



Somalia - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 5 February 2010

Information on the treatment of people from the Tumul clan.

A December 2009 *Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre* document under the heading 'Minorities in Somalia: a history of segregation and land expropriation', states:

- “• Although minorities represent one third of Somalia's 7 million people their existence has been downplayed
- Bantu, Bravenese, Rerhamar, Bajuni, Eyle, Galgala, Tumul, Yibir and Gaboye minorities have faced prior and after the war discrimination and exclusion
- Minorities like the Bantu have had their lands confiscated
- Minorities like the Galgala, Gaboye and Yibir have been manipulated and armed against Barre's enemy clans as a result suffered retaliations when the regime fell
- Bantu people who live on fertile lands had two of their villages burned down in 2001 and fled to Hiran region
- Previous rival Habargedir and Maerhan clans have allied to control Kismayo
- Conflict between these two allied clans and General Morgan's forces in the Bay region continue
- In Jowhar security improved since 2000 when Mohamed Dheere from Wersengeli clan took control
- In Beletweyne since General Aideed's forces were ousted in 1996 security improved

UNCU/OCHA, 1 August 2002:

“Until recently, many people perceived Somalia as a country with a population of 7,000,000 people who share one culture, one language and one religion. This was the impression given during previous regimes in order to sustain the illusion of homogeneity. One of the things that were deliberately downplayed was the existence of minority groups. Although the population of minority groups living in Somalia has not as yet been established, estimates indicate that they constitute one third of the total Somalia population; approximately 2,000,000 people. The minority groups include Bantu, Bravenese, Rerhamar, Bajuni, Eyle, Galgala, Tumul, Yibir and Gaboye. These groups continue to live in conditions of great poverty and suffer numerous forms of discrimination and exclusion.” (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (10 December 2009) *Somalia: Political and Security Crises, Access Limits and Donor Cuts Increasing IDP Vulnerability*, p.46)

The same report continues, under the heading 'IDPs who belong to minorities from south and central Somalia are discriminated in Somaliland', adding:

“• IDPs from Digil, Mirigle, Bantu and minorities suffer social discrimination in Somaliland negatively affecting their standards of living and access to services

- Minority groups: Bantu, Bravenese, Rerhamar, Bajuni, Eyle, Galgala, Tumul, Yibir, Ogadenis, Rahanweyn and Gaboye), represent one third of the Somali population and have been forcibly displaced from valuable agricultural lands
- Most of the IDPs who fled to the north come from minority groups such as Rahaywen sub clan, Bantu, Ajuran, Jarso, Madhiban and Ashraf
- Southern IDPs in the north are considered as ‘criminals’
- IDPs from minority groups lack protection political representation, and are denied basic rights including access to humanitarian assistance
- Minorities are subject to human rights abuses, attacks, discrimination, exploitation, displacement and land dispossession by militias and bandits
- Some minorities like the Galgala have traditionally been prevented from buying animals and houses.” (ibid, p.94)

Paragraphs 18.30 and 18.31 of section 18 of the November 2009 *United Kingdom Home Office Country of Origin Information Report for Somalia*, under the heading ‘Minority groups’, states:

“18.30 The Joint Fact-Finding Mission Report (JFFMR) of December 2000, observed that minority groups within Somalia included the Bajuni, Bantu, Benadir, Bravenese, Eyle, Midgan (Gaboye), Tumul and Yibir. As with the majority clans several of these individual groups are divided into sub-groups. The minority groups were the only people in Somalia who, when Siad Barre was overthrown in 1991, did not have their own armed militia to protect them. During the civil war minority groups were among the most vulnerable and victimised populations in the country. The JFFMR December 2000 noted that certain minority groups, most notably the Benadiri and Bravenese, were particularly disadvantaged and targeted by clan militia since the collapse of central authority in 1991. The FCO Analyst’s report of May 2008 further explained: “The term minority has come to cover a wide and diverse range of peoples in Somalia. Some minorities may be more identifiable (e.g. appearance, dialect, accent) than others. Others, especially those are treated as lower ‘castes’ – due to the stigma associated with their way of life, profession, putative ancestors, etc. – will be indistinguishable from majority Somali clan groups.”

18.31 The JFFMR December 2000 stated: “Minority groups are not evenly distributed throughout Somalia; there is a higher concentration in the central and southern parts of the country.” However, some groups, such as those with special occupational skills (Midgan, Tumul and Yibir), are more likely to be found in different parts of the country. The USSD report for 2006 and the JFFMR December 2000 reflected that politically weak social groups are less able to secure protection from extortion, rape and other human rights abuses by the armed militia of various factions.” (United Kingdom Home Office Border Agency (13 November 2009) *Country of Origin Information Report – Somalia*, p.86)

Annex D of the same report, under the heading ‘Main minority groups’, continues:

“Minority group: TUMAL and YIBIR
Ethnic origin: Samale

Est. pop: 0.5% and 0.5%
Location: North and Central Somalia, Hiran, Mogadishu and Kismayo
Language: Somali dialect of the clan to which they are attached [7a] (p58)
Religion: -
Clan affiliation: Isak in Somaliland, Darod in Puntland Hawadle, Murasade and Marehan in Galgadud region
Traditional skill: Blacksmiths/Hunters" (ibid, p.165)

A September 2009 *IRIN News* report states:

"Minority groups such as the Madiban, Gabooyo and Tumul, are often discriminated against, mostly for the work they do, such as shoemaking and iron-smelting. Though Somalis and Muslims, these minority groups have traditionally never married into the larger Somali clans and do not mix with them socially. Adood spoke to IRIN on 15 September:

"I knew Mahamud [husband] before we got married. We both grew up in Galkayo in the same area. But because of his clan, I never really paid any attention to him. I was married off young to a man who died shortly afterwards, and my family then married me off again - but that marriage ended up in a divorce.

"We met again in 2007 and we started seeing each other secretly. I fell in love with him. He is kind, gentle and handsome. I adore him.

"We decided to get married in secret. We did it in July 2007. That is when all my problems started. My family and relatives found out and immediately wanted me to get a divorce. I refused. I was beaten repeatedly by my brothers, cousins and uncles. He [Mahamud] was threatened and on one occasion shot at. He fled to the south side of Galkayo [the town is partly in Puntland and partly in south-central Somalia]." (IRIN News (15 September 2009) *Ubah Abdi Adood, "I am sure if we return we will be killed"*)

Section 5 of the February 2009 *United States Department of State Country Report on Human Rights Practices for Somalia*, under the heading 'National/Ethnic/Racial Minorities', states:

"Minority groups and low-caste clans included the Bantu (the largest minority group), the Benadiri, Rer Hamar, Brawanese, Swahili, Tumul, Yibir, Yaxar, Madhiban, Hawrarsame, Muse Dheryo, and Faqayaqub. Inter-marriage between minority groups and mainstream clans was restricted. Minority groups had no armed militias and continued to be disproportionately subject to killings, torture, rape, kidnapping for ransom, and looting of land and property with impunity by faction militias and majority clan members. Many minority communities continued to live in deep poverty and to suffer from numerous forms of discrimination and exclusion." (United States Department of State (Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor) (25 February 2009) *2008 Human Rights Report: Somalia*)

A November 2008 *IRIN News* article reports:

"Children in parts of Somalia's self-declared republic of Somaliland have never gone to school because their communities prefer they remain at home and learn petty trades, a local NGO said.

The communities include the Gaboye, Midgan, Tumul and Yibro - most of whom lead reclusive lives and do not interact or inter-marry with other communities. They are mostly cobblers, blacksmiths and barbers.” (IRIN News (28 November 2008) *SOMALIA: Children from minority communities miss out on school*)

References:

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (10 December 2009) *Somalia: Political and Security Crises, Access Limits and Donor Cuts Increasing IDP Vulnerability*
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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:

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