



Zimbabwe - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Tuesday 29 July 2014

Information on ethnic conflict between the Ndebele and Shona

Commenting on events of 2013, a report issued in February 2014 by the *United States Department of State* notes:

“Unwillingness to acknowledge past atrocities continued to influence Shona-Ndebele relations negatively” (United States Department of State (27 February 2014) *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013, Zimbabwe*, Section 1a Arbitrary or Unlawful Deprivation of Life).

This report also points out that:

“According to government statistics, the Shona ethnic group makes up 82 percent of the population, Ndebele 14 percent, whites and Asians less than 1 percent, and other ethnic groups 3 percent” (ibid, Section 6. Discrimination, Societal Abuses, and Trafficking in Persons /National/Racial/Ethnic Minorities).

This document also states:

“Historical tension between the Shona majority and the Ndebele minority resulted in marginalization of the Ndebele by the Shona-dominated government” (ibid, Section 6. Discrimination, Societal Abuses, and Trafficking in Persons /National/Racial/Ethnic Minorities).

A report issued in February 2014 by the *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia* states:

“Certain rural areas remain traditional tribal strongholds; Mashonaland in the north is Shona, and Matabeleland in the south west is predominantly Ndebele. Cities and towns are generally mixed. However, Shona-speaking clans constitute the majority in Harare, and Ndebele-speaking clans in Bulawayo” (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia (25 February 2014) *DFAT Country Report: Zimbabwe*).

This document also points out that:

“In Ndebele communities, most of the local police have been imported from Shona-speaking provinces, further limiting community outreach programs” (ibid).

A report published in July 2014 by *Minority Rights Group International* notes:

“The Ndebele minority continues to be marginalized with regard to political representation. The government has been accused of neglecting Matabeleland, a Ndebele-dominated region that is one of the most underdeveloped areas in the country” (Minority Rights Group International (3 July 2014) *State of the World's Minorities and Indigenous Peoples 2014 – Zimbabwe*).

This report also states:

“Reflecting the ongoing marginalization of Ndebele, there were a number of incidents of discrimination and violence against them during 2013” (ibid).

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

References

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia (25 February 2014) *DFAT Country Report: Zimbabwe*
<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/dfat-country-report-zimbabwe>

This is a subscription database
Accessed Tuesday 29 July 2014

Minority Rights Group International (3 July 2014) *State of the World's Minorities and Indigenous Peoples 2014 – Zimbabwe*

<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=53ba8dc514>

Accessed Tuesday 29 July 2014

United States Department of State (27 February 2014) *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013, Zimbabwe*

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm#wrapper>

Accessed Tuesday 29 July 2014

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
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database

Reliefweb
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Departm

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.