



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION KEY DOCUMENTS

MALAWI

10 JULY 2008

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Preface

- i This Country of Origin Information Key Documents (COI Key Documents) on Malawi has been produced by COI Service, UK Border Agency (UKBA), for use by officials involved in the asylum/human rights determination process. It provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum/human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. The COI Key Documents includes information available up to 10 July 2008.
- ii The COI Key Documents is an indexed list of key reports, papers and articles produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources. It does not contain any UKBA opinion or policy.
- iii For UK Border Agency users, the COI Key Documents provides direct electronic access to each source referred to in the document, via a link on the source numbers in the index and list of sources. For the benefit of external users, the relevant web link has also been included, together with the date that the link was accessed.
- iv As noted above, the documents identified concentrate mainly on human rights issues. By way of introduction, brief background information on Malawi is also provided. Please note, this background material is not intended to provide a summary of the material contained in the documents listed.
- v This COI Key Documents and the documents listed are publicly disclosable.
- vi Any comments regarding this COI Key Documents or suggestions for additional source material are very welcome and should be submitted to COI Service as below.

Country of Origin Information Service

UK Border Agency

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36 Wellesley Road
Croydon CR9 3RR
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Email: cois@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Website: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html

ADVISORY PANEL ON COUNTRY INFORMATION

- vii The independent Advisory Panel on Country Information (APCI) was established in 2003 to make recommendations to the Home Secretary about the content of the UK Border Agency's country of origin information material. The APCI welcomes all feedback on UKBA's COI Key Documents, COI Reports and other country of origin information material. Information about the Panel's work can be found on its website at www.apci.org.uk
- viii In the course of its work, the APCI reviews the content of selected UKBA COI documents and makes recommendations specific to those documents and of

a more general nature. The APCI may or may not have reviewed this particular document. At the following link is a list of the COI Key Documents, COI Reports and other documents which have, to date, been reviewed by the APCI: www.apci.org.uk/reviewed-documents.html

- ix Please note: It is not the function of the APCI to endorse any UKBA material or procedures. Some of the material examined by the Panel relates to countries designated or proposed for designation for the Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) list. In such cases, the Panel's work should not be taken to imply any endorsement of the decision or proposal to designate a particular country for NSA, nor of the NSA process itself.

Advisory Panel on Country Information:

Email: apci@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.apci.org.uk

Background information on Malawi

Full Country Name: Republic of Malawi.

Area: Total area 118,484 sq. km.

Population: (2007 estimate) 13,603,181.

Capital City: Lilongwe.

People: Chewa, Nyanja, Tumbuka, Yao, Lomwe, Sena, Tonga, Ngoni, Ngonde, Asian, European.

Languages: English (official), Chichewa (official), regional dialects, ie Chitumbuka, Chiyao, Chilomwe.

Religions: Protestant 55%, Roman Catholic 20%, Muslim 20%, indigenous beliefs 3%, other 2%.

Major Political Parties: Democratic Progressive Party (DPP, ruling party) United Democratic Front (UDF), Malawi Congress Party (MCP), Alliance for Democracy (AFORD), New Republican Party (NRP), National Democratic Alliance (NDA), People's Progressive Movement (PPM), People's Transformation Party (PETRA), and Congress for National Unity (CONU). MCP and UDF are the two main opposition parties in parliament.

Government: Multi-party democracy.

Head of State: President Bingu wa Mutharika.

Currency: Malawian kwacha.

Membership of International Groupings/Organisations: AACP, AfDB, AU, C, COMESA, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, ISO (correspondent), ITSO, ITU, ITUC, MIGA, NAM, OPCW, SADC, UN, UNAMID, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNMIL, UNMIS, UNWTO, UPU, WCL, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO. [2c] (USSD Background Note – February 2008) [4a] (Foreign and Commonwealth Office – Malawi Country Profile – April 2008)

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GEOGRAPHY

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile on Malawi (April 2008 version) stated that: “Malawi is a landlocked country in south central Africa bordered by Tanzania to the north, Zambia to the west and Mozambique to the east and south. Over one fifth of the total land area of 118,000 sq km comprises of Lake Malawi.” [4a]

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RECENT HISTORY

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile on Malawi (April 2008 version) stated that:

“Malawi takes its name from the Maravi ('l' and 'r', and 'v' and 'w' are interchangeable in some Chichewa dialects) empire which developed on the shore of Lake Malawi in the 16th and 17th centuries. In the 19th century Maravi was devastated by the arrival of Nguni invaders from the south, and Muslim slavers from the east, leading to the establishment of a British Protectorate of Nyasaland at the end of the 19th century. Christian missions, inspired by Livingstone's appeal to end the slave-trade, played a key role in promoting British intervention. Apart from local initiatives – most notably by John Chilembwe, an evangelical Christian minister (and national hero), in 1914 - there was little resistance to colonial rule until the 1950s when there were widespread protests against the unpopular Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

Nyasaland achieved independence as Malawi in 1964; Hastings Banda, who had returned from a successful medical practice in London to lead African protest against the Federation, became the first prime minister. He quickly adopted an autocratic style, leading to ministerial rebellions in the 1960s, which in turn led to further repression. He also adopted a policy of détente with the remaining white-ruled states in southern Africa and, in contrast with the governments of Tanzania, Zambia and (after 1975) Mozambique, took a staunchly capitalist and pro-Western line. In the climate of the Cold War donors were prepared to tolerate his domestic idiosyncrasies, especially since - again in contrast to his neighbours – he managed an effective economy in one of the poorest countries in the world. But with the collapse of communism the props, both domestic and international, were kicked away. Under donor and popular pressure, as well as feeling the effects of age (he was at least 90), he conceded multi-party democracy in 1993. Bakili Muluzi and his United Democratic Front (whose popular support was in the densely-populated south of the country) won the ensuing presidential and parliamentary elections in 1994.” [4a]

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RECENT EVENTS AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile on Malawi (April 2008 version) stated that:

“In the 2004 presidential and parliamentary elections Bingu wa Mutharika – [ex-President] Muluzi's hand-picked successor as leader of UDF – won the presidency with 36 per cent of the vote. The MCP's John Tembo was the immediate runner-up on 27 per cent, and (Gwanda) Chakuamba [former Vice-President], now heading a coalition of opposition parties, won 26 per cent. In the parliamentary contest the MCP overtook the UDF, and large number of independent MPs were also elected. International observers declared the poll generally free and fair. However, they highlighted previous misuse of government resources by the UDF, and the Malawi Electoral Commission's failure to adequately address problems with the voters' roll. Mutharika soon indicated he was his own man, in particular launching a determined attack on corruption, alienating many influential figures in the UDF, including his former patron Muluzi. Eventually, Mutharika split from the party and founded his own, the Democratic People's Party, which drew support from a number of minor opposition parties and disaffected UDF MPs. Mutharika's uncompromising approach and willingness to upset his former colleagues led to an impeachment attempt in October 2006, the arrest of the vice-president, Cassim Chilumpha, and the pro-roguing of parliament since September 2007.” [4a]

allAfrica reported on 15 January 2008: "Over one million Malawians are threatened by food shortages over the next three months as weather forecasts predict an enhanced likelihood of flooding in the southern country, the United Nations Children's Fund has warned." [31a]

The same source reported on 11 February 2008: "Reporters Without Borders has condemned charges laid against Mike Chipalasa, of the privately-owned 'Daily Times', and its managing editor, James Mphande, for 'publishing false news likely to lead to a breach of public order'. The charges relate to an article carried by the paper on 14 January 2008 which included remarks by opposition leader, John Tembo, that the government had 'brought foreign experts into the country so that the 2009 elections will go in favour of the [ruling] Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)'." [31b]

They further reported on 13 March 2008: "A journalist working for Blantyre Newspapers Limited was arrested on 12 March 2008 and detained by the Police in Mzuzu for taking pictures of a group of people that had gathered outside offices of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), after a police officer was arrested. Wanangwa Tembo said that he got a tip-off that a police officer had been arrested by the ACB while trying to solicit K2000 (approx US\$15) from an individual he arrested who had been pick-pocketing'." [31c]

Haaba.com reported in an article dated 8 February 2008 that: "Malawian President Bingu wa Mutharika has sacked two key ministers [Defence Minister Bob Khamisa and Health Minister Marjorie Ngaunje] in his first cabinet reshuffle since 2006..." [22a]

An African Press Agency article dated 16 April 2008 noted: "Malawi's President Bingu wa Mutharika said on Wednesday that he had banned the export of the country's maize and maize products to stop dishonest business people from depleting the country's grain reserves. ... Mutharika charged that the businessmen were hoarding the maize in warehouses of neighbors like Mozambique, Zambian and Tanzania in order to create an artificial shortage within Malawi, with the aim of bringing back the maize later after the prices have risen here due to the scarcity." [39a]

Afrol News reported on 28 April 2008 that: "Majority of Malawi's opposition parliamentarians boycotted the official opening of parliament by President Bingu wa Mutharika in the capital Lilongwe. Only seven deputies from the opposition bench attended the session on Monday. Most political parties, except one which complained of security threats, have not publicly advanced reasons for the latest opposition boycott. Malawians expressed concern over resumption of a clash between the executive and parliament." [23a]

Aidsmap.com reported on 12 May 2008: "The death rate among adults in rural Malawi has declined by 10 per cent since the introduction of antiretroviral therapy, and in areas with the highest death rate, it may have declined by up to 35 per cent, according to findings from a London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine [recent] study. The study also showed a much higher death rate and lower treatment access among those who lived in more remote areas, suggesting that the chief gap in equity of treatment access is between those who live in rural areas and those who live in larger villages or close to highways, rather than along the lines of gender." [42a]

Associated Press in the 'International Herald Tribune' reported on 13 May 2008:

"Heavily armed police arrested former security and political leaders who served under Malawi's former president in pre-dawn raids Tuesday over allegations they wanted to

overthrow the government. Information Minister Patricia Kaliati said the government had evidence that the men arrested were involved in 'sinister plans' to oust President Bingu Mutharika and that they wanted to mislead junior officers to join the plot." [24a]

'*Nyasa Times*' reported on 13 May 2008: "Malawi President Bingu Mutharika is harbouring a hired Eritrean 'deadly ex-soldier sniper assassin' masquerading as a business consultant currently dating his divorced daughter Duwa, an intelligence report made available to *Nyasa Times* has revealed. Rikki Shayo real name Rashid Abdul Shariki – wanted in Eritrea for various crimes – came to Malawi as a refugee from travelling on a Kenyan passport. He belongs to a Mafia group called Mujiha linked to Al Qaeda operations in the horn of Africa." [36a]

news24 reported on 28 May 2008: "Former Malawi leader Bakili Muluzi, who is under house arrest following his arrest on alleged treason charges, has said he will be the next president of Malawi." [25a]

afrol News' reported on 13 June 2008: "Malawian media have been cautioned by government against reporting on allegations of misconduct of a former Justice Minister. Media watchdogs fear the Malawian press is coming under greater pressure as the 2009 elections approach. Bazuka Mhango, who was fired from cabinet over a year ago, warned media not to report on allegations levelled against him by fellow parliamentarian Mr Ibrahim Matola, an opposition UDF legislator." [23b]

'*Nyasa Times*' reported on 15 June 2008: "Opposition party leaders in Malawi have resoundingly declared that former president Dr Bakili Muluzi will be presidential candidate for his United Democratic Front (UDF) party and all alliance partners... Uladi Mussa president of Maravi People's Party (MPP), Gwanda Chakuamba of New Republican Party (NRP) and interim president of Congress for Democrats (CODE) Ralph Kasambara all underscored and agreed that the government of Mutharika can not continue in power for its continued violation of the constitution and strangulation of democracy." [36b]

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BASIC ECONOMIC FACTS

GDP: (2006 est) \$2.2 billion.

Annual real GDP growth rate: (2007est) 7.4%.

Per capital income: (2008 est) \$289.50.

Industries: tobacco, tea, sugar, coffee, peanuts, wood products.

Major trading partners: US, UK, South Africa, Germany, Japan.

[2c] (The US State Dept Background Note on Malawi - February 2008 version)

The US State Dept Background Note on Malawi (February 2008 version) states:

"Malawi is a landlocked, densely populated country. Its economy is heavily dependent on agriculture. Malawi has few exploitable mineral resources... Traditionally Malawi has been self sufficient in its staple food, maize, and during the 1980s exported substantial quantities to its drought-stricken neighbours...Agriculture accounts for roughly 30% of gross domestic product (GDP) and employs about 80% of the labour force. Within agriculture, peanut production accounts for 6.9% of GDP and services approximately 54%. The limited amount of manufacturing is primarily agriculturally based (e.g., peanut processing, bakeries, a brewery, and a tannery). Other manufacturing activities include soap, soft drinks, and clothing." [2c]

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HUMAN RIGHTS

The USSD 2007 Human Rights Report on Malawi, published in March 2008, stated that: "The government or its agents did not commit any politically motivated killings; however, security forces killed persons during the year. Perpetrators were not generally punished and investigations often were abandoned or inconclusive... Mobs sometimes resorted to vigilante justice, and beat, stoned, or burned suspected criminals." [2a]

The Amnesty International 2008 Report on Malawi stated that in 2007: "Overcrowding and lack of adequate food and health care in prisons persisted. Some 11,000 prisoners were held in prisons designed to hold 5,000 people. People awaiting trial constituted 17 per cent of the prison population. Approximately 110 deaths of prisoners were recorded in 2007. The Southern African Litigation Centre called on the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to undertake an investigative mission to Malawi." [8a]

The USSD 2007 International Religious Freedom Report on Malawi, published in September 2007, stated that:

"The Constitution provides for freedom of religion, and the Government generally respected this right in practice. There was no change in the status of respect for religious freedom covered by this report, and government policy contributed to the generally free practice of religion. There were no reports of societal abuses or discrimination based on religious beliefs or practices; however, there was some tension between Christians and Muslims during the period covered by this report. Eighty per cent of the population is Christian. Among the Christian groups, the largest are the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), with smaller numbers of Anglicans, Baptists, evangelicals, and Seventh-day Adventists. There is a substantial Muslim minority totalling approximately 13 per cent of the population. The vast majority of Muslims are Sunni, adhering to either the Qadriya or Sukkutu groups. There are also Hindus, Baha'is, and small numbers of Rastafarians and Jews. Four per cent of the population define themselves as atheist, although this may include adherents of informal traditional African beliefs." [2b]

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Index to key source documents

KEY FACTS AND GEOGRAPHY	[1a]	Europa World Online – Malawi section http://www.europaworld.com/pub/
	[2a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices 2007: Malawi, 11 March 2008 http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100491.htm
	[2c]	United States Department of State Background Note on Malawi (May 2008 version) http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/7231.htm
	[4a]	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK) Malawi Country Profile (1 April 2008 version) http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/country-profiles/sub-saharan-africa/malawi
	[6a]	BBC Malawi Country Profile, 13 March 2008 http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1068913.stm
	[7a]	Central Intelligence Agency (United States), The World Factbook – Malawi section (1 May 2008 version) https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mi.html
	[7b]	Chiefs of state and cabinet members of foreign governments, Malawi – last updated 3 May 2008 https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/world-leaders-1/world-leaders-m/malawi.html
MAP	[5a]	Map of Malawi http://encarta.msn.com/map_701514413/Malawi.html
HISTORY	[1a]	Europa World Online – Malawi section http://www.europaworld.com/pub/
	[3a]	United Nations IRIN Malawi Humanitarian Country Profile (March 2007 version) http://www.irinnews.org/country.aspx?CountryCode=MW&RegionCode=SAF
	[4a]	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK) Malawi Country Profile (1 April 2008 version) http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/country-profiles/sub-saharan-africa/malawi
	[6b]	BBC News Online: Malawi Timeline, 15 January 2008 http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/2982250.stm
RECENT EVENTS AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS	[1a]	Europa World Online – Malawi section http://www.europaworld.com/pub/
	[2a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices 2007: Malawi, 11 March 2008 http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100491.htm

	<p>[2c] United States Department of State Background Note on Malawi (May 2008 version) http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/7231.htm</p> <p>[4a] Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK) Malawi Country Profile (1 April 2008 version) http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/country-profiles/sub-saharan-africa/malawi</p> <p>[22a] Haaba, Malawi's President fires key ministers, 8 February 2008 http://www.haaba.com/news/2008/02/08/7-88184/malawis-president-fires-key-ministers.html</p> <p>[23a] afrol News, Malawian MPs boycott session, 28 April 2008 http://www.afrol.com/articles/28744</p> <p>[23b] afrol News, Malawi media under threat, 13 June 2008 http://www.afrol.com/articles/29384</p> <p>[24a] <i>'International Herald Tribune'</i>, Malawi police arrest ex-security, political chiefs over allegations of coup plot, 13 May 2008 http://www.ihf.com/</p> <p>[25a] News24.com, Muluzi vows to win Malawi election despite arrest, 28 May 2008 http://www.news24.com/City_Press/News/0,,186-187_2330476,00.html</p> <p>[31a] allAfrica.com, UN seeks additional funds to feed citizens threatened by floods, 15 January 2008 http://allafrica.com/stories/200801160009.html</p> <p>[31b] allAfrica.com, Journalist and managing editor charged with 'publishing false news', 11 February 2008 http://allafrica.com/stories/200802111645.html</p> <p>[31c] allAfrica.com, Journalist arrested, briefly detained, his photographs confiscated, 13 March 2008 http://allafrica.com/stories/200803131231.html</p> <p>[36a] <i>'Nyasatimes'</i>, Mutharika harbouring Al Qaeda operative 'Shayo', 13 May 2008 http://www.nyasatimes.com/national/257.html?print?print</p> <p>[36b] <i>'Nyasatimes'</i>, Muluzi crowned opposition alliance candidate, 15 June 2008 http://www.nyasatimes.com/national/575.html?print</p> <p>[39a] NetnewsPublisher.com, Malawi bans maize exports to pre-empt food shortages, 16 April 2008 http://www.netnewspublisher.com/malawi-banmaize-exports-</p>
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	[42a]	to-preempt-food-shortages/ aidsmap.com , Death rate in Malawi falls by up to 35 per cent due to free HIV treatment, http://www.aidsmap.com/en/news/30FD449B-55C0-43DB-BB66-BC20D1F65D22.asp
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	[2c]	United States Department of State Background Note on Malawi (February 2008 version) http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/7231.htm
	[4a]	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK) Malawi Country Profile (1 April 2008 version)
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	[8a]	Malawi section of the Amnesty International Annual Human Rights Report 2008 http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/regions/africa/Malawi
	[4a]	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK) Malawi Country Profile (1 April 2008 version) http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/country-profiles/sub-saharan-africa/malawi
	[15a]	Malawi section of the Freedom in the World 2007 Report http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2007&country=7222
HUMAN RIGHTS – SPECIFIC ISSUES: (IN ADDITION TO GENERAL REPORTS ABOVE, INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES IS PROVIDED IN THE DOCUMENTS LISTED BELOW)		
ABUSES BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ARMED FORCES	[2a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices 2007: Malawi, 11 March 2008 http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100491.htm
ARREST AND DETENTION – LEGAL RIGHTS	[2a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices 2007: Malawi, 11 March 2008 http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100491.htm
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	[2a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices 2007: Malawi, 11 March 2008 http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100491.htm
	[2d]	United States Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, 12 June 2007 http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82805.htm

	[3a]	United Nations IRIN Malawi Humanitarian Country Profile (March 2007 version) http://www.irinnews.org/country.aspx?CountryCode=MW&RegionCode=SAF
	[10a]	The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Malawi section http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/media_30847.html
	[40a]	Relief Web http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2008.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/EGUA-7F3MA2-full_report.pdf/\$File/full_report.pdf
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CORRUPTION	[12a]	Transparency International report on Malawi 2004 http://www.transparency.org/layout/set/print/news_room/latest_news/press_releases/2005/17_05_2005_malawi_nis
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	[26a]	Hands Off Cain, Death Penalty: Country Status on the death penalty, (updated to 27 May 2008) http://www.handsoffcain.info/news/index.php?iddocumento=10300078
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ETHNIC GROUPS	[14a]	The Africa Guide: Malawi, 11 March 2008 http://www.africaguide.com/country/malawi/culture.htm
	[33a]	Ethnologue: Languages of Malawi, http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=Malawi
	[34a]	Department for International Development, Key facts, Malawi, 23 June 2008 http://www.dfid.gov.uk/countries/africa/malawi-facts.asp
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	<p>[2b] United States Department of State, 2007 International Religious Freedom Report on Malawi, 14 September 2007 http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2007/90107.htm</p> <p>[15a] Malawi section of the Freedom in the World 2007 Report http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&country=7222&year=2007</p>
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