



**Somalia - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Friday 8, Monday 11 & Tuesday 12 January 2013**

**Treatment of the Tunni ethnic group**

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

**Information that men were forced to join Al Shabab and fight against the Somalian and Ethiopian armies, including in 2007**

In January 2013 a document released by the *Danish Immigration Service* citing another sources states:

“Saferworld found it unlikely that al-Shabaab undertakes forced recruitment today and the movement is not targeting very young people but rather tries to influence the elite, that is more prominent people, for example politicians and business people in order to get some backing” (Danish Immigration Service (4 January 2013) *Update on security and human rights issues in South-Central Somalia, including in Mogadishu; Joint report from the Danish Immigration Service’s and the Norwegian Landinfo’s fact finding mission to Nairobi, Kenya and Mogadishu, Somalia; 17 to 28 October 2012*, p.28).

A report issued by *Landinfo* in April 2012 points out that:

“Regarding forced recruitment by Al-Shabaab, an international organisation (A) explained that this is an ever increasing problem in all areas of S-C Somalia, but only in areas controlled by Al-Shabaab” (Landinfo (26 April 2012) *Security and human rights issues in South-Central Somalia, including Mogadishu 30 January to 19 February 2012*, p.49).

This document also states:

“Forced recruitment in militias is a common feature in Al-Shabaab controlled areas, and as Al-Shabaab is now under pressure in many places forced recruitment is an ever increasing issue. Forced recruitment may take place among teenagers and even persons of 20 to 25 years of age may be recruited” (ibid, p.49).

In August 2011 a report published by *Human Rights Watch* notes:

“Al-Shabaab has been responsible for the widespread recruitment of boys and girls into its forces and the forced recruitment of adults, including older men” (Human Rights Watch (14 August 2011) *“You Don’t Know Who to Blame”, War Crimes in Somalia*, p.28).

Providing an example of forced recruitment, this report also notes:

“Al-Shabaab also forcibly conscripts adults. J.K. explained that “men loitering in the town” were often forcibly conscripted, causing many men to restrict their own movements and spend most of the time in their fields” (ibid, p.29).

A report issued by *Amnesty International* in July 2011 states:

“For instance, al-Shabab leaders in Baidoa reportedly called on residents, including children, to participate in the jihad (holy war) against the TFG around August 2010...” (Amnesty International (20 July 2011) *In the line of fire, Somalia’s children under attack*, p.22).

In July 2011 a document issued by *Landinfo* commenting on forced recruitment by al-Shabab states that:

“...that forced recruitment is a larger problem in areas where the Murusade, Duduble and Galjel clans live, than in other areas” (Landinfo (22 July 2011) *Somalia: Armed groups and recruitment in the south*, p.2).

In November 2010 *Amnesty International* point out in a report that:

“Armed Islamist groups, and particularly al-Shabab, are responsible for widespread recruitment of children into their forces, and for forced recruitment of young men” (Amnesty International (1 November 2010) *Somalia, Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Central and Southern Somalia*, Amnesty International submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review, May 2011).

In July 2010 research issued by the *Australian Refugee Review Tribunal* notes:

“The practice of forcibly recruiting young Somali men to join Al-Shabaab by threatening to cut off limbs was first reported in 2009” (Australian Refugee Review Tribunal (9 July 2010) *Country Advice Somalia, Somalia – SOM37002 – Amputations – Al-Shabaab – Clans – Recruitment*, p.1).

A report issued in May 2010 by the *UNHCR* states:

“There are reports that increasing numbers of young Somali males are leaving southern and central Somalia due to the possibility of being forcibly recruited into the ranks of the various militia groups involved in the conflict. Forced recruitment, including of children, has been reported on a regular basis” (UNHCR (5 May 2010) *Somalia: UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Somalia*, p.16).

In April 2010 a document issued by *Human Rights Watch* notes:

“Parties to the conflict in Somalia gain new fighters through the use or threat of force and by unlawfully seeking recruits among children and refugees. Opposition forces, especially but not exclusively al-Shabaab, are expanding their ranks by threatening those who resist with death and at times carrying out their threats” (Human Rights Watch (19 April 2010) *Harsh War, Harsh Peace*, p.50).

The authors of this report also point out that:

“Human Rights Watch also interviewed several young men who fled Mogadishu because al-Shabaab or Hizbul Islam threatened to kill them for refusing to join their forces” (ibid, p.50).

A publication issued in October 2009 by the *United Nations News Centre* notes:

“Expressing his shock at the level of violence faced by civilians in Somalia, an independent United Nations human rights expert today rebuked the international community for failing the 1.5 million people uprooted from their homes in the Horn of Africa nation. “Serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, in particular indiscriminate attacks and shelling of areas populated or frequented by civilians, are being perpetrated by all parties to the conflict with total impunity,” Walter Kälin, the Secretary-General’s Special Representative on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs), who wrapped up a week-long visit to Somalia today said. These acts could be tantamount to war crimes, he said, adding that people are also fleeing their homes due to death threats, the risk of targeted killings and forced recruitment by militias” (United Nations News Centre (21 October 2009) *International community failing uprooted Somalis, says UN rights expert*).

The *New York Times* in March 2009 points out that:

“Shabaab has engaged in forced recruitment among Somalis...” (New York Times (2 March 2009) *Backgrounder: Al-Shabaab*).

A report published in August 2007 by the *Danish Immigration Service* citing external sources points out that:

“Yassin emphasized that no one is being forced into clan-based militia if he is not a member of that same clan. Forced recruitment is not common, but a person has to go if the clan elders request it” (Danish Immigration Service (August 2007) *Human rights and security in central and southern Somalia*, p.26).

This document also states that:

“An international organisation (A) explained that forced recruitment to militias took place during all of 2006...An international organisation (C) confirmed that militias are all recruiting by force and some recruits are minors” (ibid, p.27).

In May 2007 *Amnesty International* notes:

“Amnesty International talked to a number of refugees from the Somali minority groups, who have no clan protection. Most of them asserted that they had been specifically targeted for persecution by the different armed groups such as COSIC fighters or clan-based armed or militia groups, solely on the basis of being minorities and not members of a clan. According to the refugees, this often resulted in targeted attacks on them and their families resulting in deaths and injuries, the looting of their belongings and property, and their forced conscription into armed groups” (Amnesty International (2 May 2007) *Kenya, Denied Refuge, The effect of the closure of the Kenya/Somalia border on thousands of Somali asylum-seekers and refugees*, p.6).

In October 2007 *Agence France Presse* describes al-shabab as:

“The Shabab are extremist elements of the Islamist movement that controlled much of southern and central Somalia during the second half of 2006” (Agence France Presse (3 October 2007) *Fierce fighting in Somali capital*).

A profile of al-shabab is included in a report published in May 2010 by the *International Crisis Group* which states:

“Al-Shabaab (the Youth) grew to prominence during the rise of the UIC. After the Ethiopian invasion that toppled the UIC, it energetically conducted an extensive military, political and propaganda campaign aimed at recapturing southern Somalia. It has largely recruited from radicalised young men and sees the struggle with its adversaries as essentially ideological. Initially a loose network of Islamist groups opposed to Ethiopian occupation, it has become over the last couple of years more centralised and increasingly extremist” (International Crisis Group (18 May 2010) *Somalia’s Divided Islamists*, p.5).

A report published in July 2011 by the *Centre for Strategic and International Studies* on al-Shabab states:

“Originally the small, youth militia arm of a relatively moderate Islamist organisation that rose to power in Somalia in early 2006, al Shabaab was radicalised and brought to prominence as a popular Islamist guerrilla movement by Ethiopia’s invasion in December of that year” (Centre for Strategic and International Studies (Centre for Strategic and International Studies (July 2011) *Al Shabaab*, p.1).

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

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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.

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Electronic Immigration Network

European Country of Origin Information Network

Freedom House

Google

Human Rights Watch

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Online Newspapers

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