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01 September 2004

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Sierra Leone: The Krio ethnic group and their relationship with the rebels, government and general population (2002-2004)

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The Krio (Krio Fula or Creole) people are descendants of freed slaves and make up from 2 per cent (AMEP August 2003) to 10 per cent of the population of Sierra Leone (*CIA World Factbook* 11 May 2004; *Global Security* 6 July 2003; TDS n.d.). The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) Research Centre affiliated with the Australian government reported that Krios have often been members of the elite in Sierra Leone society (Aug. 2003).

Information on the relationship of the Krio ethnic group to any rebel group or to the government of Sierra Leone was not found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

Global Security reported that Sierra Leone is unusual in having no serious ethnic divisions and that ethnic distinctions had no apparent role in the eleven-year internal conflict that ended in 2002 (6 July 2003). However, *Country Reports 2003* indicated that some minor inter-ethnic tension exists although relations among various ethnic groups are reported to be generally good (25 Feb. 2004). Discrimination based on ethnicity occasionally occurs (*Country Reports 2003* 25 Feb. 2004; *Global Security* 6 July 2003).

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

Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP). August 2003. "Fact Sheet - Sierra Leone."

<<http://www.nceltr.mq.edu.au/pdamep/factsheets/O6SierraLeoneprofile.pdf>> [Accessed 19 Aug. 2004]

CIA World Factbook. 11 May 2004. "Sierra Leone." <<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/sl.html>> [Accessed 18 Aug. 2004]

Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003. 25 February 2004. "Sierra Leone." Department of State. Washington, DC. <<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2003/27750pf.htm>> [Accessed 17 Aug. 2004]

Global Security. 6 July 2003. "Sierra Leone."

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/sierra_leone.htm> [Accessed 18 Aug. 2004]

Travel Document Systems (TDS). n.d. "Sierra Leone." <<http://www.traveldocs.com/sl/people.htm>> [Accessed 18 Aug. 2004]

Additional Sources Consulted

Internet sites, including: AllAfrica.com, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch (HRW), Reporters Without Borders.

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