

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	117
Land:	Eritrea
Kilde:	Migrationsverket
Titel:	Landinformationsenheden – Kan eritreanske medborgere som er Jehovas Vidner få frataget deres statsborgerskab
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Denna sammanställning av information/länkar är baserad på informationssökningar gjorda av Migrationsverkets landinformationsenhet under en begränsad tid. Sammanställningen gör inte anspråk på att vara uttömmande och bör inte tillmätas exklusivt bevisvärde i samband med avgörandet av ett enskilt ärende. Refererade dokument bör läsas i sitt sammanhang.

Fråga:

Kan eritreanska medborgare som är Jehovas Vittnen bli ifråntagna sitt medborgarskap?

Svar:

Nedan finns en sammanställning av information från olika källor.

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) (2010), Countries of particular concern: Eritrea:

Many Jehovah's Witnesses refused on religious grounds to participate in the 1993 referendum on independence or to accept the national military service required of all citizens, both male and female. The government chose to interpret these actions as a rejection of Eritrean citizenship. In accordance with a decree issued in October 1994 by Eritrea's current President, Jehovah's Witnesses are barred from obtaining government jobs, business licenses, and government-issued identity and

travel documents. Without Eritrean identity cards Jehovah's Witnesses are prevented from obtaining legal recognition of marriages and land purchases. (s. 50)

Freedom House (2010):

Persecution of minority Christian sects has escalated, particularly for Jehovah's Witnesses, who were stripped of their basic civil rights in 1994

Amnesty International (2008):

Regeringen har som reaktion till deras vägran förvägrat dem rätten att göra samhällstjänst istället för militärtjänst samt infört ett direktiv som fråntar Jehovas Vittnen deras medborgerliga, politiska, ekonomiska och sociala rättigheter. Direktivet utesluter dem från den offentliga arbets- och bostadsmarknaden samt offentliga institutioner så som skolor och sjukhus. De vägras också identitetskort vilka är nödvändiga för det dagliga livet. Utan identitetskort kan man inte få tillstånd att starta en affärsverksamhet, köpa land och egendom eller registrera födsler, giftemål och dödfall i rättsliga syften. Som en följd av direktivet kan inte heller Jehovas Vittnen ansöka om tillstånd att resa inom landet, utresevisum eller pass.

US Department of State (2008):

A presidential decree declared that Jehovah's Witnesses had "forsaken their nationality" because they refuse to vote or perform required military service. This decree resulted in economic, employment, and travel difficulties for many members of the group, especially civil servants and merchants. (...) the Government singled out Jehovah's Witnesses for harsher treatment than that received by followers of other faiths for similar actions. Jehovah's Witnesses who did not participate in national military service were subject to dismissal from the civil service, revocation of their business licenses, eviction from government-owned housing, and denial of passports, identity cards, and exit visas. They were also prohibited from having their marriages legalized by the civil authorities.

USCIRF (2010):

The government of Eritrea continues to engage in systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom. Arbitrary arrests for peaceful religious activities continue, along with reports of prolonged detention and harsh treatment of religious prisoners, including the deaths of certain religious prisoners due to ill treatment, denial of medical care, or torture. Other serious concerns include (...) denial of government services and civil and political rights to Jehovah's Witnesses (s. 9)

Human Rights Watch (2009):

...the government revoked the citizenship rights of Jehovah's Witnesses because they allegedly refused to participate in the liberation struggle and the 1993 referendum, and refused compulsory national military service (see below). Jehovah's Witnesses were denied business and drivers licenses, passports, marriage certificates, and national identity cards essential for travel within Eritrea (...) they were in effect stripped of their citizenship (s. 15, 60)

US Department of State (2010). 2009 Human Rights Report: Eritrea:

The government also continued to harass, detain, and discriminate against Jehovah's Witnesses because of their refusal, on religious grounds, to vote in the independence referendum and the refusal of some to perform military duty. (...) In the past the government dismissed members of Jehovah's Witnesses from the civil service, and many were evicted from, or not allowed to occupy, government housing. Members of Jehovah's Witnesses frequently were denied passports and exit visas, and some had their identity cards revoked or did not receive them at all.

United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (1997):

Jehovah's Witnesses in Eritrea did not participate in the war and the 1993 referendum for independence. They have also refused to participate in national service. The

Eritrean government in retaliation for the above mentioned behavior of the Jehovah's Witnesses had their citizenship revoked in December 1994 and also canceled their passports. The government also dismissed Jehovah's Witnesses from their civil service positions, canceled their business licenses and forcibly closed their schools and shops.

Källor

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