

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

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Responses to Information Requests

Responses to Information Requests (RIR) respond to focused Requests for Information that are submitted to the Research Directorate in the course of the refugee protection determination process. The database contains a seven year archive of English and French RIRs. Earlier RIRs may be found on the UNHCR's [Refworld](#) website. Please note that some RIRs have attachments which are not electronically accessible. To obtain a PDF copy of an RIR attachment please email Basesdedonnees.DatabaseUnit@irb-cisr.gc.ca.

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Ghana: Availability of fraudulent identity documents, including instances of officials issuing fraudulent documents, including passports (2008-2013)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

1. Fraudulent Documents and Corruption

The Transparency International (TI) Corruption Perceptions Index for 2013 ranks Ghana 63rd out of 177 countries and gives Ghana a score of 46 out of 100 (TI 2013). Transparency International ranks countries according to relative corruption of their public sector and countries' scores indicate the level of perceived public sector corruption on a scale from 0 ("highly corrupt") to 100 ("very clean") (ibid.). Freedom House reports that corruption in Ghana is "widespread ... stemming in part from the poor remuneration of public employees" (2012, 10). The US Department of State's *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2012* similarly states that "some officials frequently engaged in corrupt practices" (19 Apr. 2013, 11).

According to the Embassy of the United States in Accra, "there are many forged official looking documents" in Ghana (US n.d.). AllAfrica also reports in an April 2013 article that, according to the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), forging of documents is widespread in Ghana (22 Apr. 2013). *Technology Banker*, a London-based magazine focusing on banking and finance technology in Africa (*Technology Banker* n.d.), notes that the following types of fraud were identified by Ghanaian police as prevalent: forgery of documents, identity theft, data theft and cheque fraud, among others (ibid. 13 Feb. 2012).

The state-run Ghana News Agency (GNA) (n.d.) reports that, according to the Director of the GIS, there were 3,876 cases of fraudulent documents reported between 2008 and 2010 at the Kotoka International Airport (KIA) (GNA 23 Nov. 2011). The GIS *Annual Report for 2008* indicates that, according to the data received from KIA, 486 fraudulent documents were intercepted in 2008 (Ghana 19 Feb. 2009, 26), of which:

[p]hoto substitution recorded the highest figure with 25.72%, followed by Counterfeit page 15.84%, Impersonation 14.61%, Fraudulent Acquisition of passport 12.76%, Fraudulent Acquisition of Visa 7.16%, False endorsement 5.76%, Counterfeit passport 4.73%, Page Alteration 3.91%, Page substitution 3.70%, Fraudulent Acquisition of Resident Card 2.26%, Counterfeit Sorgornnor / Resident Card 1.85% and Proxy Visa 1.23%. (ibid., 8)

According to the GIS *2010 Annual Report*, 390 fraudulent documents were intercepted at KIA in 2010 (ibid. 2010, 13). The report indicates that, of the documents intercepted in 2010, the following were detected photo substitution (24%), page substitution (6%), page alteration (5%), counterfeit pages (8%), counterfeit passports (8%), counterfeit resident cards (5%) and fake visas (15%), among others (ibid.).

In correspondence with the Research Directorate, a representative of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) National Document Centre indicated that reports received by CBSA "describe Ghanaian