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COI QUERY RESPONSE

SOMALIA - CLANS

Middle East Monitor in June 2024 states that: “A violent clash over the weekend between two clans in central Somalia has killed at least 55 people and injured another 155, residents and medical officials said on Monday. According to Reuters, Somalia’s federal government is not only struggling to contain violence unleashed by the Al Qaeda-linked Al-Shabaab group, but also facing clan-based clashes over control of land and water in the Horn of Africa nation. The clash between the Dir and Marihan clans, who fought alongside each other in the paramilitary group which ousted Al-Shabaab from Galmudug region...”¹

A report issued in May 2024 by the *Armed Conflict Location and Event Data* includes commentary on: “...inter-clan disputes...”²

In March 2024 *Bertelsmann Stiftung* states that: “...clan-based militias beyond the control of the regional governments remain active in all regions and occasionally clash with each other or governmental forces, often in disputes over local resources.”³

In April 2024 the *United States Department of State* released a report commenting on events of the preceding year which included noting that: “Clans frequently applied traditional justice practices, and judgments sometimes held entire clans or subclans responsible for alleged abuses by individuals.”⁴

¹ Middle East Monitor (10 June 2024) Somalia clan fighting ‘kills at least 55’

² Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (31 May 2024) Somalia: Renewed counter-insurgency operations expected as al-Shabaab regroups, p.1

³ Bertelsmann Stiftung (19 March 2024) BTI 2024 Country Report Somalia, p.13

⁴ United States Department of State (22 April 2024) 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Somalia, p.6

This document also states that: “Minority groups, often lacking armed militias, were disproportionately subjected to killings, torture, rape, kidnapping for ransom, and looting of land and property with impunity by faction militias and majority clan members, often with the acquiescence of federal and local authorities.”⁵

In September 2023 the *Romanian National Council for Refugees* comments on “...clan rivalries and competitions over political power and scarce resources. Somalia’s political and cultural landscape is deeply entrenched in the clan system as well as in racial discriminations. The Somali society is divided into various clan families, each one of them comprising several clans, and sub-clans, as well as minority clans, casted communities, ethnic minorities. Clans compete with each other, for political resource and territorial control...”⁶

A report published in August 2023 by the *European Union Agency for Asylum* states that: “Clans often compete against each other, as well as against other actors, such the FGS or the FMS, for political, resource and territorial control...”⁷

This document also states that: “Clan rivalries and competitions over political power and resources are another source of conflict pervading the Somali society and clan militias are important actors of political life across Somalia. Their actions can be violent, uncontrollable and, sometimes, random. A clan militia is generally an armed group based on lineage and the result of the convergence of several individuals’ interests...”⁸

A report issued in June 2023 by the *Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs* includes states that: “Conflicts between clans and sub-clans continued to be another source of insecurity. These conflicts have long been a regular occurrence in Somalia. They are usually rooted in political or territorial disputes and contested access to natural resources such as water and land...”⁹

References

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⁵ *ibid*, p.20

⁶ Romanian National Council for Refugees (September 2023) General Report. Somalia. Human Rights Situation and Security issues, p.7

⁷ European Union Agency for Asylum (11 August 2023) Country Guidance: Somalia, p.65

⁸ *ibid*, p.73

⁹ Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (June 2023) General country of origin information report on Somalia, p.15

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Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld

Contact Information

Refugee Documentation Centre
Legal Aid Board
48/49 North Brunswick Street
Dublin 7
Ireland

Email: research@legalaidboard.ie