



**Togo – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 9 July 2013**

**Reports on problems between Ewe/Christians and members of the Kaybe ethnic group and/or with Muslims.**

The 2013 US Department of State country report on Togo, in a section titled “National/Racial/Ethnic Minorities”, states:

“The northern ethnic groups, especially the Kabye, dominate civil and military services while southern ethnic groups, especially the Ewe, dominate the private commercial sector. This is a recurring source of political tension.” (US Department of State (19 April 2013) *2012 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Togo*, p.16)

A Minority Rights Group International report published in 2008, in a section titled “Current issues”, states:

“Éwé remain at the heart of political opposition to Faure Gnassingbé and the ruling party, and are heavily involved in several opposition parties. The violence that followed the unconstitutional military installation of Faure Gnassingbé as president in February 2005 pitted the military against the opposition, and thus against many Éwé.” (Minority Rights Group International (2008) *World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples - Togo : Éwé*)

The 2013 Freedom House report for Togo, in a section titled “Political Rights and Civil Liberties”, states:

“Religious freedom is constitutionally protected and generally respected. Islam and Christianity are recognized as official religions, but other religious groups must register as associations. In September 2012, the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life ranked Togo among the highest in the world in a study on global religious tolerance.” (Freedom House (3 June 2013) *Freedom in the World 2013 – Togo*)

The 2013 US Department of State report on religious freedom in Togo, in “Section I. Religious Demography”, states:

“In 2004, the University of Lome estimated the population is 33 percent traditional animist, 28 percent Roman Catholic, 14 percent Sunni Muslim, 10 percent Protestant, and 10 percent other Christian denominations. The remaining 5 percent includes persons not affiliated with any religious group. Many Christians and Muslims continue to perform indigenous religious practices. Reliable figures are difficult to obtain because of migration and because the government does not collect religious and ethnic data. Most Muslims live in the central and northern regions. Christians live mainly in the southern part of the country. The Muslim Union of Togo reports a large surge in immigrants from Muslim countries, but the government does not collect the

statistics needed to confirm or deny that claim.” (US Department of State (20 May 2013) *2012 Report on International Religious Freedom – Togo*)

In “Section III. Status of Societal Respect for Religious Freedom” this report states:

“There were no reports of societal abuses or discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice, and prominent societal leaders took positive steps to promote religious freedom. Members of different religious groups regularly invited one another to their respective ceremonies. Inter-marriage between persons of different religious groups was common.” (ibid)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit 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.

### **References:**

Freedom House (3 June 2013) *Freedom in the World 2013 – Togo*

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Google

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IRIN News

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Minority Rights Group International  
Refugee documentation Centre Query Database  
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UK Home Office  
UNHCR Refworld  
US Department of State  
Voice of America