

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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Questions

- 1. Please provide information on the ability to exit on one's own passport if you are of interest to the authorities, on bail, with a case still pending.**
- 2. Is there any information about 'agents of companies conducting overseas tours' being able to bail people out of forced labour camps?**
- 3. Is there any information on the claim that only algebra and geometry are taught in Mathematics in high schools in Fujian?**
- 4. Anything else of relevance.**

Thank you.

RESPONSE

- 1. Please provide information on the ability to exit on one's own passport if you are of interest to the authorities, on bail, with a case still pending.**

The *Administrative Law on the Border Exit and Entry of Citizens of the People's Republic of China* sets out the circumstances which a citizen will not be allowed to exit China. The circumstances include when a person is a defendant in a criminal case, suspected of a crime by the security authorities, involved in a civil case which has not been completed, currently serving a criminal sentence, is undergoing re-education through labour or the authorities believe a person may cause danger to national security after departing China. There is also an "alert" list to check out-going passengers. This information on exit procedures is in: RRT Research & Information 2007, *Research Response CHN31891*, 22 June, pp.8-9 – Attachment 1).

Other information on passports and exit procedures, including checks at the airport, may be found in: RRT Research & Information 2007, *Research Response CHN32179*, 29 August – Attachment 2).

2. Is there any information about ‘agents of companies conducting overseas tours’ being able to bail people out of forced labour camps?

No information was found in the sources consulted on “agents of companies conducting overseas tours” (or travel) being able to provide bail for people in forced labour camps. However, according to the US State Department detained criminal suspects are entitled to apply for bail, although few are released on bail pending trial.

The Laogai Research Foundation writes on forced labour camps in the following terms:

The Chinese word *Laogai*, meaning “reform through labor,” refers to **a system of forced labor camps** that spans China’s territory – from the highly industrialized prison factories of the eastern coastal cities to the isolated, fenceless farms of the West...(The Laogai Research Foundation 2006, *Laogai Handbook 2005-2006*, October, **p.5** pp.5-28, 67,474 – Attachment 3).

And:

Those confined to Laogai prisons are criminals who have been arrested and sentenced, and are forced to labor in factories, workshops, mines or farms...

Political prisoners are commonly housed together with other prisoners, although there are numerous reports of these prisoners being put in solitary confinement...(The Laogai Research Foundation 2006, *Laogai Handbook 2005-2006*, October, p.17 – Attachment 3).

On bail the US State Department reported that:

Administrative detention was frequently used to intimidate political activists and prevent public demonstrations (see section 2.b.). The government was reforming its administrative punishment system, but reforms seek to codify rather than abolish it. In March the new public order administrative punishment law went into effect. The law provides for administrative review of detention decisions, bans administrative detention of minors, the elderly, pregnant women, and nursing mothers, places limits on interrogation, and limits the maximum period for public order detentions to 20 days. However, the law also establishes more severe punishments and creates 165 new offences subject to administrative punishment, including illegal demonstrations, disturbing social order in the name of religion, invasion of privacy, and publication that incites ethnic or national hostility or discrimination. Police continued to hold individuals without granting access to family members or lawyers, and some trials continued to be conducted in secret. **Detained criminal suspects, defendants, their legal representatives, and close relatives were entitled to apply for bail; however, in practice few suspects were released on bail pending trial** (US Department of State 2007, ‘Arrest and Detention’ in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2006 – China*, 6 March – Attachment 4).

Of some interest is that the Laogai Research Foundation has noted instances, in Beijing and Chongqing municipalities, where inmates were released on bail for medical treatment in 2002-2004 (The Laogai Research Foundation 2006, *Laogai Handbook 2005-2006*, October, p.67,474 – Attachment 3).

3. Is there any information on the claim that only algebra and geometry are taught in Mathematics in high schools in Fujian?

No information was found in the sources consulted on information that only algebra and geometry are taught in Fujian high schools. Traditionally in China, according to an Asia Society article, the mathematics curriculum consisted of two distinct mandatory series, a series in algebra and a series in geometry, comprising several courses. However, the curriculum has been reformed to include five compulsory modules which include elementary statistics, probability, trigonometry, number sequences and inequalities.

The Asia Society 2006 article states:

Traditionally, the Chinese high school (grades 10–12) curriculum in mathematics, building on the elementary and lower secondary curriculum, consisted of two distinct, mandatory series, each consisting of several courses: one series in algebra (including elementary calculus and probability) and one series in geometry. This curriculum has recently been reformed to remove some of the most difficult topics and allow for some choice. Five modules, each representing 34–36 teaching hours, are compulsory. They cover sets and elementary functions, elementary solid and plane analytic geometry, elementary statistics and probability, a second module on functions (including trigonometry) and plane vectors, and number sequences and inequalities (Asia Society 2006, *Math and Science Education in a Global Age: What the U.S. Can Learn from China*, May, p.14 <http://www.internationaleled.org/mathsciencereport.pdf> – Accessed 23 October 2007 – Attachment 5).

Information prepared by China's Ministry of Education confirms the following five compulsory modules:

Mathematics 1: set, concept of function and basic elementary function I (exponential function, logarithmic function, power function).

Mathematics 2: preliminary solid geometry, preliminary plane analytical geometry.

Mathematics 3: preliminary algorithm, statistics, probability.

Mathematics 4: basic elementary function II (trigonometric function), plane vector, trigonometric identical transformation.

Mathematics 5: solution of triangle, sequence, inequality (Ministry of Education of People's Republic of China 2003, *Mathematics Curriculum Standards*, p.17

http://www.apecknowledgebank.org/resources/reports/Maths_Standards_China_2003_10-12_.pdf – Accessed 23 October 2007 – Attachment 6).

The Ministry of Education also provides the contents and requirements of each of the five modules (Ministry of Education of People's Republic of China 2003, *Mathematics Curriculum Standards*, pp.18-45

http://www.apecknowledgebank.org/resources/reports/Maths_Standards_China_2003_10-12_.pdf – Accessed 23 October 2007 – Attachment f).

4. Anything else of relevance.

No other information is included in this response.

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Google search engine <http://www.google.com.au/>

Human Rights in China <http://www.hrichina.org/public/index>

Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China

<http://www.moe.edu.cn/english/index.htm>

Comparing the Math and Reading Curriculums of China and America

<http://sitemaker.umich.edu/cohenbc.356/home>

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. RRT Research & Information 2007, *Research Response CHN31891*, 22 June.
2. RRT Research & Information 2007, *Research Response CHN32179*, 29 August.
3. The Laogai Research Foundation 2006, *Laogai Handbook 2005-2006*, October, pp.5-28, 67,474.
4. US Department of State 2007, 'Arrest and Detention' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2006 – China*, 6 March.
5. Asia Society 2006, *Math and Science Education in a Global Age: What the U.S. Can Learn from China*, May <http://www.internationaled.org/mathsciencereport.pdf> – Accessed 23 October 2007.
6. Ministry of Education of People's Republic of China 2003, *Mathematics Curriculum Standards*, pp.1-5,17-45
http://www.apecknowledgebank.org/resources/reports/Maths_Standards_China_2003_10-12_.pdf – Accessed 23 October 2007.