

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: LBR23755
Country: Liberia
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Keywords: Liberia – Kru tribe – Ethnic Kru – Kru language – Prince Johnson – Independent National Patriotic Forces of Liberia (INPFL) – Independent Democratic Party (IDP) – Civil war

This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT 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.

Questions

- 1. Is the Kru tribe a minority in Liberia?**
- 2. Are the Kru a subgroup of any other language/ethnic group?**
- 3. Did the Kru support Prince Johnson or any other politician/faction?**

RESPONSE

- 1. Is the Kru tribe a minority in Liberia?**

The Kru tribe is one of 16 indigenous ethnic minorities in Liberia and comprises about 7% of the population (see attachments 1-6).

- 2. Are the Kru a subgroup of any other language/ethnic group?**

The Kru (or Kruan) language belongs to the Niger-Congo language family and is itself a family of languages that is comprised of several ethno-linguistic subgroups. Kru is spoken by several of the 16 ethnic groups currently residing in Liberia (see attachments 7-11).

- 3. Did the Kru support Prince Johnson or any other politician/faction?**

After extensive searches of the sources listed above, no evidence could be found that the Kru supported Prince Johnson, his faction, the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) or any other politician or faction. All evidence appears to suggest, albeit indirectly, that Johnson's supporters were comprised predominantly of members of his own Gio tribe and perhaps some Mano peoples who came from Nimba County (see attachments 12-16). It should be noted that Johnson went into exile in Nigeria as early as 1992 and did not return to Liberia until September 2004 as a 'born-again Christian' evangelist, preaching reconciliation between

the warring tribal factions. Johnson stood as a senatorial candidate for Nimba County in the October 2005 Liberian general elections which are yet to be decided (see attachments 17-19).

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

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 CIA World Factbook www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook
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 Ethnologue: Languages of the world www.ethnologue.com

<u>Databases:</u>		
Public	<i>FACTIVA</i>	Reuters Business Briefing
DIMIA	<i>BACIS</i>	Country Information
RRT	<i>ISYS</i>	RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State <i>Country Reports on Human Rights Practices</i>
RRT Library	<i>FIRST</i>	RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

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