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KEN102638.E

Kenya: Treatment of Kikuyu in Nairobi (2005 - October 2007)
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

The Kikuyu [also spelled Gikuyu (AfricaGuide.com n.d.)] are Kenya's largest ethnic group (Reuters 8 Oct. 2007a; US June 2007, 7), representing approximately 22 percent of the country's total population (ibid.; US 18 Oct. 2007). About 40 other ethnic groups make up the remainder of the population (ibid. June 2007, 7; *Mail & Guardian Online* 2 Dec. 2005). Kenya's Central Province is said to be Kikuyu-dominated (ibid.; see also AfricaGuide.com n.d.).

Although the Kikuyu were traditionally involved in agriculture, many reportedly now own businesses and have moved to the cities (AfricaGuide.com n.d.). According to a 26 October 2007 Agence France-Presse (AFP) article, the Kikuyu are an economically dominant tribe in Kenya.

The Kikuyu are also reported to be politically active (AfricaGuide.com n.d.). Kenya's president, Mwai Kibaki, is of Kikuyu ethnicity (Reuters 8 Oct. 2007a; ibid. 8 Oct. 2007b; AFP 26 Oct. 2007).

The country's next presidential elections are expected to be held in December 2007 (ibid.; Reuters 7 Oct. 2007). The leader of the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), who is of western Kenya's Luo ethnicity (ibid. 8 Oct. 2007b; AFP 26 Oct. 2007), is reportedly trying to build support in the country by capitalizing on "a widespread perception that Kikuyus have been favoured under Kibaki" (Reuters 7 Oct. 2007; *Mail & Guardian Online* 2 Dec. 2005).

In 2007, there were reports of the Kenyan police cracking down on the Mungiki sect, a criminal group that draws the majority of its members from the Kikuyu ethnic group (Reuters 25 Oct. 2007; ibid. 6 July 2007; AP 12 July 2007). According to a 12 July 2007 Associated Press (AP) article, Nairobi residents have claimed that the police have "indiscriminately rounded up people, demolished their homes and beat them" (see also UN 7 June 2007). It is reportedly difficult for the police to identify members of the sect (UN 7 June 2007). The Kenyan National Commission on Human Rights has criticized the police for their actions (Reuters 25 Oct. 2007; ibid. 6 July 2007; AP 12 July 2007), accusing them of being responsible for the deaths of more than 450 suspected Mungiki followers between June and October 2007 (Reuters 25 Oct. 2007). Information on the number of non-Mungiki Kikuyu who have been killed in the crackdown could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. Further information on the treatment of Kikuyu in Nairobi could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

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 additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

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Additional Sources Consulted

Internet sites, including: Amnesty International (AI), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), European Country of Origin Information Network (ecoi.net), Freedom House, Human Rights Watch (HRW), Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), ReliefWeb, Safer Access, United Kingdom Home Office, United States Department of State.

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