

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: CHN23624
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This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

Questions

1. How are supporters of Taiwanese independence viewed in China today, including in Fujian?
2. Are supporters of Taiwanese independence likely to be denied services such as access to publicly subsidised housing by Chinese authorities?
3. Are supporters of Taiwanese independence likely to be able to obtain a passport and to be allowed to leave China (especially around August 2004 when applicant departed China)?
4. Any other issues relating to the treatment of supporters of Taiwanese independence in China today?

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Copernic search engine
BBC News website <http://news.bbc.co.uk>
Amnesty International website www.amnesty.org
Human Rights Watch website www.hrw.org
Taiwan Security Research website www.taiwansecurity.org
Wikipedia website <http://en.wikipedia.org>

<u>Databases:</u>		
Public	<i>FACTIVA</i>	Reuters Business Briefing
DIMIA	<i>BACIS</i>	Country Information
	<i>REFINFO</i>	IRBDC Research Responses (Canada)
RRT	<i>ISYS</i>	RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, U.S. Department of State <i>Country Reports on Human Rights Practices</i> .
UNHCR	<i>REFWORLD</i>	UNHCR Refugee Information Online
Public	<i>JANE'S</i>	Jane's Intelligence Review
RRT Library	<i>FIRST</i>	RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. How are supporters of Taiwanese independence viewed in China today, including in Fujian?

4. Any other issues relating to the treatment of supporters of Taiwanese independence in China today?

A search of the sources consulted found little information specifically in relation to how supporters of Taiwanese independence are viewed in China today, including in Fujian. There are numerous articles regarding the attitude of the Chinese government to the issue of Taiwanese independence generally, but little specific information on how supporters of Taiwanese independence in China are viewed and treated by the government. The following RRT research responses provide some information:

1. RRT Country Research 2003, *Research Response HKG23085*, 19 August.
2. RRT Country Research 2002, *Research Response CHN15434*, 9 October.
3. RRT Country Research 1996, *Research Response CHN21145*, 30 August.

The following articles provide information on aspects of China's attitude toward Taiwanese independence:

China's opposition to Taiwanese independence and its strategy towards Taiwan:

4. 'China distances itself from nuclear weapons threat against United States' 2005, *Agence France-Presse*, 22 July. (FACTIVA)
5. Ching, Frank 2005, 'Hu's happy enough with Taiwan status quo', *New Straits Times*, 21 July. (FACTIVA)
6. 'Taiwan independence' 2005, Wikipedia website, 21 July. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiwan_independence - Accessed 22 July 2005)
7. Liu, Jorge and Kuo, Deborah 2005, 'China using two-pronged strategy against Taiwan: Pentagon report', *Central News Agency English News*, 20 July. (FACTIVA)
8. Xuetong, Yan 2005, 'Suppressing Taiwan Independence', Taiwan Security Research website, source: *Far Eastern Economic Review*, June. (<http://www.taiwansecurity.org/News/2005/FEER-0605-2.htm> - Accessed 22 July 2005)
9. Hung, Alice and Beck, Lindsay 2005, 'Taiwan rejects China offers as hopes for talks dim', *Reuters News*, 13 May. (FACTIVA)
10. Luard, Tim 2005, 'China's Taiwanese tribulations', BBC News website, 14 March. (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/4312171.stm> - Accessed 25 July 2005)
11. Gluck, Caroline 2004, 'Taiwan unmoved by China's spy stories', BBC News website, 11 February. (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/3476383.stm> - Accessed 25 July 2005)

12. Amnesty International 2004, *Report 2004 – China*.

China’s attitude to independence supporters in Taiwan:

13. Yong-min, Hsu 2005, ‘In Translation: China Tries To Divide Taiwan’, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, 18 March. (FACTIVA)

14. Tang, Emily 2004, ‘China Steel chief refused visa for HK’, *The Standard*, 14 August. (FACTIVA)

15. ‘Interfering with Taiwan business against WTO rules, MAC warns’ 2004, *The China Post*, 22 June. (FACTIVA)

China’s blocking of Taiwanese government websites and the websites of organisations promoting Taiwanese independence:

16. O’Neill, Mark 2005, ‘China censors weave sophisticated Web to trap dissenters; The Communist Party is setting a global benchmark in internet monitoring to maintain control’, *South China Morning Post*, 20 July. (FACTIVA)

China’s monitoring of advocates of Taiwanese independence overseas:

17. ‘CHINA: Asylum-Seeking Chinese Diplomat Says He Was Told To Harass Falun Gong Followers’ 2005, *Radio Free Asia*, 24 June. (CISNET People’s Republic of China CX124824)

Fujian:

18. ‘Pro-independence Taiwan investors unwelcome in Fujian’ 2000, *Asian Economic News*, 3 July. (FACTIVA)

2. Are supporters of Taiwanese independence likely to be denied services such as access to publicly subsidised housing by Chinese authorities?

A search of the sources consulted found no specific reference to information regarding whether supporters of Taiwanese independence are likely to be denied services such as access to publicly subsidised housing by Chinese authorities.

3. Are supporters of Taiwanese independence likely to be able to obtain a passport and to be allowed to leave China (especially around August 2004 when applicant departed China)?

A search of the sources consulted found no specific reference to information regarding whether supporters of Taiwanese independence are likely to be able to obtain a passport and to be allowed to leave China. The US Department of State reports on human rights practices in China for 2003 and 2004 include general information on the Chinese government’s attitude to the granting of passports and restrictions on those deemed to be threats by the government:

19. US Department of State 2005, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004 – China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau)*, February.

20. US Department of State 2004, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003 – China, (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau)*, February.

A BBC news article dated 18 March 2004 indicates that Taiwanese living in China were returning home to vote in Taiwan's March 2004 election:

21. Foster, Angus 2004, 'Key role for Taiwan expats', BBC News website, 18 March. (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/3519794.stm> - Accessed 25 July 2005)