

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION KEY DOCUMENTS**

# **TOGO**

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14 MARCH 2007

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## 1. Preface

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- i This Country of Origin Information (COI) Key Documents has been produced by Research, Development and Statistics (RDS), Home Office, for use by officials involved in the asylum/human rights determination process. It provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum/human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. The COI Key Documents includes information available up to 14 March 2007.
- ii The COI Key Documents is an indexed list of key reports, papers and articles produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources. It does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy.
- iii For Home Office users, the COI Key Documents provides direct electronic access to each source referred to in the document, via a link on the source numbers in the index and list of sources. For the benefit of external users, the relevant web link has also been included, together with the date that the link was accessed.
- iv As noted above, the documents identified concentrate mainly on human rights issues. By way of introduction, brief background information on Togo is also provided. Please note, this background material is not intended to provide a summary of the material contained in the key documents listed.
- v This COI Key Documents and the documents listed are publicly disclosable.
- vi Any comments regarding this COI Key Documents or suggestions for additional documents are very welcome and should be submitted to the Home Office as below.

### Country of Origin Information Service

Home Office  
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36 Wellesley Road  
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**Email:** [cois@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cois@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

**Website:** [http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country\\_reports.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html)

### ADVISORY PANEL ON COUNTRY INFORMATION

The independent Advisory Panel on Country Information was established under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 to make recommendations to the Home Secretary about the content of the Home Office's country of origin information material. The Advisory Panel welcomes all feedback on the Home Office's country of origin information material. Information about the Panel's work can be found on its website at [www.apci.org.uk](http://www.apci.org.uk).

It is not the function of the Advisory Panel to endorse any Home Office material or procedures. In the course of its work, the Advisory Panel directly reviews the content of selected Home Office COI documents, but neither the

fact that such a review has been undertaken, nor any comments made, should be taken to imply endorsement of the material. Some of the material examined by the Panel relates to countries designated or proposed for designation for the Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) list. In such cases, the Panel's work should not be taken to imply any endorsement of the decision or proposal to designate a particular country for NSA, nor of the NSA process itself.

**Email:** [apci@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:apci@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.apci.org.uk](http://www.apci.org.uk)

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## 2. Background information on Togo

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**Full Country Name:** Republic of Togo

**Area:** 56,500 sq miles

**Population:** 4.7 million

**Capital City:** Lomé; Population: 500,000

**People:** Ewe, Dagomba and Kabye are the main ethnic groups.

**Language(s):** French is the official language. Kabye and Ewe are the most widely spoken of the African languages.

**Religion(s):** Christianity, Islam and indigenous beliefs are all practised.

**Currency:** CFA Franc

**Head of State:** President Faure Gnassingbe

**Prime Minister:** Edem Kodjo

**Membership of international groupings/organisations:** Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), African Union (AU), the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). (Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile dated 29 January 2007) [4a]

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### GEOGRAPHY

The Togolese Republic lies in West Africa, forming a narrow strip stretching north from a coastline of about 50 km (30 miles) on the Gulf of Guinea. It is bordered by Ghana to the west, by Benin to the east, and by Burkina Faso to the north. The climate in the coastal area is hot and humid, with an average annual temperature of 27°C (81°F), rainfall in this zone averages 875 mm (34.4 ins) per year, and is heaviest during May–October. Precipitation in the central region is heaviest in May–June and in October, and in the north, where the average annual temperature is 30°C (86°F), there is a rainy season from July–September. The official languages are French, Kabye and Ewe. About one-half of the population follows animist beliefs, while about 35% are Christians and 15% Muslims. The national flag (approximate proportions 3 by 5) has five equal horizontal stripes, alternately green and yellow, with a square red canton, containing a five-pointed white star, in the upper hoist. The capital is Lomé. (Europa World) [1]

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## MAP



## RECENT HISTORY

Current day Togo was, from 1894, part of the German protectorate of Togoland. In 1919, the French took over the eastern part of Togoland under a league of Nations Mandate. The British took over the western part. In 1956, in a UN organised plebiscite, the majority of the population of British Togoland chose to merge with the neighbouring Gold Coast colony. The following year that region became part of the newly independent state of Ghana. French Togoland voted in 1956 to become part of the French Community. In 1960 the territory voted in favour of independence, which was granted in 1960. Sylvanus Olympio, the leader of the Comite d'Unite Togolaise, became President.

Olympio was killed in 1963 in a military coup led by then Sergeant Etienne Gnassingbe

Eyadema. Eyadema invited Olympio's brother-in-law Nicolas Grunitzky to form a civilian government. However, the military refused to allow a multiparty political system to develop, and Eyadema eventually took full power in 1967, creating a one party state under a new political party, the Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais, (RPT) in 1969.

Eyadema's rule was dictatorial. All independent political activity was repressed. In 1977, Gilchrist Olympio, the son of the first President, was accused of being behind an attempted invasion from neighbouring Ghana. Plots to overthrow Eyadema throughout the 1970s and 80s, whether real or not, served as a pretext for further repression of opposition activity and purges within the army. (Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile, History, dated 29 January 2007) [4a]

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## RECENT EVENTS AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

On February 4 2005 Eyadema died. The military took over and installed Eyadema's son Faure Gnassingbe in power. After protests from the African Union and the regional body ECOWAS, Gnassingbe stood down. (Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile, Politics, dated 29 January 2007) [4a] On the day that he stood down as president he was adopted as the candidate for the ruling party, the Rassemblement du peuple Togolais (RPT), in the forthcoming presidential elections. (Europa World) [1] Violent protests surrounded the elections, and these protests grew when the results were announced: Gnassingbe won 60% of the vote while main opposition candidate Bob Akitani received 38%. On May 4, Gnassingbe was sworn into office. In June, Gnassingbe appointed opposition leader Edem Kodjo as prime minister. In Aug. 2006, the government and six political parties signed an agreement calling for the creation of a transitional government that would include opposition parties. (Infoplease) [3] The next scheduled National Assembly elections are due to take place on 24 June 2007, and the next Presidential Election in 2010. (African Elections Database) [35]

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## ECONOMY

### Basic Economic Facts

**GDP:** US\$2.0bn (2005)

**Annual Growth:** 1.6% (2005)

**Inflation:** 6.8% (2005)

**Main economic sectors:** Agriculture (cocoa, cotton, coffee), phosphate, re-exports.

**Major trading partners:** The EU (principally France and the Netherlands), China, Ghana, and other Francophone West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso).

**Exchange rate:** 1 Euro = 655.957 FCFA

(Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile, Economy, dated 29 January 2007) [4a]

Togo's economy has been damaged by its long-term isolation from international donors, and its small industrial sector is in long term decline. Agriculture, phosphate mining and revenues and employment from the international port have provided the country with the means to survive. The port's activity has increased since the troubles in Cote d'Ivoire, and 're-export' (processing incoming goods for export within the sub-region) is now the largest export sector. However, the cotton sector has been damaged by mismanagement and low international prices.

The parastatal in charge of the phosphate sector was put into private management in 2001, but the state took back management control in 2003. The volumes of phosphates mined have declined in recent years, mainly due to depletion of readily accessible reserves. Privatisations in the banking and telecoms sector are stalled. It is hoped that the West Africa Gas pipeline project, which will supply Togo with Gas from Nigeria, will make energy cheaper and help to alleviate Togo's balance of payments problems. (Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile, Economy, dated 29 January 2007) [4a]

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## HUMAN RIGHTS

The United States State Department (USSD) 2006 Country Report on Togo stated:

"Togo, with a population of 5.5 million, is a republic governed by President Faure Gnassingbe, who was declared president in April 2005 in an election marred by severe irregularities. President Gnassingbe replaced his father, former president Gnassingbe Eyadema, who died in February 2005 after 38 years in power. Eyadema and his party Rally of the Togolese People (RPT), strongly backed by the armed forces, dominated politics and maintained firm control over all levels of the country's highly centralized government until his death. The civilian authorities generally did not maintain effective control of the security forces". [4a]

According to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office "Togo's Human Rights record under Eyadema was appalling, as documented in dozens of reports from international organisations and NGOs. The security forces, especially the army, which is largely staffed with Eyadema loyalists from the north, have been responsible for most of the abuses. A report published in 1999 by Amnesty International on events surrounding the 1998 presidential elections claimed that hundreds of opposition supporters had been killed. Despite being virulently criticised by the government, the report's findings were largely confirmed in 2001 by a joint African Union - UN commission of enquiry". [2a]

The USSD 2006 report went on to say:

"The human rights situation in the country improved (over the last year); however, serious human rights problems continued including:

- Inability of citizens to change their government
- Beatings and abuse of detainees
- Government impunity
- Harsh prison conditions
- Arbitrary and secret arrests and detention
- Lengthy pre-trial detention
- Executive control of the judiciary



- Frequent infringement of citizens' privacy rights
- Severe restrictions on the press, including closing media outlets
- Restrictions on freedom of assembly and movement
- Harassment of human rights workers
- Female genital mutilation (FGM) and violence against women
- Discrimination against women and ethnic minorities
- Trafficking in persons, especially children
- Child labour
- Lack of worker's rights in export procession zones (EPZs)" [2a]

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### 3. Index to key source documents

(KB users - click source number to access document directly)

<b>KEY FACTS AND GEOGRAPHY</b>	[1]	Europa World Online, Location, Climate, Language, Religion, Flag, Capital <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/pub/">http://www.europaworld.com/pub/</a>
	[1]	Europa World Online, Country Statistics <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/pub/">http://www.europaworld.com/pub/</a>
	[2a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Togo, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61597.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61597.htm</a>
	[2c]	United States Department of State, Background Note: Togo, last updated September 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5430.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5430.htm</a>
	[3]	infoplease <a href="http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108038.html">http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108038.html</a>
	[4a]	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Togo, last reviewed on 29 January 2007 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Servlet?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrProfile&amp;aid=1030618268787">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Servlet?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrProfile&amp;aid=1030618268787</a>
	[7a]	BBC, Country Profile: Togo, last updated on 19 January 2007 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1064470.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1064470.stm</a>
	[10a]	Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), The World Factbook, Togo, (last updated on 8 February 2007) <a href="https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/to.html">https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/to.html</a>
<b>MAPS</b>	[3]	infoplease <a href="http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108038.html">http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108038.html</a>
	[17]	Multimap <a href="http://uk.multimap.com/index/TO1.htm">http://uk.multimap.com/index/TO1.htm</a>
<b>HISTORY</b>	[1]	Europa World Online, Recent History <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/pub/">http://www.europaworld.com/pub/</a>
	[2a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Togo, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61597.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61597.htm</a>
	[2c]	United States Department of State, Background Note: Togo, last updated September 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5430.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5430.htm</a>
	[4a]	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Togo, last reviewed 29 January 2007 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Servlet?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrProfile&amp;aid=1030618268787">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Servlet?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrProfile&amp;aid=1030618268787</a>

<b>HISTORY CONT...</b>	<p>[7a]</p> <p>[7b]</p> <p>[8a]</p> <p>[26a]</p>	<p>BBC Country Profile:Togo, last updated on 19 January 2007 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1064470.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1064470.stm</a></p> <p>BBC Timeline: Togo, last updated on 19 January 2007 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1067813.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1067813.stm</a></p> <p>Jane's Sentinel Security Assessments: Country Report – Togo, last updated 23 October 200 <u>Hard copy only</u></p> <p>Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2006: Togo <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7073">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7073</a></p>
<b>POLITICAL AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS</b>	<p>[2a]</p> <p>[2c]</p> <p>[4a]</p> <p>[7a]</p> <p>[7b]</p> <p>[8a]</p> <p>[26a]</p> <p>[37]</p>	<p>United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Togo, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61597.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61597.htm</a></p> <p>Background Note: Togo, last updated September 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5430.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5430.htm</a></p> <p>Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Togo, last reviewed 29 January 2007 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrProfile&amp;aid=1030618268787">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrProfile&amp;aid=1030618268787</a></p> <p>Country Profile: Togo, Last updated 19 January 2007 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1064470.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1064470.stm</a></p> <p>Timeline: Togo, last updated 19 January 2007 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1067813.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1067813.stm</a></p> <p>Jane's Sentinel Security Assessments: Country Report – Togo, last updated 23 October 200 <u>Hard copy only</u></p> <p>Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2006: Togo <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7073">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7073</a></p> <p>United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Togo Home Page <a href="http://www.ohchr.org/english/countries/tg/index.htm">http://www.ohchr.org/english/countries/tg/index.htm</a></p>
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS GENERAL</b>	<p>[2a]</p> <p>[4a]</p> <p>[5]</p>	<p>United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Togo, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61597.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61597.htm</a></p> <p>Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Togo, last reviewed 29 January 2007 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrProfile&amp;aid=1030618268787">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrProfile&amp;aid=1030618268787</a></p> <p>Human Rights Watch: Africa – Togo <a href="http://hrw.org/doc/?t=africa&amp;c=togo">http://hrw.org/doc/?t=africa&amp;c=togo</a></p>

<b>HUMAN RIGHTS GENERAL CONT.</b>	<b>[11d]</b>	Amnesty International – Togo Amnesty International’s Human rights concerns <a href="http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/togo/index.do">http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/togo/index.do</a>
	<b>[26a]</b>	Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2006: Togo <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7073">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7073</a>
	<b>[38a]</b>	University of Minnesota, Human Rights Library: The Status of Human Rights Organizations in Sub-Saharan Africa: Togo <a href="http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/africa/togo.htm">http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/africa/togo.htm</a>
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS – SPECIFIC ISSUES:</b>		
<b>(IN ADDITION TO GENERAL REPORTS ABOVE, INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES IS PROVIDED IN THE DOCUMENTS LISTED BELOW)</b>		
<b>CHILDREN</b>	<b>[1]</b>	Europa World Online, Education <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/pub/">http://www.europaworld.com/pub/</a>
	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Togo, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61597.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61597.htm</a>
	<b>[2d]</b>	United States Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, September 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/66086.pdf">http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/66086.pdf</a>
	<b>[5a]</b>	Human Rights Watch, Violence against Child Domestic Workers. 20 February 2007 <a href="http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/02/20/global15343.htm">http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/02/20/global15343.htm</a>
	<b>[5b]</b>	Human Rights Watch, Domestic Workers Abused Worldwide, 26 July 2006 <a href="http://hrw.org/doc?t=africa&amp;c=togo">http://hrw.org/doc?t=africa&amp;c=togo</a>
	<b>[7c]</b>	BBC News: Togo children ‘sent away to work’ <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4578573.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/4578573.stm</a>
	<b>[15a]</b>	Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Global Report 2004: Togo <a href="http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=800">http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=800</a>
	<b>[19]</b>	Information about Street Children – Togo <a href="http://www.streetchildren.org.uk/reports/Information%20about%20Street%20Children%20in%20Togo.doc">http://www.streetchildren.org.uk/reports/Information%20about%20Street%20Children%20in%20Togo.doc</a>
	<b>[26a]</b>	Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2006: Togo <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7073">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2006&amp;country=7073</a>
	<b>[29a]</b>	The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), At a glance: Togo <a href="http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/togo.html">http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/togo.html</a>
	<b>[31b]</b>	Professor Martin Patt at University of Massachusetts: Child prostitution <a href="http://www.gvnet.com/childprostitution/Togo.htm">http://www.gvnet.com/childprostitution/Togo.htm</a>
	<b>[31c]</b>	Professor Martin Patt at University of Massachusetts:

<b>CHILDREN CONT.</b>		Prevalence, abuse & exploitation of street children <a href="http://www.gvnet.com/streetchildren/Togo.htm">http://www.gvnet.com/streetchildren/Togo.htm</a>
<b>DEATH PENALTY</b>	[11b]	Amnesty International: the African Commission: Amnesty International's oral statement on the death penalty, 15 November 2006 <a href="http://web.amnesty.org/library/print/ENGAFR010112006">http://web.amnesty.org/library/print/ENGAFR010112006</a>
	[11c]	Amnesty International, Abolitionist and Retentionist countries, last updated 5 September 2006 <a href="http://web.amnesty.org/pages/deathpenalty-countries-eng">http://web.amnesty.org/pages/deathpenalty-countries-eng</a>
<b>DISABILITIES</b>	[2a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2006: Togo, 6 March 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61597.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61597.htm</a>
	[36]	Social Security programmes throughout the world 2005 <a href="http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/2004-2005/africa/togo.pdf">http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/2004-2005/africa/togo.pdf</a>
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	[2c]	United States Department of State, Background Note: Togo, last updated September 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5430.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5430.htm</a>
	[4a]	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Togo (last reviewed on 29 January 2007) <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/ServletFront?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1030618268787">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/ServletFront?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1030618268787</a>
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