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Cote d'Ivoire - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 11 October 2011

Treatment of Muslims in Cote d'Ivoire.

An *Amnesty International* report issued in May 2011 states:

“After the election results were announced, mosques in Abidjan and outside the country's commercial capital were attacked and, in some cases, Muslims, including Imams (Muslim religious dignitaries), were shot dead. These attacks intensified at the end of February 2011, along with the general deterioration of the situation in Abidjan.” (Amnesty International (25 May 2011) *“They looked at his identity card and shot him dead”, Six months of post-electoral violence in Côte d'Ivoire*, p.21)

A report published in October 2011 by *Human Rights Watch* points out:

“At several periods during the crisis, pro-Gbagbo forces, including elite security force units and militias, attacked mosques and specifically targeted imams for execution. Neither former president Gbagbo nor any of his military or civilian leadership publicly denounced these attacks on religious institutions and individuals. In a country split roughly evenly between Muslims and Christians, Ouattara's political base of northern Ivorian ethnic groups is primarily, though certainly not exclusively, Muslim, while Gbagbo's supporters and militants were primarily Christian. As with ethnicity, however, religion is closely linked to politics in Côte d'Ivoire, and it is often difficult to disentangle the primary motivation for certain attacks. For the vast majority of Ivorians, there is no inter-religious division or hostility, but as the crisis exploded, the association between Ouattara and Muslim supporters led to a significant number of attacks on Muslim leaders and institutions.” (Human Rights Watch (5 October 2011) *“They Killed Them Like It Was Nothing”, The Need for Justice for Côte d'Ivoire's Post-Election Crimes*, p.48)

A report covering events occurring in the latter part of 2010, issued in September 2011, by the *United States Department of State*, points out:

“Some societal discrimination against Muslims and followers of indigenous religious beliefs continued during the reporting period.” (United States Department of State (13 September 2011) *Cote d'Ivoire, July-December, 2010 International Religious Freedom Report*)

References

Amnesty International (25 May 2011) *“They looked at his identity card and shot him dead”, Six months of post-electoral violence in Côte d'Ivoire*
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR31/002/2011/en/bb769d9e-874f-442e-9454-993977a35f95/afr310022011en.pdf>
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Human Rights Watch (5 October 2011) *“They Killed Them Like It Was Nothing”, The Need for Justice for Côte d'Ivoire's Post-Election Crimes*
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United States Department of State (13 September 2011) *Cote d'Ivoire, July-December, 2010 International Religious Freedom Report*

http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2010_5/168403.htm

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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.

Sources Consulted

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Council on Foreign Relations
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European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
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