



COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 4 June 2013

8995/1/98
REV 1 EXT 1

ASIM 143
FAUXDOC 9
CIREA 56

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

of document:	8995/1/98 REV 1 RESTREINT UE
dated:	24 June 1998
new status:	Public
Subject:	Compilation of replies to the questionnaire on Somali travel and ancillary documents

Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.

ANNEX

EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL

Brussels, 24 June 1998

8995/1/98
REV 1 EXT 1 (04.06.2013)

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

ASIM	143
FAUXDOC	8
CIREA	56

NOTE

from : the General Secretariat

to : False Documents Working Party / CIREA

Subject : Compilation of replies to the questionnaire on Somali travel and ancillary documents

Delegations will find herewith a compilation of replies received to the above-mentioned questionnaire.

This new version of the document contains the replies from all Member States except Luxembourg who indicated not having had any experience in this respect.

RESTREINT

QUESTIONNAIRE

RESTREINT

1. What types of Somali documents (eg. passports, identity cards, birth and marriage certificates) do you know to be in circulation? Please list.
 2. What examples or copies, of the documents listed, genuine or otherwise, do you have available?
 3. Where are the documents listed known to be issued, both within and outside Somalia?
 4. In the case of Somali passports, are the issuing offices diplomatic missions and, if so, which "government" (ie. clan faction) in Somalia do they represent?
 5. Do you recognise any of the documents listed as valid? Please indicate which documents are considered valid and for what purpose (ie. administrative only, or travel).
 6. Do you recognise as valid passports, and any other documents, issued by the authorities of the self-declared Republic of Somaliland?
 7. Has your State undertaken any analysis or investigation of Somali documents to ascertain their authenticity? If so, please provide detail and results.
 8. Do you have any other information about Somali documentation not catered for in the questions above?
-

RESTREINT

SN 3232/98

RESTREINT

BELGIUM

1. What types of Somali documents (e.g. passports, identity cards, birth and marriage certificates) do you know to be in circulation? Please list.

It is important to know that most Somalis who apply for asylum do not produce any documents. When they do so, the following are used: national identity cards, birth certificates, passports, driving licences, documents issued by the Somali National University, marriage certificates and cards issued by the UNOSOM (United Nations Operation in Somalia).

2. What examples or copies of the documents listed, genuine or otherwise, do you have available?

See enclosures.

3. Where are the documents listed known to be issued, both within and outside Somalia?

Mostly in Mogadishu (Somalia).

4. In the case of Somali passports, are the issuing offices diplomatic missions and, if so, which "government" (i.e. clan faction) in Somalia do they represent?

Somali passports are issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mogadishu.

5. Do you recognize any of the documents listed as valid? Please indicate which documents are considered valid and for what purpose (i.e. administrative only, or travel).

Passports, travel documents or other documents issued or extended by a Somali authority or by a Somali diplomatic or consular service after 31 January 1991 are no longer recognized by the Benelux countries. This attitude is also adopted by the Schengen countries which already apply the Convention.

6. Do you recognize as valid passports, and any other documents, issued by the authorities of the self-declared Republic of Somaliland?

No.

7. Has your State undertaken any analysis or investigation of Somali documents to ascertain their authenticity?

A summary of the statistical data from the National Service for False and Falsified Identity Documents with regard to use of Somali travel and ancillary documents is given below. This summary contains figures from 1996, 1997 and 1998. The data for the first half of 1998 are incomplete.

The summary is divided into two parts:

1. Somali documents;
2. Documents used by Somalis.

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

BELGIUM

1. SOMALI DOCUMENTS

11 documents were produced, including:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 5 passports: | 1 lookalike
3 photograph alterations
1 alteration of identity particulars |
| 2 driving licences: | 1 falsified
1 forgery |
| 4 others (no further details): | no definite answer concerning authenticity |

2. SOMALI HOLDERS

51 Somalis produced the following documents:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 3 Belgian passports: | 1 lookalike
1 based on false data
1 stolen blank passport |
| 7 Danish passports: | 3 lookalikes
4 photograph alterations |
| 1 Danish residence permit: | 1 lookalike |
| 1 Spanish passport: | 1 dubious |
| 1 Ethiopian driving licence: | 1 alteration of identity particulars |
| 4 United Kingdom passports: | 4 photograph alterations |
| 3 Italian passports: | 2 lookalikes
1 stolen blank passport |
| 4 Italian identity cards: | 1 based on false data
1 photograph alteration
2 stolen blank identity cards |
| 1 Italian driving licence: | 1 stolen blank licence |
| 3 Italian residence permits: | 1 based on false data
2 forgeries |
| 16 Netherlands passports: | 8 lookalikes
4 photograph alterations
1 alteration of identity particulars
1 alteration of details concerning authority
alteration of page |
| 1 Netherlands identity card: | 1 lookalike |

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

BELGIUM

1 Netherlands entry document: 1 photograph alteration
3 Swedish passports: 2 lookalikes
1 based on false data
1 Swedish identity card: 1 lookalike
1 Zimbabwe document: 1 photograph alteration

8. Do you have any other information about Somali documentation not catered for in the questions above?

No.

RESTREINT

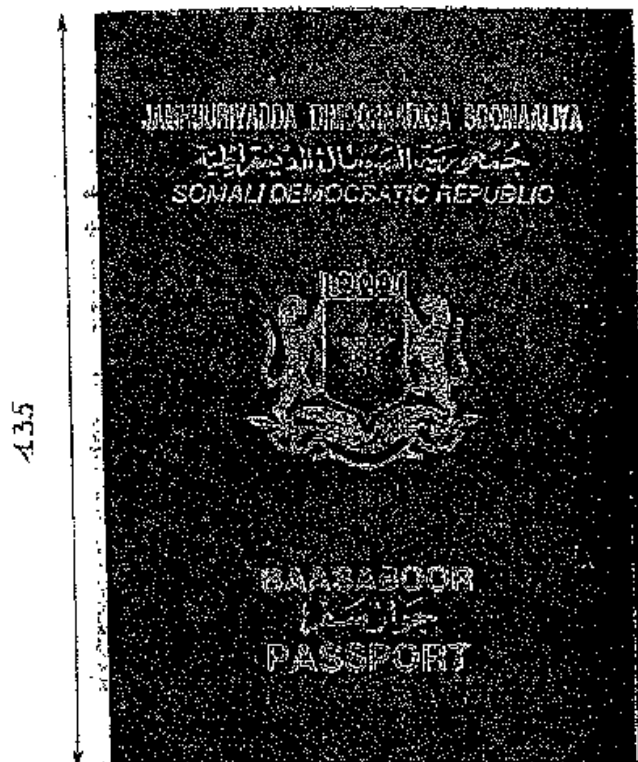
RESTREINT

"A" Serie

Annex to BELGIUM



95



- Geen UV-levitiging, pas de protection UV.
- Watermerk, filigrane
- "SOMALI PASSPORT"
- Laminat zonder levitiging
laminat sans protection.

RESTREINT

Annex to BELGIUM

RESTRAINT

RESTREINT

Annex to BELGIUM

3		4	
<p>FAANFAAHINTA DOFKA BAASABOORKA الوصافي حاصل الجواز DESCRIPTION OF HOLDER</p>		<p>DADKA LOO OSGOL YAHAY IN AY BAJACAN DOFKA BAASABOORKA LEH الوصافي حاصل الجواز PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO TRAVEL WITH THE HOLDER Xaas iyo Caruur الزوجة والطفلة Wife and Children</p>	
Shaqadiisa Occupation		Taariikhda Date of birth	Sanaa Taliyaha Year of issue
Magaaca Aabaha Father's name		Deriska Domicile	
Magaaca Hooyada Mother's name			
Magaaca wiil ku dhashay Place of birth			
Taariikhda uu dhashay Date of birth			
Magaaca uu dhashay Domicile of			
Deriska District of			
Chararka Height			
Dhismashii jirto Build			
Indha Eyes			
Midaabka Complexion			
Calamado Significant marks			

SPECIMEN

Waxaa lagu qor karaan caruurta da'dooda ku siman tanay 14 sano.
يمكن تسجيل أسوار الأطفال إلى سن 14 سنة فقط.
Only names of children upto 14 years of age can be entered.

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

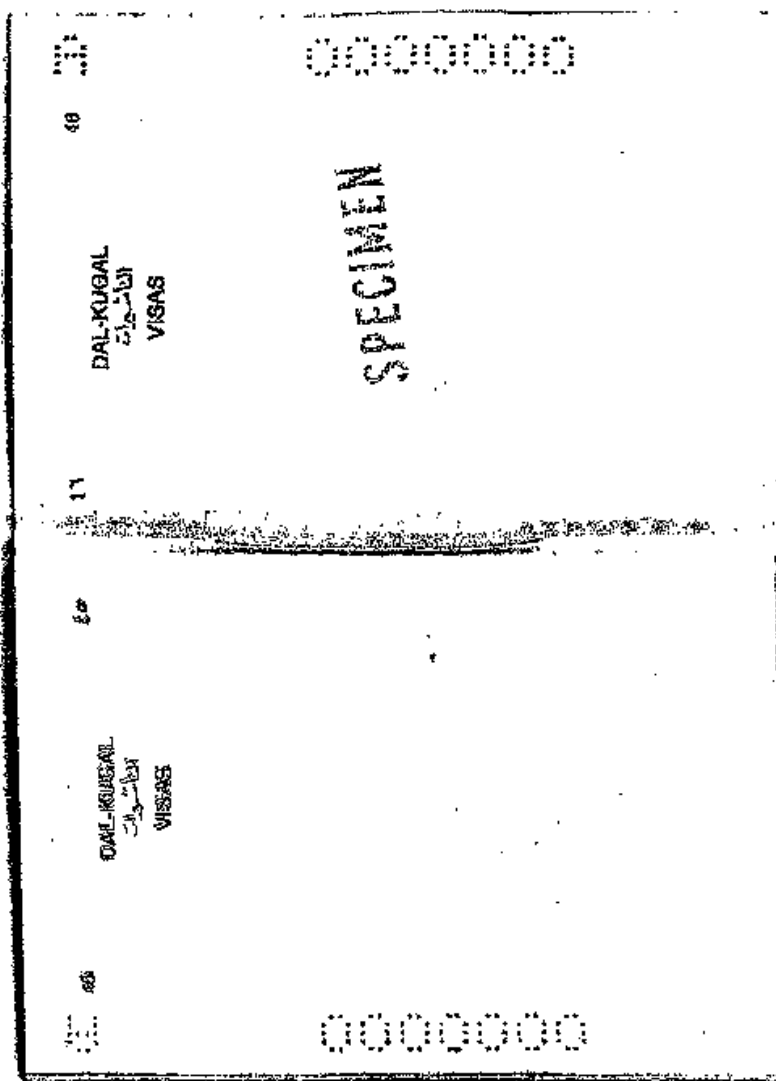
Annex to BELGIUM

6	00000000
DAL-KUGAL الداكوال VISAS	SPECIMEN
6	00000000
6 Bawaboocon wazata fagu fagu kama dalaika noox for open : هذا الجواز صالح للسفر في البلدان التالية : This passport is valid for the following countries :	SPECIMEN
Wunuse dilaayay to valid end متقاسم يولي صيرلي	Moosha kaga idagay Place of issue Taa'rikhda ta bidlay Date of issue
WASIRKA الوزير MINISTER	

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

Annex to BELGIUM



RESTREINT

RESTREINT

Annex to BELGIUM

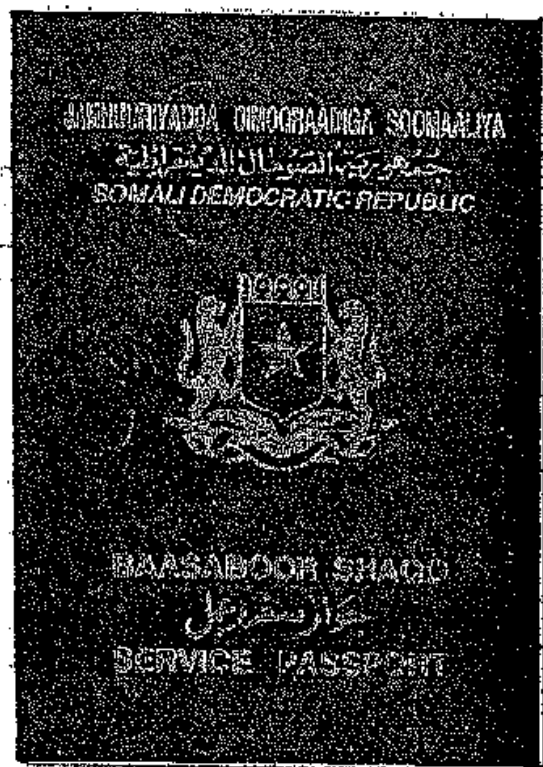
"B" SERIE

SOM A₁

JAN '97

95

135



- Geen UV-bewaking - pas de protection UV!
- Watermerk, filigrane
- "SOMALI PASSPORT"
- Laminat zonder bewaking.
- Laminat sans protection.

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

Annex to BELGIUM

1

DADKA LOO OGGOOL YAHAY IN AY
RAACAN QOFKA BAASABOORKA LEEH
الشيخان الوصفيان الوصفيان الوصفيان
PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO TRAVEL WITH
THE HOLDER
Khasiya Carvial
الوصفيان الوصفيان
Wife and Children

Age	The District
السن	الضاحية
Name	الاسم

2

FAAHFAHINTA QOFKA BAASABOORKA
LEH
الوصفيان الوصفيان الوصفيان
DESCRIPTION OF HOLDER

Shaqsiya
Occupation
Magaca Aalibaha
Father's name
Magaca Horyada
Mother's name
Mooshka uu ku dhacday
Place of birth
Taniishada uu dhacday
Date of birth
Magaca uu ahaa yahay
Domestic at
District of
Ehererka
Haggti
Chismaha jirka
Buuf
Inshaha
Eyes
Mudaska
Complexion
Cafarnaadu
Significant marks

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

Annex to BELGIUM

6	000000
DAL-KUGAL الالتزامات VISAS	SPECIMEN
5	000000
<p>5</p> <p>Baasaboonkan waxaa lagu tegi karaa dalalka hoos ku xusan:</p> <p>هذا الجواز صالح للسفر الى البلدان التالية:</p> <p>This passport is valid for the following countries:</p>	
<p>SPECIMEN</p>	
<p>Wuxuu dhacayaa la wada turay</p> <p>مستندى</p>	
<p>Meesha lagu bixiyay</p> <p>مستندى</p>	
<p>Taariikhda la bixiyay</p> <p>Date of issue</p>	
<p>WASIRKA الوزير MINISTER</p>	

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

Annex to BELGIUM

46	000000
DAL-KUGAL الـكـوـجـال VISAS	
11	
10	
DAL-KUGAL الـكـوـجـال VISAS	
45	000000

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

Annex to BELGIUM

Pages 18 through 30: NOT DECLASSIFIED

RESTREINT

SM 3344/98

RESTREINT

DENMARK

- re 1: (a) "A" series Somali passports;
(b) "C" series Somali passports;
(c) "B" series official duty service passports;
(d) Somali driving licences.
- re 2: The Office of the Commissioner of Police, Department A, Forensic Science Division, Documentation Section, is in possession of genuine specimen passports for (a), (b) and (c) and of a colour photocopy for (d).
- re 3: Documents (a), (b) and (c) were received via the Foreign Ministry in February 1990. As they are specimen passports, they have not been issued by any authority. Document (d) was issued between 1986 and 1989.
- re 4: Document (d) was issued by the authorities at the time in Mogadishu.
- re 5: According to the Somali Foreign Ministry in December 1990, documents (a) to (c) were brought into use on 10 December 1989.
- Document (d) is considered genuine and valid for driving motor vehicles.
- re 6: None of the documents issued by the Republic of Somaliland are recognised as valid in Denmark. On the basis of a readmission agreement concluded with the authorities in Somaliland, however, Denmark has taken travel documents issued by the Somaliland authorities for that particular purpose as evidence that the authorities have deemed the foreign national to be from Somaliland and to be allowed to enter Somaliland. This has been borne out by expulsions carried out with travel documents, where entry into Somaliland has not caused any problem.
- re 7: Documents (a) to (d) in 1 above are considered genuine and used as a basis for comparison in ascertaining authenticity.
- re 8: No.

RESTREINT

SN 3194/98

RESTREINT

GERMANY

Question 1

- Answer:
- Somali passports
 - Somali identity cards

Question 2

- Answer:
- Examples of the passport, service passport and diplomatic passport
 - Issued passport (falsified by substitution of photograph)

Question 3

- Answer:
- Passports are issued both within and outside Somalia. (In the last few years passports have been issued more frequently outside Somalia).

Question 4

- Answer:
- The great majority of Somali passports are issued by Somalia's diplomatic missions abroad (embassies/consulates). No reliable information is available at present concerning the classification of the issuing offices as a "government" (i.e. clan faction).

Question 5

- Answer:
- Somali passports and other documents issued after 31 January 1991 or extended after that date are not recognized here.

Question 6

- Answer:
- Passports or other documents issued by the authorities of the self-declared Republic of Somaliland are not recognized here.

Question 7

- Answer:
- Repeated attempts have been made through German foreign missions to obtain information concerning the documents in question. Generally no answers or unsatisfactory answers were given by the Somali side.

Question 8

- Answer:
- No further information concerning Somali documents is available at present.

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

GREECE

Re Question 1:

Two known Somali passports (Jamhuuriyadda Dimoqraadiga Soomaliya) issued a) 1987, b) 1995.

Re Question 2:

Yes, Genuine with alterations.

Re Question 3:

a) Mogadisho b) D'salaam.

Re Question 4:

No

Re Question 5:

Yes, for tourism.

Re Question 6:

Re Question 7:

Yes.

a) 1989 genuine with photo and visa alteration.

b) 1995 genuine with photo and date of birth alteration.

Re Question 8:

No.

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

SPAIN

Re Question 1:

National identity card, ordinary passport, service passport and Stateless travel document.

Re Question 2:

National identity card.

Re Question 3:

Not known.

Re Question 4:

Not known.

Re Question 5:

Ordinary passport, service passport, diplomatic passport and Stateless travel document. All are considered as travel documents.

Re Question 6:

Same as the reply to question 5.

Re Question 7:

Not known.

Re Question 8:

No.

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

FRANCE

1. What types of Somali documents (e.g. passports, identity cards, birth and marriage certificates) do you know to be in circulation? Please list.

Recognized: Ordinary passport, diplomatic passport, official duty passport and 1951 travel document (existence uncertain).

Unrecognized: Seaman's book.

2. What examples or copies of the documents listed, genuine or otherwise, do you have available?

Ordinary passport, diplomatic passport and official duty passport.

3. Where are the documents listed known to be issued, both within and outwith Somalia?

-

4. In the case of Somali passports, are the issuing offices diplomatic missions and, if so, which "government" (i.e. clan faction) in Somalia do they represent?

-

5. Do you recognize any of the documents listed as valid? Please indicate which documents are considered valid and for what purpose (i.e. administrative only, or travel).

Documents in lieu of an ordinary passport or ordinary passports renewed after 31 January 1991 (the supposed date of self-declaration of the Republic of Somaliland) are recognized but no longer provided with visas.

6. Do you recognize as valid passports, and any other documents, issued by the authorities of the self-declared Republic of Somaliland?

See 5.

7. Has your State undertaken any analysis or investigation of Somali documents to ascertain their authenticity? If so, please provide details and results.

-

8. Do you have any other information about Somali documentation not catered for in the questions above?

-

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

IRELAND

1. No record of seizures of forged or counterfeit Somali travel documents.
 2. No specimens or information of Somali documents.
-

RESTREINT

SN 3271/98

RESTREINT

ITALY

1. We do not know of any Somali documents in circulation in Italy.
2. We do not have any documents, genuine or otherwise, available.
3. -
4. The 1991 Somali passport is no longer recognized as valid in Italy.
5. No.
6. No.
7. Not in any significant number.
8. Records show the following refusals of admission on account of improper or false Somali documents:

1998	279
1997	167
1998 (1st quarter)	41

The documents are normally used for entry at Milan and Rome airports in particular, to bring minors into the country.

RESTREINT

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RESTREINT

THE NETHERLANDS

1.
 - national passport (A-series, type used since 10.12.1989), specimen available
 - diplomatic passport (C-series, type used since 10.12.1989), specimen available
 - service passport (B-series, type used since 10.12.1989), specimen available
 - seamen's book "Libretto di navigazione" (no specimen available)
 - "Dhaafitve Lasciapassare": probably an identity card valid for Arab countries (analogue photocopy available)
 - driving licence, specimen available
2. see 1. above
- 3.
4. We do not know which clans are involved.
5. Since 1990, absolutely no Somali documents have been recognised.
6. No
7. No analysis has been undertaken. However, there has been an investigation of false and falsified Somali documents.
8. Some local authorities in Somalia register births, deaths, marriages, etc.
 - It is impossible to investigate the authenticity of either current or earlier types of document.
 - A recent official mission to Nairobi and Bender Cassim (Bosaso) noted that Somali identity papers, passports, driving licences, birth certificates and university diplomas could all be obtained there for cash.

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

AUSTRIA

Re Question 1:

Passports:

Ordinary passport, No A 0000000, green cover
Service passport, No B 000000, red cover
Diplomatic passport, No C 000000, reddish-brown cover

A more detailed description of the above passports will be found in the Annex.

ID documents:

Various ID cards with photograph, using different printing techniques and made of different materials, folded in two. There is a coat of arms on the front cover with the words:

DAWLADDA HOOSE EE MUQDISHO
WARQADDA AQOONSIGA

Birth certificates:

The certificates consist of a sheet of green paper, DIN A4 format; the printing has been produced by photocopying; the certificates are supposedly issued by the "MUNICIPALITY OF MOGADISHU, ANAGRAPH DEPARTMENT"

No other documents have been encountered so far.

Re Question 2:

We have genuine models of the above passports. The other documents, together with a total of thirteen passports, are "issued" documents, which may or may not be genuine.

Re Questions 3 and 4:

Places of issue and issuing authorities of the documents referred to above:

NOT DECLASSIFIED

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

AUSTRIA

NOT DECLASSIFIED

Re Question 5:

In accordance with the concluding discussions of the Schengen VISA Working Party on the list of all visa-endorsable travel documents entitling the holder to cross external Schengen borders, Austria recognises those normal passports, service and diplomatic passports and refugee passports which were issued before 31 January 1991 by Somali authorities and foreign representations as being valid in that sense.

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

AUSTRIA

Travel documents which were issued or extended after 31 January 1991 are not recognised in the light of the near-civil war situation in Somalia and the resultant uncertainty surrounding the recognition of Somali documents issued by different agencies.

Re Question 6:

Travel documents issued by the Republic of Somalia following the latter's declaration of independence on 18 May 1991 are not recognised by Austria given that the Republic of Somalia does not, as far as Austria is concerned, constitute a recognised entity under international law (Article 1(5) of the 1997 Aliens Act requires that travel documents be issued by such a duly authorised entity).

Re Question 7: No

Re Question 8: No

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

Annex to AUSTRIA

SOMALIA

Ordinary passport (OP) No A 0000000
Service passport (SP) No B 000000
Diplomatic passport (DP) No C 000000
examined on 12 June 1997

Passports' technical features

Format:	48 pages (including inside cover pages) with flexible green (OP), red (SP) or reddish-brown (DP) cover and gold blocking; no rounded corners; space for photograph on page 2;
Serial number	7 digits (OP) or 6 digits (SP and DP) with preceding letter perforated on the pages including the cover pages, and also printed on page 2;
Watermark	The words "PASSPORT SOMALI" endlessly repeated in lines;
Security printing	Positioned emblem in a medallion with monochrome security background printing radiating out from it;
UV features	Optical brighteners in the paper, which fluoresces!!!

Protection against forgery

Page substitution	48 numbered pages including the inside cover pages; pagination in European and Somali figures; Serial number perforated on the pages, including the cover pages;
Photo substitution	Transparent adhesive laminate sewn in;
Erasure	Mechanical erasure damages the security background printing; chemical erasure is not visible;

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

PORTUGAL

Re Question 1:

None.

Re Question 2:

None.

Re Question 3:

No.

Re Question 4:

We didn't have any case with Somalis.

Re Question 5:

Portugal doesn't recognize any documents of Somalia.

Re Question 6:

The same as before.

Re Question 7:

Since there has been no detections of somali documents, Portugal didn't make any investigation or analysis concerning this type of documents.

Re Question 8:

No.

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

FINLAND

Re Question 1:

Passport, identity card, driving licence, birth certificate, marriage certificate, student-, work- and death certificates.

Re Question 2:

Genuine documents are unknown.

Re Question 3:

Official places for issuing are unknown.

Re Question 4:

Official diplomatic representatives are unknown.

Re Question 5:

None of these documents could be handled as genuine.

Re Question 6:

None of these documents could be handled as genuine. The Republic of Somalia is not recognized.

Re Question 7:

Ref. Question 1-6.

Re Question 8:

Ref. Question 1-6.

RESTREINT

SN 2199/98

RESTREINT

SWEDEN

1.
 - Somali passports of various kinds;
 - Somali identity cards bearing a photograph;
 - birth and marriage certificates;
 - examination certificates and school reports bearing a photograph;
 - employment testimonials, e.g. from the UNDP.
2. The following documents are kept at the National Forensic Laboratory:
National passport with a green cover (of the type introduced in 1989);
Diplomatic passport with a brownish red cover (as above);
Official duty passport with a red cover (as above).

Unissued specimens of the latter two types, bought at Mogadishu airport, are also available at the National Forensic Laboratory.

There is in addition a specimen of a privately produced passport of very high quality. The passport was apparently produced in 1997; it is entitled "official passport" and has a brown cover. It is distinguishable by the omission of the word "Democratic" from the name of the country on the cover. According to the person who supplied the passport, production of it was commissioned by a clan faction.

3. Certificates are often issued in Somalia. Marriage certificates are in some cases issued by a Sharia court in Nairobi. Certificates from the USC and other clan factions are issued in Sweden.
4. Somali passports have been issued by Somali missions in existence prior to 1991 or by members of their staff. In Europe, passports have mostly been issued by the Somali mission in Bonn or in London. It is common for passports to be issued in Nairobi, Addis Ababa or the United Arab Emirates. Passports and all other kinds of documents are available unofficially either on the Abdalla Shideeya market in Mogadishu or in the Eastleigh district of Nairobi.
5. No Somali papers are considered to have any value as an official document. Passports issued before 1991 may, however, be regarded as having some evidential value.
6. No.
7. It is hard to obtain any details of which numerical series were printed before January 1991. Even if these are forthcoming, there is little information available on authorized document issuers.
8. On trips to Somalia in 1997 and 1998, Swedish authorities learned, among their findings, that marriage certificates are issued at local mosques and Sharia courts in Mogadishu. However, it is uncertain whether certificates can be verified as archive copies are not always kept. Marriage certificates have been issued since 11 August 1994, when the Sharia court was established. Certificates are made out by the local sheikh and then stamped by the court. Should the sheikh be a member of the court, he can himself issue certificates.

As stated above, all kinds of documents are found to be available unofficially, e.g. on the Abdalla Shideeya market in Mogadishu.

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

THE UNITED KINGDOM

1. *What types of Somali documents (eg. passports, identity cards, birth and marriage certificates) do you know to be in circulation? Please list.*

Ordinary passport (old style)
Ordinary passport (new style)
Service passport (old style)
Service passport (new style)
Diplomatic passport (blue cover)
Diplomatic passport (brown cover)
Laissez-Passer for travel to neighbouring territories (three versions)
National identity card (several versions)
Driving licence (two versions)
Birth certificate
Marriage certificate

The old style passports were not valid after 30 June 1990 and it is unlikely that many remain in circulation. Old style passports containing indefinite validity visas may still be presented with new style passports from time to time.

2. *What examples or copies of the documents listed, genuine or otherwise, do you have available?*

We hold specimens of all passports listed.
We also hold examples of the three versions of Laissez-Passer, three versions of identity cards and one version of the driving licence, but the authenticity of these documents has not been conclusively established.

3. *Where are the documents listed known to be issued, both within and outside Somalia?*

The Somali documents listed above, and identified by the UK Immigration Service, were issued as follows:

Passports	Mogadishu, Djibouti, Damascus, Rome, Nairobi, New Delhi, London, Aden and Riyadh.
Laissez-Passer	Mogadishu and London.
National ID cards	Allegedly issued in Mogadishu and Baraawe.
Driving Licences	Somalia

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

THE UNITED KINGDOM

4. *In the case of Somali documents, are the issuing offices diplomatic missions and, if so, which "government" (ie. clan faction) in Somalia do they represent?*

The United Kingdom does not recognise as legitimate any passport issuing authority in Somalia. Blank passports are known to be purchased from street vendors for as little as \$5US.

Former Somali diplomatic staff in many countries are known to issue passports improperly. Thus, the place of issue cannot be accepted at face value. The residue of only three Somali missions exist within Western Europe; Rome, Paris and Bonn. Suspicions have been raised of impropriety in passport issuance in Rome and Bonn.

Elsewhere, in Khartoum the present Somali ambassador has reportedly admitted that issuance of passports and notarization of documents is his only source of income. He has also admitted that he is unable to verify Somali citizenship. In Nairobi, the Somali embassy was closed in 1991 but former embassy staff are known to issue passports from misappropriated stocks.

The extent of document abuse and the lack of reliable intelligence creates difficulties in establishing where and by whom Somali documents were issued.

The United Kingdom has no record of documents issued by any of the clan factions.

5. *Do you recognise any of the documents listed as valid? Please indicate which documents are considered valid and for what purpose (ie. administrative only, or travel).*

The United Kingdom does not legally recognise Somali passports but accepts them for visa purposes and for entry to the United Kingdom. For the reasons given in 4 above, caution is exercised in dealing with all Somali documentation presented in support of claims to Somali identity or nationality.

6. *Do you recognise as valid passports, and any other documents, issued by the authorities of the self-declared Republic of Somaliland?*

No.

7. *Has your State undertaken any analysis or investigation of Somali documents to ascertain their authenticity? If so, please provide detail and results.*

No specific investigation, but intelligence on all Somali documentation is routinely collated and analysed at the Immigration Service National Forgery Section. Somali documents are examined and their authenticity assessed based on intelligence held.

RESTREINT

RESTREINT

THE UNITED KINGDOM

E. *Do you have any other information about Somali documentation not catered for in the questions above?*

i) **Abuse of Somali passports by non-Somali nationals.**

The Canadian authorities have reported that many 'Somali' asylum claimants are in reality nationals of Kenya, Ethiopia or Djibouti. Many are of Somali extraction but have no claim to Somali citizenship. Their Somali ethnicity makes them difficult to differentiate from true Somali nationals.

The United Kingdom has identified many Kenyan and Tanzanian nationals of Somali ethnicity who have presented fraudulently-obtained Somali passports in support of asylum applications.

ii) **Child smuggling**

Somali passports have been improperly completed to facilitate illegal trafficking of Somali and Sudanese minority children into Europe and North America. The Somali Embassy in Cairo was suspected in 1995 of being implicated in this practice, while the British Embassy in Rome has reported several incidences of unauthorized additions of children to Somali ordinary and diplomatic passports. The typical smuggler is a Somali female who may be accompanied by as many as ten children improperly added to her passport. The addition of many names enables her repeatedly to move as many children as possible. Invariably, the children are abandoned on arrival.

Because of this fraud the Swiss authorities, on 14.2.96, introduced regulations requiring Somalis transiting Switzerland to hold a Swiss passport, visa or residence card. A previous exemption, allowing Somalis to transit when holding residence permits for other European countries, Canada or the USA, was cancelled.

RESTREINT