kenya (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 1999, *DFAT Report No. 0141 – Ethiopia*, 11 March - Attachment 13)

The procedure involved in obtaining an Ethiopian passport is outlined below:

An official at the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Ottawa told the Research Directorate that in order to obtain a passport in Ethiopia, a person must normally present an identity card issued by his or her local kebele, which serves as proof of address, or in the absence of such an identity card, a letter from the local kebele (15 Nov. 1999). A passport applicants who is employed must also present a letter from his or her employer in order to obtain a passport, and a university student must present a letter from his or her university (ibid.). A person must have a valid passport in order to receive an exit permit, which is stamped on the passport. A fee of 65 birr must be paid before an exit permit is issued (Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 1999, *ETH33213.E – Ethiopia: Procedures for travelling within and leaving Ethiopia: how passports and exit permits are obtained, and whether Kebele authorities must be notified*, 16 November – Attachment 14)

Information on the difficulties a person of interest to the authorities may encounter are listed below:

A.1. A person wanted by security personnel would likely face problems with Immigration (the passport issuing office and at departure control). Depending on the extent of the security force's interest in detaining a person, that individual's biodata would likely be disseminated to the eleven border crossings, as well as to the two international points of departure managed by Immigration authorities. To obtain a passport, the residential ID (the Kebele card) issued by the lowest level authorities (the Kebeles) is required. That may also be another point of control for the authorities. But this does not preclude instances where such individuals might be able to leave the country without difficulty, possibly using an alternate identity.

A.2. Although Ethiopia is generally believed to have less corruption than in neighbouring countries, it is not possible to rule out bribery of authorities at any level, with the Kebele level likely the most vulnerable. Problems at departure points, with their multiple checks, would be more difficult to overcome. Bole International Airport, in particular, has more stringent security as a result of direct flights to the US, UK and Israel. However, it has been noted that the physical layout of boarding areas at Bole does not preclude a passenger boarding a flight without having his/her documents examined at the boarding gate when traffic volumes are high.

A.3. When a person applies for a passport, s/he needs to be physically present for collections or legally delegate another party to collect the passport on his/her behalf.

A.4. Under standard operating procedures, police checks are not made prior to issue of a passport. However, without more precise information regarding the nature of detention (i.e. political or criminal or whether the person has been charged, convicted or is under suspicion). Our contacts state that they are unable to speculate on whether the passport office might have received some form of special advisory to be on the alert for a particular passport application.

A.5. The last major 'round-ups' of CUD supporters and organisers was in November 2005. Tens of thousands, were arrested (mostly from Addis Ababa) and they have since been released. At this time the main high profile leaders of the CUD, some civil society organisations and journalists/editors were also arrested. More than 100 of these remain on trial for crimes including genocide. The international community cannot rule out that there may be lower-level CUD members still in jail on politically motivated charges (or no charges at all, or lost in the system), but most of those still detained are high level officials.

Since November, there has not been a wide-scale or systematic policy to arrest large numbers of CUD leaders/organisers/officials. CUD members and community organisers (and civil society, media and other opposition parties) continue to face implicit or explicit discrimination, but the situation on this front in Ethiopia is relatively calm. Our contacts state

that approximately 100 members of parliament from CUD constituent parties sit in the House of Peoples Representative and the small number of those duly elected who chose not to sit in the parliament go about their lives. Our contacts in a foreign embassy stated they periodically receive reports of large numbers of arrests (in the dozens or hundreds) in Oromia, but recent cases appear to be more closely related to perceived Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) sympathy than CUD (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2006, *DFAT Report No. 06/52 – Ethiopia: Passport issue arrangements*, 13 September – Attachment 15)

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Government Information & Reports

UK Home Office website <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk>

US Department of State website <http://www.state.gov>

Immigration and Refugee Board Canada <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/>

Non-Government Organisations

Amnesty International website <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Human Rights Watch (HRW) website <http://www.hrw.org/>

International News & Politics

BBC News website <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

Region Specific Links

All Africa <http://allafrica.com/>

Africa Confidential <http://www.africa-confidential.com/home>

Africa Daily <http://www.africadaily.com/>

African Business and New African <http://www.africasia.com/newafrican/index.php>

African Human Rights Resources <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/africa/>

Search Engines

Google search engine <http://www.google.com.au/>

Yahoo search engine <http://search.yahoo.com>

Copernic search engine

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

MRT-RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. Ryu, Alisha 2007. 'Ethiopian police say they have foiled terrorist plot', *Voice of America*, 15 August. - <http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2007-08/2007-08-15-voa42.cfm?CFID=156067451&CFTOKEN=65897768&jsessionid=8430cd56a49fab8d8f95713026393a2215e6> – Accessed 6 April 2009.
2. 'Watchdog urges amnesty for jailed journalists' 2006, *Reporters Sans Frontières* (RSF), 12 May. (CISNET ETHIOPIA CX153521)

3. Socio Economic Profile: East Shewa Zone' (undated), The Oromia State Government website <http://www.oromiagov.org/Socio Economic Profile/East Shewa/East Shewa.doc> – Accessed 9 December 2008
4. 'Nazrēt' 2000, [Nazret and surrounding towns] *Microsoft Encarta Interactive Atlas 2000*. (CDROM)
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6. Freedom of the Press throughout the world – Ethiopia – Annual Report 2003 [for 2002], *Reporters sans Frontières*. (CISNET Ethiopia CX84176)
7. 'Ethiopian international Institute for Peace and Development First Quarter Report on CVEA Programme' 2007, Ethiopian International Institute for Peace and Development website, August-October <http://www.addis-eiipd.org/CVEA%20report.pdf> – Accessed 10 December 2008.
8. US Department of State 2007, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2006 – Ethiopia*, 6 March.
9. US Department of State 2008, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2007 – Ethiopia*, 11 March.
10. Oromo Support Group undated, OSG Press Release No. 43, July 2006-2007 <http://www.oromo.org/osg/pr43.htm> - Accessed 7 May 2008.
11. Several said killed in violence in central Ethiopian town' 2006, *BBC Monitoring Newsfile*, 28 May. (FACTIVA)
12. EthioBlog 2006, Traders Riot in Nazret Main Market (Gimb Gebeya) at least 13 killed', Nazaret.com, 28 May.
13. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 1999, *DFAT Report No. 0141 –Ethiopia*, 11 March.
14. Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 1999, *ETH33213.E – Ethiopia: Procedures for travelling within and leaving Ethiopia: how passports and exit permits are obtained, and whether Kebele authorities must be notified*, 16 November. (CISNET Ethiopia CX87274)
15. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2006, *DFAT Report No. 06/52 –Ethiopia: Passport issue arrangements*, 13 September. (CISNET Ethiopia CX161651)