Democratic Republic of the Congo: Ethnic origin of members and supporters of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaïre (Alliance des forces démocratiques pour la libération du Congo-Zaïre, AFDL); whether certain members are of Rwandan origin

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

A number of sources report that the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaïre (Alliance des forces démocratiques pour la libération du Congo-Zaïre, AFDL) was made up of Tutsis (PHW 2008, 2008, 286; Friends of the Congo 30 Apr. 2008; UN 19 Feb. 2002; RFI n.d.). In addition, according to the Political Handbook of the World 2000-2002, most AFDL members were Tutsi, but individuals of Luba and Shaba ethnic origin were also affiliated with the AFDL (2004, 255). Other sources report that the AFDL included people from different ethnic minority groups (Europa 2007, 2007, 1347; PHW 2008, 2008, 286; UN 19 Feb. 2002). Moreover, two sources indicate that some Tutsis within the AFDL were of Rwandan origin (Friends of the Congo 30 Apr. 2008; Jeuneafrique.com 15 Aug. 2004). The United States (US) Department of State indicates that the Secretary General of the AFDL was Rwandan (US Apr. 2008).

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 sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References


Friends of the Congo. 30 April 2008. Correspondence from the Director General to the Research Directorate.


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