



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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Mali: The procedures for obtaining passports in Mali for adults and minor children; documentation required; details about photos; length of time to process applications; whether a passport must be signed to be valid; whether a passport can be obtained outside of Mali; if so, the procedures and additional documentation required; whether a passport can be obtained on behalf of someone else; if so, who can apply on behalf of another person; availability of fraudulent passports (2004)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

According to the Website of the Embassy of Mali, in the United States, applicants for a passport require a consular identity card, two completed application forms, two or three recent passport-sized photos (depending on the type of passport), the original passport (a copy in some cases), a certified copy of a birth certificate and an application fee (n.d.). If the applicant has lost a passport, he/she must present a certificate documenting that the theft has been reported to the police; the theft should also be reported to the embassy (Embassy of Mali Website n.d.). The processing time varies from five working days to two months depending on the type of passport required (ibid.).

In a 20 August 2004 telephone interview, a representative of the Embassy of Mali in Ottawa provided the following information (20 Aug. 2004): She reported that citizens living outside Mali could apply for a passport at an embassy as long as they applied in person (Embassy of Mali, Ottawa 20 Aug. 2004). No additional documents would be required (ibid.). The process takes two to three months because the documentation must be sent back to Mali and the applicant must pick up the passport in person (ibid.). Passports cannot be mailed although the embassy is willing to arrange for passports to be delivered in specific situations (ibid.). No person may apply for a passport on behalf of another, except in the case of parents who can apply to have minor children added to their passports (ibid.). In a 23 August 2004 follow-up interview, the same representative reported that passports had to be signed by the passport holder in order to be valid (23 Aug. 2004). She also explained that passports could not be obtained at consulates in Canada, but only from the embassy in Ottawa (Embassy of Mali, Ottawa 23 Aug. 2004).

In a 20 August 2004 telephone interview, a representative of the Embassy of Mali in Washington, DC corroborated most of this information (20 Aug. 2004). However, she indicated that passports could be obtained from the Mali consulate in New York, and that the embassy would send passports by courier to locations within the United States so that applicants did not have to return to pick them up (Embassy of Mali, Washington, DC 20 Aug. 2004).

Information on the availability of fake or fraudulently obtained passports was not 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.

References

Embassy of Mali, Ottawa. 23 August 2004. Telephone interview with a representative.

_____. 20 August 2004. Telephone interview with a representative.

Embassy of Mali, Washington, DC. 20 August 2004. Telephone interview with a representative.

Embassy of Mali, United States. n.d. "Passports."

<http://www.maliembassy.us/new_site/counsellor/passports.htm> [Accessed 19 Aug. 2004].

Additional Sources Consulted

Internet sites, including: AllAfrica.com, Amnesty International, BBC, Canadian Bank Note Company, Country Reports, Human Rights Watch (HRW), Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Integrated Regional Information

Networks (IRIN), International Crisis Group (ICG), Migration News, Migration Policy Institute, National Democratic Institute (NDI), Reporters Without Borders, UMCOR-NGO, USAID.

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