



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

**Somalia - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 4 February 2015**

### **Treatment of the Benadiri Reer Hamar in Lower Shabella by other clans/Al Shabaab/Government**

A report issued in August 2014 by the *European Union/European Asylum Support Office*

“The Benadiri or Reer Xamar (residents of Xamar/Mogadishu) were mainly business people and traders living along the Benadiri coast (mainly in Mogadishu, Merka and Baraawe). In the beginning of the civil war, they suffered looting, theft and rape because of their supposed wealth. In the 1990s, most Benadiri fled to Kenya with only a few thousands remaining in Somalia with their businesses, paying a clan or private militia for protection...Some Benadiri/Reer Xamar in Mogadishu have acquired key positions within the regional Benadir administration. Thus, they have become less subject to targeted violence committed with impunity...As most remaining Benadiri traders are relatively wealthy, they usually manage to buy protection...although they also may be subject to extortion and blackmail by majority clan militias...” (European Union/European Asylum Support Office (August 2014) *EASO Country of Origin Information report. South and Central Somalia Country overview*, p.102).

The Benadiri are included in a list of “Peoples most under threat” in a report issued in July 2014 by *Minority Rights Group International* (Minority Rights Group International (3 July 2014) *Peoples under Threat 2014: hate crimes and mass killing*, p.211).

In February 2014 a paper issued by the *Combating Terrorism Center at West Point* states:

“Somalia today faces several contingent clan issues, such as the discrimination of the Ayr sub-clan of the Hawiye against Benadiris in Lower Shabelle...” (Combating Terrorism Center at West Point (24 February 2014) *An In-Depth Look at Al-Shabab's Internal Divisions*, footnote 10).

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

### **References**

Combating Terrorism Center at West Point (24 February 2014) *An In-Depth Look at Al-Shabab's Internal Divisions*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/depth-look-al-shababs-internal-divisions#note10>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Wednesday 4 February 2015

European Union/European Asylum Support Office (August 2014) *EASO Country of Origin Information report, South and Central Somalia Country overview*

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/542e8b9d4.html>

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Minority Rights Group International (3 July 2014) *Peoples under Threat 2014: hate crimes and mass killing*

<http://www.minorityrights.org/12473/state-of-the-worlds-minorities/state-of-the-worlds-minorities-and-indigenous-peoples-2014.html>

Accessed Wednesday 4 February 2015

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

Amnesty International  
BBC News  
Electronic Immigration Network  
European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
Google  
Human Rights Watch  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada  
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre  
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