

Danish Immigration Service

Report on the fact-finding mission to Somalia and Kenya

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1. Introduction

During the civil war in Somalia, whether or not individual citizens could live in safety in given areas in Somalia was regarded as depending essentially on which clan they belonged to. Over the past few years, when handling Somali applications for asylum, the Immigration Service has considered it important that the asylum seeker's clan membership be established. This was particularly because not only applicants' geographical origin in Somalia but also their clan membership could prove decisive in determining whether they could be regarded as risking persecution or spontaneous violence at the hands of the authorities or hostile clans.

Members of minority (numerically smaller) clans and so-called "non-resident" clans (¹), together with ethnic minority populations, have in some cases during the civil war also been exposed to repression from dominant clans or have generally had difficulty in holding their own against more dominant clans.

This has also happened where members of these smaller groups have found themselves in areas in which their clan or population group do not traditionally live or in areas in which they have otherwise been unable to defend themselves against incursive clan militias.

Members of certain clans (including members of former President Siad Barre's own Marehan clan) who were well-known supporters of Siad Barre's rule or were known to have supported the repression or torture, etc. of opponents or suspected opponents during Siad Barre's time have also risked persecution.

On the basis, inter alia, of Immigration Service reports on conditions in, respectively, North-East and North-West Somalia (Somaliland) and the Hiran region of Central Somalia, the Immigration Service has refused asylum to members of the traditionally indigenous clans, i.e. "resident" clans in the areas in question. Notification of rejection is given in the absence of special circumstances in specific asylum cases. Where asylum seekers from these areas state that they belong to clans about whose traditional indigenesness the Immigration Service has had doubts, it has had to obtain further information in order to deal with the asylum application.

The Immigration Service's mission to Somalia and Kenya was part of an attempt to give the Service a comprehensive overview of the security situation of individual clan members, the mutual relationship between clans and between clans and the authorities in the Somali regions mentioned. The mission took place over the period 27 October to 7 November 1997.

To assist the investigations, a number of UN organizations and NGOs in Nairobi responsible for relief and reconstruction work in the areas in question in Somalia were consulted.

The United Nations Development Programme (Somalia) (UNDP-Somalia) helped to arrange and coordinate meetings in Nairobi, arranging in this connection contacts with the following organizations which all operate in Somalia:

- Horn of Africa Relief and Development Organization (HARDO). Somali NGO which inter alia supports educational activities for nomads and women in the Sanaaq region.
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The ICRC is responsible inter alia for

(1) A distinction is made between "resident" and "non-resident" clans in present-day Somalia. Resident clans traditionally live in specific areas of the country while non-resident clans have members who, for various reasons, live outside the area to which their clan traditionally belongs.

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relief work in large parts of Somalia.

- Life and Peace Institute (LPI). The LPI is a Swedish NGO which inter alia is involved in setting up local administrations in Somalia.
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – Somalia (UNHCR).
- United Nations Office for Project Services/Somalia Rehabilitation Project (UNOPS/SRP). Represented in a number of regions in Somalia.
- War-Torn Societies Project (WSP). The WSP is an NGO which is involved in political reconciliation and reconstruction processes in Somalia. Works in particular in North-East Somalia.

Because of the flood disaster in Southern Somalia in early November 1997, however, meetings with UNICEF and ICRC had to be cancelled as these organizations were fully occupied with the preparation of relief efforts in Somalia.

It will be noted that the report does not give a full analysis of the security situation nor does it give an overview of clan composition in the Somali areas referred to. Reference should be made in this connection to the Immigration Service reports from earlier missions to Somalia together with various news letters and current security analyses from inter alia the United Nations Coordination Team (UNCT) in Nairobi.

All sources consulted in Nairobi were informed that the Immigration Service might publish a mission report containing the sources' statements and that the report might be translated into English. None of the sources requested anonymity.

1.1. Purpose of the mission

The general purpose of the mission to Nairobi was to obtain information on the security situation of individual clan members, including in particular members of minority clans, "non-resident" clans and ethnic minority groups, and on the risk of persecution on the basis of clan membership in, respectively, North-West Somalia (Somaliland), North-East Somalia and the Hiran region of Central Somalia.

2. General clan pattern

According to Project Coordinator Matt Bryden, War-Torn Societies Project (WSP), Somalia Country Project, no clan member in Somalia faces persecution by other clan members or authorities solely on the basis of his clan membership, so long as the person concerned lives in an area in which his clan is a "resident" clan, i.e. traditionally belongs to that area. Bryden found no grounds to assume that asylum seekers who claimed they were persecuted in their home area, i.e. an area in which there was a "resident" clan, had credible grounds for asylum. This situation applies to the whole of North-East and North-West Somalia (Somaliland). There are no reports at the present time of clan-based persecution anywhere in these two regions.

He emphasized that, generally speaking, no individual was at risk of persecution solely on the basis of clan membership, nor was this the case in areas in which the person's clan was a "non-resident" clan. It should be emphasized that a "resident" clan does not need to be a majority clan in any given area but simply a clan which traditionally lives there.

For members of "non-resident" clans to be able to reside in or travel through areas to which they did not traditionally belong it was important, according to Matt Bryden, that they should not lay claim, for example, to property or other assets they might have had either before or during the civil war. Such claims by members of a "non-resident" clan could lead to violent clashes between the clans concerned, and members of a minority clan or a clan whose members were not represented in the area concerned could have difficulty in finding protection against any attacks.

It was also important for individual clan members' protection against random or systematic ill-treatment in "non-resident" areas, according to Matt Bryden, that the person concerned should not be well-known as, for example, a former high-ranking member of the armed forces who was also known or notorious for having supported physical attacks against, for example, suspected opponents or other individuals during the Siad Barre era. In these cases, the parties concerned were mostly prominent members of the Marehan clan, but prominent members of allied clans could also be involved. It was mentioned that former high-ranking members of the armed forces known to have assaulted suspected opponents, for example, might have difficulty in moving freely around North-West Somalia (Somaliland).

Matt Bryden stressed the importance of distinguishing between "resident" and "non-resident" clans and "vulnerability" and "persecution". Persecution solely on the basis of clan membership was very rare now in Somalia, although individuals' safety or vulnerability – including the rule of law – could to a certain extent in more marginal areas depend on clan membership, i.e. whether the party concerned was in a "resident" or "non-resident" area, and on a number of personal circumstances, such as whether the party concerned had committed crimes or acted dishonourably in other ways.

2.1. Clan pattern in North-East Somalia

Matt Bryden, WSP, said that as a whole "resident" clans living in North-East Somalia were not subject to any form of persecution solely on the basis of clan membership. Regarding the safety of individuals, it was explained that members of larger, dominant clans would feel more secure against possible attacks or harassment than members of smaller clans. It was however stressed that even members of smaller clans were not subjected to any form of clan-based persecution in North-East Somalia.

Members of smaller clans, low-caste clans, minority groups and foreign groups such as, for example, the Gaboye/Midgan, Tumaal, Bantu, Madiban, Habr Gedir, Lel Kase and Ethiopian citizens could live in North-East Somalia without the risk of persecution. The members of these groups could in certain situations be regarded as more vulnerable to possible local harassment or attacks from bandits than more dominant Majerteen clans and other Harti clans which had traditionally settled in the area.

Johan Svensson, Resident Regional Representative, Life and Peace Institute (LPI), also had difficulty in imagining that any clan member could have safety problems in North-East Somalia solely on the basis of which clan he belonged to. Clashes between clans, he said, were few and far between; they did not last long, were limited in scope and were resolved politically and in the traditional way.

Eusebe Hounsokou, Head of Somalia Operations (UNHCR), said the same, also emphasizing that persecution on the basis of clan membership took place before and during the civil war but did not

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happen now. This was the general picture in large parts of Somalia.

Johan Svensson, LPI, also said that since the Sodere conference in Ethiopia in the winter of 1996/1997 the dominant political movement in North-East Somalia – the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) – had become politically stronger in Somalia. At the same time, there were signs of a potential political conflict in North-East Somalia. He saw this as purely political. There was therefore no danger of armed conflict in the area.

2.2. Clan pattern in North-West Somalia (Somaliland)

Johan Svensson, LPI, found it hard to imagine that any individual or population group belonging to a "resident" clan in North-West Somalia (Somaliland) could have security problems anywhere in these regions. There were no resident clans unable to protect themselves against attack as the traditional mechanisms for resolving conflict remained intact in all regions of North-West Somalia.

Matt Bryden, WSP, said that no clan members faced clan-based persecution in North-West Somalia now. However, the possibility of conflict between members of the Issa clan and members of the dominant Isaq clans could not be ruled out. The background to this potential conflict was historical.

There was at one time armed conflict between Issa clan militias and both the Issa and Gadabursi clans in western North-West Somalia. According to Matt Bryden, this conflict was about land and grazing rights. He stressed however that Issa members were not at risk of individual persecution solely on the basis of their clan membership. The Issa clan was a dominant one in neighbouring Djibouti, whose President was a member of the Issa clan. Issa members in North-West Somalia lived mainly in the areas bordering on Djibouti and parts of Ethiopia. It was emphasized that the authorities in North-West Somalia did not persecute Issa members.

Regarding internal conflicts between Habr Yonis members in the Burao region, Matt Bryden said that the Habr Yonis clan was never 100% united against President Egal's administration during the earlier conflicts in North-West Somalia. The Habr Yonis clan Rer Ishad was not involved in the armed conflict between the forces of the Egal administration and the Habr Yonis militias. There was never any mention of violent or armed conflict between different Habr Yonis clans in connection with the Habr Yonis factions' relations with President Egal's administration. There was currently no persecution of members of different Habr Yonis clans or between Habr Yonis members themselves, nor was there any persecution between the other clans in the area.

Matt Bryden also said that there was currently no armed clan conflict in the Sanaaq region in eastern North-West Somalia. Members of the Harti clans Warsangeli and Dhulbahante were able to move freely throughout North-West Somalia. The four major population groups in the Sanaaq region were respectively the Harti clans Warsangeli and Dhulbahante and the Isaq clans Habr Jallo and Habr Yonis, all of which were roughly the same size. Yet the region's main city Erigavo was wholly dominated by the Habr Jallo and Habr Yonis. In addition to the Harti and Isaq clans, there were a number of very small clans, none of which was subject to any form of clan-based persecution.

This was confirmed by Fatima Jibrell, Managing Director, Horn of Africa Relief and Development Organization (HARDO), who regarded the Sanaaq – from which she herself originated – as one of the most peaceful regions in the whole of Somalia. She did point out however that, in her view, the Sanaaq region was unfairly treated as far as UN support was concerned and that this made it

difficult to maintain peace in the region in the future.

On the same topic, Jibrell said that some of the Isaq clan members in the Sanaaq region's main city Erigavo had left the city because of the fighting in the area between the two Isaq clans Habr Yonis and Habr Jallo. Fighting had last broken out about two months ago, originating in the two Isaq clans' alliances and conflicts with the Egal administration in Hargeisa. The Habr Jallo originally supported President Egal's re-election and the clan expected to receive support from Egal in return. However, Egal regarded Habr Yonis as the strongest clan in the area and therefore gave that clan his support rather than Habr Jallo. This had opened the way for a conflict based on jealousy between the Habr Jallo and Habr Yonis, which had traditionally often been in conflict.

Jibrell also said that the Warsangeli and Dhulbahante clans played a central role as mediators in the fighting between the Habr Yonis and Habr Jallo clans. Mediation had prevented further conflict between the two Isaq clans and there was in fact no fighting at present between clans in the Sanaaq region.

Jibrell emphasized that most of those who had fled Erigavo a few months ago were members of the two Isaq clans Habr Jallo and Habr Yonis. Members of the Harti clans in Erigavo and in the Sanaaq region, moreover, did not risk persecution in any form from the Isaq clans.

According to Jibrell the Sanaaq region consisted of five districts in all: the Warsangeli clan occupied the three most easterly districts while the Erigavo district housed members of all five clans in the region. The El Af-Weyne district in western Sanaaq was occupied by the Habr Jallo. This meant that the Habr Yonis clan did not have its own district in the Sanaaq region. Despite this, the Habr Yonis clan, supported as it was by Egal, remained a politically strong clan in the region.

Regarding the Sool region in eastern North-West Somalia, which was almost exclusively occupied by Dhulbahante members (Fatima Jibrell said that the population of the Sool region was 99,9% Dhulbahante), Matt Bryden said that Dhulbahante was not in armed conflict with any of the Isaq clans in the area.

Eusebe Hounsokou, UNHCR, stressed that any Somali in North-West Somalia, including the Warsangeli, Dhulbahante and Habr Yonis and other Isaq clan members, could take up residence in Hargeisa and in North-West Somalia, moreover, without fear of ill-treatment or persecution from the authorities or from the other clans. He pointed out that while no military operations were being conducted anywhere in North-West Somalia, there could of course be brief outbreaks of fighting between clan members at local level throughout the region. This was a phenomenon intrinsic to Somali society. He emphasized, however, that no clan-based persecution took place, even as a result of local disputes. He said, moreover, that the population of North-West Somalia enjoyed considerable mobility and that all population groups generally lived peacefully side by side.

2.3. Clan pattern in the Hiran region

According to Matt Bryden, WSP, the authorities in four out of five districts in the Hiran region were in principle Hawadle-based – (the Mataban district was occupied by the Habr Gedir clan) – and the administration was not quite as cohesive as it was in North-West and North-East Somalia. Moreover, purely from a clan point of view the Hiran region was somewhat more heterogeneous than the two regions referred to.

Regarding clan-based persecution in the Hiran region, Matt Bryden said that the region was relatively peaceful and stable. There had been no fighting of any significance since the Hawadle militia recaptured Beled Weyne, the Hiran region's capital, in 1995.

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Matt Bryden said that there was a "natural partnership" between the Hawadle and Abgal clans in the Hiran region. As for other clans, or clan members, who could be regarded as being at risk of clan-based ill-treatment or persecution, Bryden said that ill-treatment of Habr Gedir clan members residing in the region's capital, Beled Weyne, could not be ruled out. Moreover, he mentioned members of the Galjeel clan because a group from this clan had previously been allied with the Somali National Alliance (SNA).

Bryden stressed however that Galjeel generally lived peacefully side by side with the Hawadle clans in the Hiran region.

Douglas Higgins, Focal Point Officer/Area Manager, United Nations Office for Project Services/Somalia Rehabilitation Project (UNOPS/SRP) in the Hiran region, said that the Vice-Governor of the Hiran region was Galjeel. He added that the Galjeel clan's Ugas, that is to say the traditional clan chief, did not have the same strong position as the Hawadle clans' Ugas. The latter was called Ugas Khalif and was treated with great respect by all clan members in the Hiran region. Ugas Khalif had been a kind of local "king" since 1941.

Regarding the reprisals threatened against individuals who had refused to take part in the Hawadle clans' fight against other clans in the region, Matt Bryden said that no-one, no matter what clan he belonged to, would risk ill-treatment or any form of punishment in the context of events such as these.

Douglas Higgins emphasized that the ultimate guarantee against ill-treatment on the basis of clan membership was the presence of the Sharia court and its police force, called the Sharia-force. The court and its police force dealt with clan-related conflicts. He said that cooperation between the Sharia court, the Sharia police force and the general police in the Hiran region was both constructive and efficient.

Crucial to security in the Hiran region, according to Douglas Higgins, was the fact that the Sharia court's police force, which was a security force made up of many clans, was responsible for internal security in the region rather than the Hawadle-based militia. He defined the Sharia police force as a multi-clan force. He regarded this last factor as very important in that it guaranteed the force's authority, neutrality and strength.

Regarding the antagonism between the Galjeel and Jejeel clans, Higgins said that killings had been carried out by members of both clans and had generally had to do with cases of camel stealing. He did not regard the problem as serious, however, and said that both the Hawadle clan and elders from the Galjeel and Jejeel clans in Hiran had been able to mediate between the two parties. He also emphasized that the security of members of the Hawadle clan had at no point been affected by this conflict. He regarded the fact that elders had been able to mediate in these conflicts and that the Sharia court was also involved in solving these local disputes as extremely positive. He also said that the Sharia court had forbidden the parties to carry the fighting into Beled Weyne itself.

Douglas Higgins finally spoke of an episode of unrest and fighting between clans in the area between Buulo Barde and Jalalasi in the southern part of the Hiran region earlier in the year. The fighting had now stopped and there were no longer any security problems in the area. Higgins said

that the traditional mechanisms for resolving conflicts were operating satisfactorily in the Hiran region.

Central to the resolution of local clan disputes in the Hiran region was the fact that the traditional mechanisms for settling disputes – namely the status of elders as mediators

and blood-money compensation – had remained fully intact in the region. This was strongly emphasized by Douglas Higgins, who said that the mediation of elders in disputes between clans was generally successful. There was respect for their authority and this was currently being applied in solving disputes between clans. Douglas Higgins emphasized, as did Eusebe Hounsokou, UNHCR, that the potential for disputes between clans was always there but that these disputes were almost always on a political level and that actual armed conflict was short-lived. This was precisely because elders were able to mediate and determine compensation on the basis of the compromise arrived at.

Douglas Higgins regarded it as unlikely that any clan member – irrespective of the clan he belonged to – risked being killed simply because he belonged to a certain clan. Higgins cited as an example of positive reconciliation and tolerance between clans in the Hiran region the fact that the Mayor (District Commissioner) in the Mataban district belonged to the Habr Gedir clan and that he had no difficulty in visiting the region's capital Beled Weyne, in which the Hawadle were the dominant clans. He pointed out that the Mataban district was controlled by the Somali National Alliance (SNA), i.e. the Habr Gedir-dominated clan alliance which was headed by the self-appointed "President" Mohamed Hussein Aideed in Mogadishu and which at one point had fought against the Hawadle militias for control of the Hawadle-dominated Beled Weyne and other parts of the Hiran region.

3. Minority groups and clans and "non-resident" clans, political movements, etc.

Regarding the situation of minority groups (especially the Bantu population and low-caste clans), Hounsokou, UNHCR, said that generally speaking Somali society had always been hierarchical and it would in his view remain so for some time yet. This social "injustice" was intrinsic to the clan hierarchy in Somalia and was not to be regarded as a question of persecution. He emphasized that so-called low-caste clans and ethnic minorities were an integral part of Somali society and that these groups had generally kept themselves apart from the clan-based disputes during the civil war. There were no signs at present that members of these groups faced any form of persecution merely on the basis of ethnic or social status. Matt Bryden, WSP, said that many of them were specially qualified craftsmen, which secured for these groups a relatively high level of employment and hence an economic position which in many cases was better than the situation of many so-called ethnic Somalis.

Regarding minority clans and so-called "non-resident" clans, there could be situations in certain cases which placed members of these groups in a weaker position than other Somalis. Hounsokou emphasized, however, that members of such groups and indeed members of any clan which had been resident over several years or more in an area other than the clan's traditional homeland were to be regarded as fully integrated into local society at their "new" place of residence. Matt Bryden pointed out, on the other hand, that such individuals did risk relative isolation from a social point of view and could therefore be regarded as more vulnerable than members of so-called "resident" clans.

3.1. North-East Somalia

Johan Svensson, LPI, said that members of the fundamentalist Islamic organization Al-Itihad were not persecuted merely for being members of that organization. He did not therefore regard

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membership of Al-Itihad as a valid reason for seeking asylum abroad. Members of Al-Itihad were persecuted neither by the authorities nor by anyone else, but he could however not rule out the risk of a confrontation between Al-Itihad members actively operating in groups in North-East Somalia and the local authorities, which could for example lead to a demand that the group leave the area.

According to Matt Bryden, members of the Lel Kase clan living in North-East Somalia, including Galkayo, do not face persecution. The same applied to members of the Habr Gedir clan whose traditional homeland was in central Somalia and bordered on the Majerteen clan's home land, i.e. from Galkayo in the south to Bosasso in the north. North-East Somalia (i.e. from Galkayo and up to Bosasso) was not a home land for Habr Gedir members and only a few Habr Gedir members lived there. He emphasized that Habr Gedir members did not face persecution in North-East Somalia merely on account of clan membership, but as "non-residents" their members could not expect to be given the same protection against possible attacks by bandits etc. as "resident" members. Habr Gedir members were to be found in a number of places in North-East Somalia with a limited number of them working as businessmen in Bosasso, and in Galkayo.

Johan Svensson, LPI, confirmed the information given by Matt Bryden concerning the Lel Kase clan, adding that Lel Kase was a Darod clan whose homeland lay south of Galkayo, i.e. outside North-East Somalia. He emphasized that, despite this, Lel Kase members were able to move freely around North-East Somalia and he could not imagine Lel Kase members having security problems in Galkayo or in other areas in North-East Somalia.

Eusebe Hounsokou, UNHCR, said that the Lel Kase clan's central homeland was in the Bay and Bakool regions in Central Somalia.

Regarding relations between the Habr Gedir and Majerteen clans in North-East Somalia and especially in Galkayo, Hounsokou said that the previous conflict between the SNA (Habr Gedir movement) and the SSDF (Majerteen movement) in Galkayo had now been resolved. In mid-October 1997, representatives of both movements had signed a peace agreement. On that occasion, a large-scale joint demonstration was held in the town of Galkayo, where members of both clans took part in a procession through the town. Members of both clans could now move freely around Galkayo, which was previously divided between the SNA and SSDF clan movements. He emphasized that peace now reigned in Galkayo and people could move about freely.

3.2. North-West Somalia (Somaliland)

The Ogadeen clan was previously, in the 1980s, allied with the former president Siad Barre and was as such authorized as a reward to take control of the Isaq property in Hargeisa. During the civil war in North-West Somalia, Ogadeen was driven out of this property, which once more became Isaq property. Part of the Ogadeen clan, however, continued to stay in North-West Somalia. Matt Bryden said that there were no reports of any persecution of Ogadeen members in North-West Somalia. He emphasized that the assumption was that any Ogadeen member could visit Hargeisa without risking persecution. However, relations between Isaq and Ogadeen had not been completely normalized, and any Ogadeen member who, during a stay in Hargeisa, asked for property in the town which formally belonged to him to be returned could risk being attacked by Isaq members.

Matt Bryden stressed that any claim to property in Hargeisa from a "non-resident" clan member, i.e. from a clan member whose clan did not traditionally belong in the area, could place the person in question in real danger.

Johan Svensson said that only a few Ogadeen members were to be found in Hargeisa – the vast majority lived in Ethiopia. He confirmed that Ogadeen members often had difficulty in pressing claims for property in Hargeisa. He also stressed, however, that Ogadeen members could live in Hargeisa without problems, and those recognized as owning property in the town could sell it if they so wished.

Eusebe Hounsokou found that problems relating to the property situation in Somalia were greatly exaggerated. He said that as a result of the reconciliation process in Somalia, many people were beginning to claim back property that had formerly been theirs and that, as long as the property in question had not been taken over by others, this was no longer a problem. Subject to that limitation, everyone in Somalia could have his property returned to him. The whole property question were constantly under discussion in the country with a view to finding solutions. Hounsokou emphasized that the traditional mechanisms for resolving disputes remained unimpaired and were currently proving effective in resolving any property disputes.

According to Fatima Jibrell, HARDO, the Midgan population in the Sool and Sanaaq regions were not called Midgan by the local population, but Gaboye. During the civil war, the Gaboye population were regarded as being supporters of President Siad Barre. This was because he strengthened the Gaboye population's position in political life. She emphasized that the Gaboye population was not subject to any form of persecution or harassment generally. Their specialist qualifications, moreover, as for example craftsmen, had given these people a certain financial status.

According to Fatima Jibrell, the Sool and Sanaaq regions were also inhabited by members of the Bantu (called Jerer) and Benadir minority groups. None of these groups was exposed to any form of persecution in the regions in question or in North-West Somalia generally.

Johan Svensson said that the clan movement the United Somali Party (USP), which was based in the Sool and Sanaaq regions, supported a united Somalia – and was therefore in opposition to the dominant political current in Hargeisa – but the population in both districts was to a certain extent divided on this question. This, however, did not prevent members of all population groups and political movements, including USP, from travelling freely and safely to both North-West Somalia's capital Hargeisa and Bosasso in North-East Somalia. The politically dominant movement in Bosasso and North-East Somalia generally – the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) – was in favour of a united Somalia and hence politically opposed to the Egal administration in Hargeisa.

Matt Bryden said that the fundamentalist movement Al-Itihad was present in the Sool region but there was no information as to whether members of this movement were being persecuted merely on account of membership. Ethiopia had however expressed concern about Al-Itihad's presence in the area, which bordered on Ethiopia.

3.3. The Hiran region

Asked whether members of the Ogadeen clan were exposed to ill-treatment or persecution in the Hiran region, Matt Bryden said that he had never heard any reports of the presence of Ogadeen members in Hiran, nor therefore whether there had been any persecution of Ogadeen members. Douglas Higgins had no information as to whether the position of members of the Ogadeen clan was worse in Beled Weyne or Hiran generally than for example members of the Habr Gedir clan.

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He did not consider members of the Ogadeen clan as being particularly at risk of ill-treatment on account of their clan membership.

Regarding the safety of the Bantu population in Hiran, Matt Bryden said that the Bantu population was not exposed to any form of persecution because of its status or ethnic background. This was confirmed by Douglas Higgins, who said that he had had no reports of any ill-treatment of the Bantu population or of members of that population group. On the contrary, Higgins found that Bantu members were treated with respect in the Hiran region as all Somalis knew that the Bantu people were technically well-qualified workers.

Douglas Higgins also said that the Asharaf people were spread throughout Somalia and that this group's members were not exposed to any form of persecution, either in the Hiran region or anywhere else in Somalia. Higgins confirmed that the Asharaf were traditionally a religious group whose status was now more similar to that of other Somalis and that the group did not live as a body but was relatively mobile.

Hounsokou, UNHCR, added that the Somalis were generally highly mobile to the extent that individuals who had stayed in the same place for more than a few years were considered resident and integrated.

Finally, he stressed that criminals or individuals who had formed an alliance during the fighting might in certain cases risk ill-treatment.

Following the Immigration Service's mission to Nairobi, Douglas Higgins said that he had visited the Hiran region later in November and had had meetings with representatives of the Reer Aw Hassan clan's subclan, Reer Aw-Mahdi, Reer Hassan Mahdi. He said that members of this clan faced no form of intolerance whatsoever in the Hiran region. There were no reports of persecution targeted at this clan's members merely on account of their clan membership. They had probably been less involved in the many small-scale confrontations between clans in Somalia than many other clans. Higgins emphasized that the clan was quite clearly a minority group, although its members seemed to have no problems on that account.

4. Inter-marriages between clans and the general situation of women

Matt Bryden said that inter-marriage between clans did not generally carry a risk of persecution or ill-treatment anywhere in Somalia. Only in exceptional cases could inter-marriage between clans carry a certain risk in the form of social isolation or direct harassment which could place the single remaining spouse whose clan was not represented in the area in a more vulnerable position. This only applied therefore in situations in which one of the spouses had died, disappeared or divorced. For example, Matt Bryden said that if one of the spouses died, the surviving spouse would normally be dependent on the deceased spouse's clan which had previously lived in the area. Where the surviving spouse belonged to a clan which did not traditionally live in the area, he or she could risk social isolation, which could make them more vulnerable.

Matt Bryden took as a further example a situation in North-West Somalia (Somaliland) in which a female Isaq member was married to a prominent Marehan member rumoured among the Isaq people to have abused and possibly tortured Isaq members during the civil war or during Siad Barre's time.

In special circumstances, such a woman, like her spouse, could be considered to be risking ill-treatment by Isaq members.

Finally, it was explained that women belonging to so-called "resident" clans did not risk persecution or ill-treatment if they were living in their "home area". However, a single woman trying to travel alone through a foreign-clan area, i.e. an area in which she herself was "non-resident", according to Matt Bryden, naturally risked being attacked or physically ill-treated by ordinary bandits or hostile clan members.

5. ANNEX SUMMARY

Annex 1: Abbreviations used.

Annex 2: Individuals and organizations consulted.

Annex 3: Major Somali clans (compiled by a UN organization in Nairobi, November 1997).

The clans indicated on the map are so-called "resident" clans.

Annex 4: Summary of Somali clans.

Annex 5: Map of Somalia.

Source: Africa, North East/Arabia, Michelin 954.

ANNEX 1

Abbreviations used

UN – United Nations

HARDO – Horn of Africa Relief and Development Organization

ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross

IOM – International Organization for Migration

LPI – Life & Peace Institute

SNA – Somali National Alliance

SRP – Somalia Rehabilitation Project

SSDF – Somali Salvation Democratic Front

UNCT – United Nations Coordination Team

UNDP-Somalia – United Nations Development Programme (Somalia)

UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund

UNOPS – United Nations Office for Project Services

WSP – War-Torn Societies Project

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ANNEX 2

Individuals and organizations consulted

Bryden, Matt, Project Coordinator, War-Torn Societies Project (WSP), Somalia Country Project, Nairobi.

Condyne, Bill, Deputy Chief of UN Security/Security Officer, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Nairobi.

Higgins, Douglas, Focal Point Officer/Area Manager – Hiran Region, United Nations Office for Project Services/Somalia Rehabilitation Project (UNOPS/SRP), Nairobi.

Hounsokou, Eusebe, Head of Somalia Operations, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Nairobi.

Jibrell, Fatima, Managing Director, Horn of Africa Relief and Development Organization (HARDO), Nairobi.

Muijsers, Geert, Programme Manager, United Nations Office for Project Services/Somalia Rehabilitation Project (UNOPS/SRP), Nairobi.

Spring, John, Deputy Resident Representative, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Nairobi.

Svensson, Johan, Resident Regional Representative, Life & Peace Institute (LPI), Nairobi.

ANNEX 3

(not available in electronic format)

ANNEX 4

Major Somali Clans by Clan-Family

1. Dir clan-family
 - Ise
 - Gadabursi
 - Bimal
2. Isaq clan-family
 - Saad Muse ☞
 - Habar Awal
 - Ise Muse ☞
 - Ayub
 - Habar Yunis ☞
 - Habar Garhajis
 - Aidagalla ☞
 - Arab
 - Mohamed Abokor ☞
 - Ibrahim ☞
 - Habar Toljaalo
 - Muse Abokor ☞
 - Ahmad (Toljaalo) ☞
3. Darod clan-family
 - Marehan
 - Ogaden
 - Majerteyn ☞
 - Dulbahante → →Harti division
 - Warsangeli ☞
4. Hawiye clan-family
 - Hawiye associate: Hawadle
 - Waadan
 - Habar Gidir
 - Abgal
 - Murasadde
 - Gaaljaal
5. Digil clan-family
 - Dabarre
 - Jiddu
 - Tunni
 - Geledi
 - Garre
6. Rahanweyn clan-family
 - 33 clans, in two loose alliances
 - Maalinweyna ☞
 - Harien ☞
 - Helleda → → The "Eight"
 - Elai ☞
 - and others ☞
 - Gassar Gudda ☞
 - Hadama ☞
 - Luwai → →The "Nine"
 - Geledi ☞
 - and others ☞

Fact-finding mission to Somalia and Kenya

ANNEX 5

(not available in electronic format)