

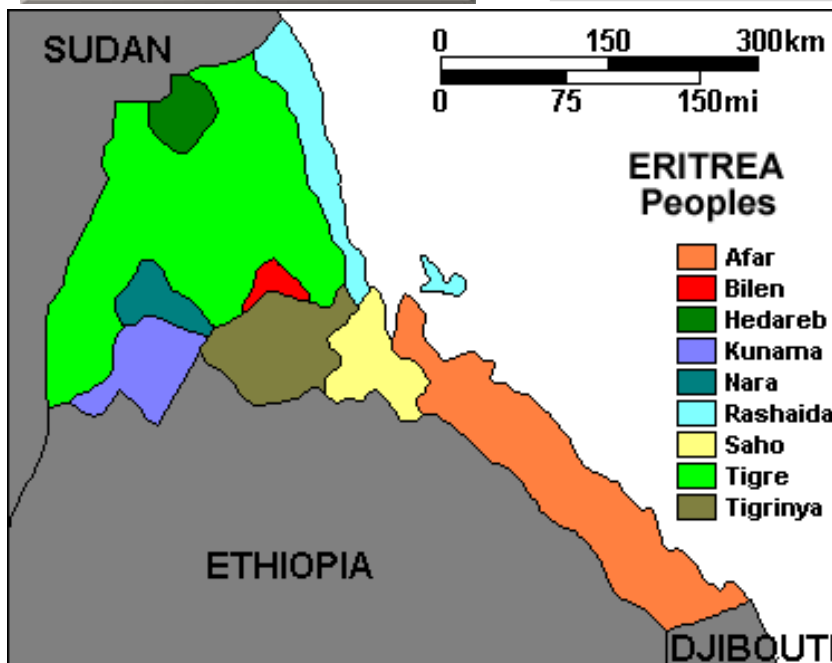


Blin

Source: Blin of Eritrea from:
<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=101444&rog3=ER>

23/05/09

This map shows the distribution and classical location of the Eritrean people. As can be seen Blin reside in the middle of the country as shown in red.



Map of Eritrea and its people

Blin Definition according to WIKIPEDIA: The **Blin language** (ብሊን, transliterated to Latin as *b(ə)lina* or *bilina*), **Bilin** or **Bilen** has approximately 70,000 speakers in and around the city of [Keren](#) in [Eritrea](#). It is the only [Central Cushitic language](#) which is spoken in [Eritrea](#).

Note: **Blin** is the English spelling which is preferred by native speakers, but **Bilin** and **Bilen** (ብሊን) are also commonly used. **Bilin** is the reference name arbitrarily used in the current initial English editions of ISO 639-3, but **Blin** is also listed as an equivalent name without preference. In the English list of ISO 639-2, **Blin** (the native spelling) is listed in first position in both English and French lists, when **Bilin** is just listed as an alternate name in the English list, and **Bilen** is the alternate name in the French list. The Ethnologue report lists **Bilen** as the preferred name, but also lists **Bogo**, **Bogos**, **Bilayn**, **Bilin**, **Balen**, **Beleni**, **Belen**, **Bilein**, **Bileno**, **North Agaw** as alternate names.

The native prefer to write it as **BLIN** for the language and the people and also if using plural **Belain**.

Blin people

Total population: about 100,000 and the languages is also called Bilen

The Blin are an ethnic group located in central Eritrea, in and around the city of Keren, and south toward Asmara, the nation's capital.

The Blin first entered Eritrea from Ethiopia during the sixteenth century primarily agriculturalists, they number about 96,000 and represent around 2.1% of Eritrea's population. About fifty percent of their population are Christian, primarily Catholic, while the other fifty percent are 20th century converts to Sunni Islam.

Blin is also the name of their language, an Agaw language. Sixty percent of the Christians have some understanding of Tigrinya. Seventy percent of the Muslims also use Tigre. Among the youth, Arabic is also spoken.

Keren is the second largest city in Eritrea, lying northwest of Asmara. It is the capital of the Anseba province and home of the Bilen tribe. As of 2005, the population of this city has been estimated to be 86,483. The city is integrated with different types of tribes; Blin and Tigre are the dominant. It has two High schools, St. Joseph and Keren Secondary School. Its climate is semi-desert hot during summer and cold during winter. It is one of the fast growing cities in the country.

The city grew around an Eritrean Railway to Asmara, now dismantled (although there are plans to rebuild). It is an important commercial centre and was the scene of regular battles in both World War II and the Eritrean War of Independence. Keren was the site of a key battle between Italian and British troops in 1941.

Attractions in the city include the Tigu nineteenth century Egyptian fort, the St Maryam Deari chapel, lying in a baobab tree, the 1930s former railway station, the old mosque, Said Bakri Mausoleum, British Army and Italian Army cemeteries and local markets. The nearby sixth century Debre Sina monastery is known for its cave dwellings.

The Blin districts outlying Keren include: Seleba, Elabered, Demat, Sequina, Hagad, Deka (Halhal), Megarih, Gengeren, Erora (Medeka), Bogu Awakh, Bogu Squakh, Enchinak, Ashera, Fana...



Source: WIKIPEDIA. May, 2009

Keren City Centre

