



Ghana – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 20 May 2010

Re: Information on the actions of Islamic militants in Ghana.

No substantive information on the actions of Islamic militants in Ghana was found among sources available to the Refugee Documentation Centre.

An article published by the Ghanaian newspaper *Accra Daily Mail* states:

“An Accra-based radio station - Joy FM - is reported that it has obtained copies of videos seeking to propagate Islamic fundamentalism in Ghana. One of the videos show Al-Qaeda leader, Osama bin Laden, in a speech calling for non-Islamists to be wiped out. Copies of the propaganda material are broadcast openly at the Kwame Nkrumah Circle here in Accra. The vendor, an African-Arab from Mali attracts sales by screening the videos and VCDs on a small tabletop kiosk.” (Accra Daily Mail (6 October 2006) *Ghana: Al-Qaeda in Ghana?*)

See also *Accra Daily Mail* article which states:

“A respected legal practitioner and lecturer at the University of Ghana Law Faculty, Dr Raymond Atuguba has revealed that militants in the Niger Delta region, notorious for blowing up oil pipes, kidnapping and demanding huge ransoms and causing unrest in the oil rich Nigerian region have started tripping to Ghana.” (Accra Daily Mail (14 November 2009) *Nigerian militants reportedly training Ghanaians in Western Region*)

This article also states:

“Dr Atuguba in an interview on an Accra based radio station said the essence of the militants' interest in Ghana is to mentor folks in the Western Region, on whose offshore the country will be drilling oil. He said, when he visited the Western Region a few weeks ago, he discovered that ‘groups there were already creating linkages with groups in the Niger Delta’. According to him, the people were ‘preparing to create the same amount of chaos we have in the Niger Delta if we neglect their concerns.’ Dr Atuguba stopped short of stating the exact ‘lessons’ the Ghanaians would be taking from the visiting militants, but said people were preparing to protect their interests. He remarked that if the security agencies were on their toes, they would have noticed the movement of arms.” (ibid)

An *International Herald Tribune* report on the arrest of three individuals allegedly linked to Al Qaeda states:

“The three men - identified as Oumar Issa, Harouna Touré and Idriss Abelrahman - were charged with conspiracy to commit narco-terrorism and conspiracy to provide material support to the terrorist groups Al Qaeda and Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. The court papers in the case, an 18-page

criminal complaint unsealed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, detail the international sting operation that ensnared the three men. All of the men were members of what prosecutors described as ‘a criminal organization operating in the West African countries of Togo, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Mali,’ according to the court papers.” (International Herald Tribune (19 December 2009) *U.S. says 3 in drug case cooperated with Qaeda: A global sting operation leads to the capture of West Africans in Ghana*)

An article published by the US-based Internet Journalism website *Global Post* states:

“Muslims in Ghana’s capital fear their reputation has been forever ruined by the Nigerian zealot who spent two weeks here before allegedly trying to blow up a U.S.-bound airliner on Dec. 25. They’re also concerned that investigators, who are questioning leaders in the heavily Muslim slum of Nima, will unearth a local connection to outside terrorist groups. ‘Everybody is now at risk because we don’t know whether it is a link and there is a network that is trying to do all this,’ said Ibrahim Abdullai, a teacher at an Islamic school in Nima. ‘We are very worried about our reputation.’ Authorities descended upon Nima after learning Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab stayed in Ghana before he allegedly tried to ignite explosives aboard a Northwest flight carrying 289 passengers to Detroit on Christmas Day. It’s unclear why the 23-year-old Nigerian chose Ghana as his departure point. He arrived Dec. 9 from Yemen, where he allegedly conspired with Al Qaeda terrorists.” (Global Post (16 February 2010) *Ghana’s Muslims fear increased tensions*)

References:

Accra Daily Mail (14 November 2009) *Nigerian militants reportedly training Ghanaians in Western Region*

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/>

(Accessed 19 May 2010)

This is a subscription database

Accra Daily Mail (6 October 2006) *Ghana: Al-Qaeda in Ghana?*

<http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200610060452.html>

(Accessed 19 May 2010)

This is a subscription database

Global Post (16 February 2010) *Ghana’s Muslims fear increased tensions*

<http://www.globalpost.com/print/5521754>

(Accessed 19 May 2010)

International Herald Tribune (19 December 2009) *U.S. says 3 in drug case cooperated with Qaeda: A global sting operation leads to the capture of West Africans in Ghana*

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/>

(Accessed 19 May 2010)

This is a subscription database

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:

All Africa

Amnesty International

European Country of Origin Information Network

Google

Human Rights Watch

Lexis Nexis

UK Home Office

UNHCR Refworld

US Department of State