



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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SOM102470.E

Somalia: Means, apart from the Somali government and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to obtain documentation from sources inside or outside Canada that could assist in the identification process for Somalis

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

Information on the above-mentioned topic was scarce among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, the Executive Director of the Somali Centre for Family Services in Ottawa stated that the language and tribe of an individual was virtually the only way to identify Somalis (12 Apr. 2007). The Executive Director also stated that a person's geographical origin was a means to identify Somalis since such information could potentially be corroborated by other "refugees" from the same region (Somali Centre for Family Services 12 Apr. 2007).

A senior external relations officer at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Canada stated that given the absence of a functioning Somali government, she was not aware of other means of obtaining documentation from sources, apart from the refugee registration system conducted by host governments and the UNHCR, to assist in the identification process for Somalis (13 Apr. 2007).

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

Somali Centre for Family Services, Ottawa. 12 April 2007. Telephone interview with the Executive Director.

United Nations (UN). 13 April 2007. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Canada. Telephone interview with a senior external relations officer.

Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources: Attempts to reach a representative from the Somali Canadian Association of Etobicoke were unsuccessful.

Internet sites, including: Amnesty International (AI), Freedom House, Human Rights Watch (HRW), Keesing's Reference Systems, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Refugees International, ReliefWeb, United Kingdom (UK) Home Office, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), United States (US) Department of State.

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