



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

ACCORD

Austrian Centre for Country of Origin
& Asylum Research and Documentation

Query response a-6972 of 27 October 2009

Liberia: Treatment of Liberian nationals who belong to the Fula ethnic group (including denial of right of entry to the country)

This response was commissioned by the UNHCR Status Determination and Protection Information Section. Views expressed in the response are not necessarily those of UNHCR.

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to ACCORD within time constraints and in accordance with ACCORD's methodological standards and the *Common EU Guidelines for processing Country of Origin Information (COI)*.

This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status, asylum or other form of international protection.

Please read in full all documents referred to.

Non-English language information is comprehensively summarised in English. Original language quotations are provided for reference.

Among the sources consulted by ACCORD within time constraints little information could be found on the subject of the treatment of nationals belonging to the Fula ethnic group, and no information could be found relating to denial of entry to Liberian nationals of Fula ethnicity. Google, ecoinet, Refworld, allAfrica.com and LexisNexis were searched using a combination of the following search terms: Liberia, discrimination, harrasment, Fella, Halpular, Massina, Peul, Peulh, Fulani, Fulaner, Pullo, Foulah, Fulah, Fellata, Fula, Fulbe, "fula in liberia", "fulbe in liberia", "ful in liberia", "fula ethnic", minority, minorities, indigenous, "discrimination citizens"~5, "discrimination nationals"~5, citizen denied re-entry, "barred from entering", "denied entry", "denied re-entry", "entering the country", "denial of rights to citizens", "denial of rights", "human rights abuses"

The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee (IPACC) and the University of Vienna have been contacted on 8 October 2009, and again on 14 and 21 October, respectively, and requested to contribute their expertise on this issue. However, as of 27 October 2009, none of the institutions could provide further information on the situation of Fula in Liberia.

In August 2009, the Liberian newspaper The Analyst reported about protests by the Liberian-based Guinean community following the murder of a renowned Fula businessman in River-Gee County and a Fula girl. The protesters expressed their disappointment in prolonged delays by the government in bringing the alleged perpetrators to justice:

„The mysterious killing of a Faluman Abdullai Jalloh sometimes ago in River-Gee County seemed to be far from settlement as Liberian-based Guineans have threatened to stage a strike action in Monrovia against what they called "Jungle Justice and government's failure to bring the perpetrators to justice. They held a mass meeting on Sunday at the residence of their National President, Mr. Belle Biallo on the Camp Johnson Road to find a way out of the issue. During the meeting, they expressed disappointment in the prolonged delay by the Liberian government, to bring the alleged perpetrators to justice. The Fula businessman, renowned in River-Gee County was murdered on May 10, 2009. [...] At the meeting, the President of the Liberian-Guineans, Mr. Belle Diallo said his people are tax payers like any other Liberians who deserve equal and transparent justice under the rule of law. He noted that he has on many occasions approached the LNP, the authority at the ministry of Justice to trace and arrest the alleged killers of both Jalloh and a Fula-girl identified as Fatumata Bah to face justice, but to no avail.“ (The Analyst, 28 August 2009)

References: (link accessed 14 October 2009)

- The Analyst: Liberia: Countries Take Govt to Task over Kinsman's Death, 28 August 2009 (published on allAfrica.com, see attached file)
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200908280757.html>