



Malawi - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Tuesday 8 August 2017

Information on witchcraft from May 2017 including: effectiveness and implementation of law designed to protect those accused of witchcraft; targeting of people accused of witchcraft; police/state protection for those accused of witchcraft; areas of country where witchcraft is practised

In May 2017 the *Maravi Post* states that:

“Malawi’s laws do not recognize witchcraft claims; and the law states that whoever accuses someone of the practice, faces the law” (Maravi Post (18 May 2017) *Lilongwe man arrested for murdering old woman over witchcraft*).

Malawi 24 in May 2017 states:

“Despite the killing of the elderly on suspicions of practising witchcraft being condemned, a woman aged 80 in Blantyre has been killed after she was suspected to be a witch...police have since arrested three men suspected to have taken part in the murder...The suspects are to appear in court soon to answer charges of murder contrary to section 209 of the penal code” (Malawi 24 (25 May 2017) *80-year-old Malawian woman killed over witchcraft claims*).

A document released by the *Nyasa Times* in June 2017 states:

“Davison was jailed on August 15 last year by the Mulanje Third Grade Magistrate Court, under section 6 of the Witchcraft Act...High Court Judge McLean Kamwambe in his determination said Mulanje Third Grade Magistrate Court had no jurisdiction to hear the case of Divason, saying offences to be tried by such courts was three years and the maximum sentence of the charge of Divason was 10 years imprisonment. Kamwambe said the witchcraft convict had already spent almost half of her sentence in jail “enough to teach her a lesson.” The Judge quashed the conviction and set aside the sentence” (Nyasa Times (1 June 2017) *High Court of Malawi free convicted ‘witch’: Spent almost half of her sentence in jail*).

A document issued in June 2017 by the *Maravi Post* points out that:

“Witchcraft cases in Malawi are treated with cruelty. In Neno District, residents administered mob justice to four elderly people who were accused of practicing witchcraft” (Maravi Post (2 June 2017) *Malawi High Court in Mulanje flees Mulanje witchcraft convict after successful appeal*).

In June 2017 a report released by the *Maravi Post* notes:

“Ninety-year old Kenward Kumwenda was murdered in Karonga by some angry residents, over accusations of witchcraft. The incidence occurred on Monday evening, according to a police report” (Maravi Post (22 June 2017) *Man killed over witchcraft accusations*).

A report issued in July 2017 by *Malawi 24* notes:

“A mob in Lilongwe on Tuesday killed a woman after community members accused her of killing a 10-year-old boy through witchcraft” (Malawi 24 (24 July 2017) *Woman killed over witchcraft*).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

References

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<http://www.maravipost.com/man-killed-over-witchcraft-accusations/>
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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

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