

Refugee Review Tribunal

AUSTRALIA

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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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. Are there reports or known instances of people leaving Fujian Province assuming Indonesian identities (especially prior to onward travel to Australia, and in the period around 1998)?
2. Is there a Chinese community in Ujung Pandang or in that area, and is it known whether they continue to speak and read/write Chinese?
3. Any other suggested indicia for ascertaining the Applicant's place of origin?
4. Regarding China/Fujian: Are there any recent updates on the treatment of Christians in this province?

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

<http://www.huayinet.org/> HuayiNet website
<http://uscis.gov/graphics/index.htm> U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website
Google search engine
UNHCR *REFWORLD* UNHCR Refugee Information Online

Databases:

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, US Department of State <i>Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.</i>
RRT Library	<i>FIRST</i>	RRT Library Catalogue

RESPONSE

1. Are there reports or known instances of people leaving Fujian Province assuming Indonesian identities (especially prior to onward travel to Australia, and in the period around 1998)?

No reports or known instances of people leaving Fujian Province and assuming Indonesian identities were located in the sources consulted.

2. Is there a Chinese community in Ujung Pandang or in that area, and is it known whether they continue to speak and read/write Chinese?

Ujung Pandang (Makassar)

Makassar, (Macassar, Mangkasar) is the provincial capital of South Sulawesi, Indonesia. From 1971 to 1999, the city was formerly named Ujung Pandang, and the two names are often used interchangeably. Makassar is a port city on the southwest coast of the island of Sulawesi, and has population of 1.25 million. ('Makassar' 2005, *Wikipedia*, 26 June <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makassar> - Accessed 1 July 2005 – Attachment 1; 'Sulawesi Selatan' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive World Atlas 2000* – Attachment 2).

The Chinese Community

Lonely Planet: Indonesia states, "(a) large number of ethnic Chinese Indonesians live in Makassar" and also notes "a Chinese quarter" in the city (Witton, P. (Ed. et al) 2003, *Lonely Planet: Indonesia*, Lonely Planet Publications, Melbourne, 7th edition, p.738 -740 – Attachment 3).

Language

According to an article on a website for the overseas Chinese community, entitled 'Chinese Migration to South East Asia', "7,200 Chinese travelled to Indonesia and most came from the two southern coastal provinces; namely, Fujian and Guangdong [and] it is the Hokkiens [dialect group] who formed the largest group within their respective Chinese communities in Indonesia" ('Chinese Migration to South East Asia' n.d., Huayinet website http://www.huayinet.org/culture/sitemap_culture_chinese_diaspora.htm - Accessed 29 June 2005 – Attachment 4). Refer to the attachment for further information on the 'Hokkien people' in Indonesia ('Chinese Culture' n.d., Balitouring website <http://www.balitouring.com/culture/chinese.htm> - Accessed 29 June 2005 – Attachment 5).

The *Wikipedia* website provides further information on the language spoken by the Chinese diaspora. The website notes the southern Fujian language, Min Nan [often known as Hokkien], is spoken amongst the descendants in Indonesia ('Min Nan' 2005, *Wikipedia*, 28 June 2005 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Min-nan> - Accessed 29 June 2005 – Attachment 6). This report states:

Mǐn Nán (also spelt Minnan or Min-nan; Simplified Chinese: 闽南语, Traditional Chinese: 閩南語; native name Bân-lâm-gú) literally, the "Southern Min" or "Southern Fujian" language, refers to the language/dialect of southern Fujian province, China and neighboring areas, and descendants of emigrants from these areas in diaspora. The Taiwanese language is

also a form of Min Nan. It is often known as Hokkien (i.e., "Fujian[ese]") or Teochew (a variant), especially in Southeast Asia ('Min Nan' 2005, *Wikipedia*, 28 June 2005 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Min-nan> - Accessed 29 June 2005 - Attachment 6).

However, in order to ascertain the language spoken by the Chinese community in Indonesia, it is imperative to examine the culture of the two broad communities that exist there.

Culture of the Chinese Communities

The *Wikipedia* website provides this background on the Chinese in Indonesia:

Indonesian Chinese people are diverse in their origins, timing and circumstances of immigration to Indonesia, and level of ties to China. Many trace their origins to the southern parts of China, such as the Fujian, Hainan and Guangdong provinces. Broadly speaking, there were three waves of immigration of the ethnic Chinese to Southeast Asia in general and Indonesia in particular. The first wave was spurred by trading activities dating back to the time of Zheng He's voyage, the second wave around the time of the Opium War, and the third and last wave around the first half of the 20th century. Chinese Indonesians whose ancestors immigrated in the first and second waves, and have thus become creolised or hua-na (in Hokkien) by marriage and assimilation, are called Peranakan Chinese. The more recent Chinese immigrants and those who are still culturally Chinese, are called the Totok ('Indonesian Chinese' 2005 by *Wikipedia*, 17 June http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Indonesian_Chinese&printable=yes – Accessed 1 July 2005 – Attachment 7).

As noted above, the Indonesian Chinese are basically divided into two categories: the *Peranakan* and *Totok*. An article on the HuayiNet website (a website for the overseas Chinese community) comments:

Many of the early settlers married local wives and adopted local culture. These came to be known as Peranakans. One of their distinct characteristics is their use of an Indonesian language within the family.

Immigrants who came to Indonesia in the late 19th century tend to marry Chinese wives, retaining the Chinese language, dress and culture. These latter immigrants who prefer to be self-employed, came to be known as Totoks ('Chinatown – Indonesia - Jakarta Chinatown – Glodok: Chinese in Indonesia' 2002, HuayiNet website, 20 November <http://www.huayinet.org/chinatown/chinatown.htm> - Accessed 29 June 2005 – Attachment 8).

Further information on the Peranakan is provided in the attachment ('Peranakan' 2005 by *Wikipedia*, 10 June <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peranakan> – Accessed 1 July 2005 – Attachment 9).

A 1999 report by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services provides information on the third wave of Chinese immigrants who are predominantly *totok*:

Most of these immigrants came from southern China and formed purely Chinese settlements in the Outer Islands of Indonesia [researcher's emphasis]. Unlike the previous wave of Chinese immigrants, they retained their languages (mostly Hokkien, Hakka, and Cantonese), religion and customs (MRG 1997, p. 616).

There are many in Indonesia today who identify themselves as ethnic Chinese but who do not speak a Chinese language or practice Christianity, the predominant religion of ethnic Chinese Indonesians. The *totok*, or "full-blooded Chinese, usually born in China," consider themselves true Chinese in comparison to *peranakan* Chinese, and "[keep] Chinese culture

and traditions alive through household shrines, celebrating Chinese festivals and private Chinese language instruction for their children" (MRG 1997, p. 616) (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services 1999, *IDN99001.ZNY – Indonesia: Information on ethnic Chinese in Indonesia*, 23 July

<http://uscis.gov/graphics/services/asylum/ric/documentation/IDN99001.htm> - Accessed 5 July 2005 – Attachment 10).

In respect to this latter point it is noted that in 1957 it became compulsory for all educational institutions to conduct classes in Bahasa, the Indonesian language ('Chinese Culture' (n.d.), Balitouring website <http://www.balitouring.com/culture/chinese.htm> - Accessed 29 June 2005 – Attachment 5).

From the available information it is difficult to gain a definitive answer to the language spoken by the ethnic Chinese in Makassar. It appears the Chinese community comprises both the *peranakan* and *totok* groups in Makassar. This view is supported by the fact that there are reports of Chinese Christians and Chinese Buddhists in Makassar. A selection of these reports follow:

- In South Sulawesi's capital, Makassar, there have been frequent clashes both between Christians and Muslims and between ethnic-Chinese people and their enemies ('Consider Sulawesi' 2000, *The Economist*, 6 July http://www.economist.com/surveys/PrinterFriendly.cfm?Story_ID=4383 – Accessed 29 June 2005 – Attachment 11; 'High Lights Of Incidents In Indonesia' (n.d.) World Huaren Federation website <http://www.huaren.org/focus/id/022498-01.html> - Accessed 28 June 2005 – Attachment 12).
- According to a report on the *Alleanza Cattolica* (Catholic Alliance) website, an association of lay people who intend to study and spread the social doctrine of the Church, "(i)n early February 1998 there were attacks on Chinese Christians in southern and central Sulawesi" (Aid to the Church in Need (n.d.), *Religious Freedom in the Majority Islamic Countries: 1998 Report – Indonesia*, *Alleanza Cattolica* (Catholic Alliance) website http://www.alleanzaccattolica.org/acs/acs_english/report_98/indonesia.htm - Accessed 1 July 2005 – Attachment 13).
- *Lonely Planet: Indonesia* states, "(n)ew and old Chinese temples are dotted along Jl Sulawesi (Witton, P. (Ed. et al) 2003, *Lonely Planet: Indonesia*, Lonely Planet Publications, Melbourne, 7th edition, p.738 – Attachment 3).

The Member may be interested in the attached report published by the International Crisis Group, dated October 2001, which provides background on the resentments held towards ethnic Chinese, particularly within parts of the Muslim community, and the clashes that occurred in 1997-1998 (International Crisis Group 2001, *Indonesia: Violence and Radical Muslims*, 10 October

http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/asia/indonesia/reports/A400455_10102001.pdf - Attachment 14).

It may be of interest to note that according to the *Christian News Service* website, "South Sulawesi province is home to 683 churches" (Page, S. 2004, 'Indonesia Orders Tighter Security for Churches this Christmas', *Christian News Service* website, source: Compass, 22 December <http://www.worthynews.com/cgi->

[bin/masterpfp.cgi?doc=http://www.worthynews.com/news-features-4/indonesia-tighter-security.html&top=http://www.worthynews.com](http://www.worthynews.com/news-features-4/indonesia-tighter-security.html&top=http://www.worthynews.com) – Accessed 29 June 2005 – Attachment 15).

3. Any other suggested indicia for ascertaining the Applicant's place of origin?

Following discussion with the Member, searches for specific towns and cities in Fujian province, as well as the Fujian Agricultural College and the State Dongge Chinese Overseas Agricultural Farm were conducted.

Maps in Fujian Province

Maps of Fuqing city (also called Rongcheng) and Fuzhou city are attached ('Fuzhou' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive World Atlas 2000* – Attachment 16; 'Fuqing' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive World Atlas 2000* – Attachment 17). It is also noted that many towns in Fujian are known by alternate names. Fujian is also called Fukien. The Encarta Mapping service locates Shangjing town but does not identify Yutang ('Shangjing' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive World Atlas 2000* – Attachment 18).

Fujian Agricultural College

The Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, is the sole university for higher agricultural education in Fujian Province, China, [and] is located at the north top [sic] of Nantai Island in a western suburb of Fuzhou ('Fujian Agricultural University (FAU)' 2001, Wisard Organisation Information website, March <http://www.wisard.org/wisard/shared/asp/generalinfoserver/intermediate.asp?InstitutionID=7040> – Accessed 4 July 2005 – Attachment 19). The University has a Department of Plant Protection. It is also noted that the current University was renamed in 1994 and this university is the result of the merger of two agricultural colleges, Fukien Christian University and the Fukien Provincial Agricultural College ('Fujian Agricultural University (FAU)' 2001, Wisard Organisation Information website, March <http://www.wisard.org/wisard/shared/asp/generalinfoserver/intermediate.asp?InstitutionID=7040> – Accessed 4 July 2005 – Attachment 19). The attachment provides information on the geographical layout and history of the city of Fuzhou ('Geography: Fuzhou' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive World Atlas 2000* – Attachment 20).

State Dongge Chinese Overseas Agricultural Farm.

No specific match for an enterprise by this name could be located. Refer to the attachment for the results of a search for Chinese overseas agricultural farms in Fujian on the China Yellow Pages website ('Fujian: Agriculture; Livestock; Livestock & Herd' 2005, China Yellow Pages website <http://www.yellowpageschina.com/1355/2.html> - Accessed 4 July 2005 – Attachment 21).

Exit Procedures

The Member may wish to note the information in a previous RRT Research Response which details procedures for the issuing of passports as well as exit procedures in China prior to 2001 (RRT Country Research 2003, *Research Response CHN15850*, 31 March – Attachment 22).

Dialect and Language

Two previous RRT Research Responses provide comprehensive information on the dialects and languages spoken in Fujian, including Fuqing city specifically. The response provides information on the Min Nan dialect which is the main dialect in Fujian south of Fuzhou city (RRT Country Research 2000, *Research Response CHN13926*, 21 January, questions 1-2 – Attachment 23). It significantly notes that Mandarin is not a main dialect in Fujian. Refer also to the attached response for an ethnologue on Fujian province (RRT Country Research 1999, *Research Response CHN13404*, 7 January – Attachment 24). However, the former response also notes that the language of instruction in all primary schools in China in the period 1972 – 1983 was putonghua, the standard Chinese language (RRT Country Research 2000, *Research Response CHN13926*, 21 January, questions 1-2 – Attachment 23). According to the *Wikipedia* website, “standard Mandarin is officially known in mainland China as Putonghua” (‘Standard Mandarin’ 2005, *Wikipedia*, 5 July <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Putonghua> - Accessed 5 July 2005 – Attachment 25).

Please also refer to the information in question 2 regarding the language spoken by the Chinese community in Indonesia.

Other

A 1999 report by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services may be of interest as it provides further information on the treatment of the Chinese in Indonesia, including the use of identity cards to identify ethnic Chinese, the banning of Chinese names and other assimilation policies pursued by the Indonesian government (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services 1999, *IDN99001.ZNY – Indonesia: Information on ethnic Chinese in Indonesia*, 23 July <http://uscis.gov/graphics/services/asylum/ric/documentation/IDN99001.htm> - Accessed 5 July 2005 – Attachment 10).

4. Regarding China/Fujian: Are there any recent updates on the treatment of Christians in this province?

Discussion with the Member indicated an affiliation with the Hillsong Chinese Church in Parramatta. Information on the *Wikipedia* website indicates the senior pastor is a proponent of the Pentecostal movement, therefore I have focussed on Pentecostal movement in Fujian Province as well as house church movements (‘Chinese Service, Parramatta’ 2005, Hillsong Church website <http://www.hillsong.com/church/extensionservices/bin/view.pl?sitenam=extensionservices&page=chineseparramatta&showAboutUs=true&showextensionservices=true> – Accessed 4 July 2005 – Attachment 26; ‘Pentecostalism’ 2005, *Wikipedia*, 30 June <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentecostal> - Accessed 1 July 2005 – Attachment 27).

A recent RRT Research Response provides comprehensive information on the True Jesus Church in Fujian, including Fuqing city specifically (RRT Country Research 2005, *Research Response CHN17352*, 7 June – Attachment 28).

Attached are previous RRT Research Responses detailing the treatment of Christians in China (RRT Country Research 2004, *Research Response CHN16481*, 27 February – Attachment 29; RRT Country Research 2003, *Research Response CHN15799*, 12 March –

Attachment 30; RRT Country Research 2002, *Research Response CHN15645*, 23 December – Attachment 31).

Although dated 1995, the attached RRT Research Response provides information on house churches in Fujian province RRT Country Research 1995, *Research Response CHN10628*, 4 August – Attachment 32).

List of Attachments

1. 'Makassar' 2005, *Wikipedia*, 26 June.
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makassar> - Accessed 1 July 2005)
2. 'Sulawesi Selatan' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive World Atlas 2000*. (CDROM)
3. Witton, P. (Ed. et al) 2003, *Lonely Planet: Indonesia*, Lonely Planet Publications, Melbourne, 7th edition. (RRT Library)
4. 'Chinese Migration to South East Asia' n.d., HuayiNet website.
(http://www.huayinet.org/culture/sitemap_culture_chinese_diaspora.htm - Accessed 29 June 2005)
5. 'Chinese Culture' (n.d.), Balitouring website.
(<http://www.balitouring.com/culture/chinese.htm> - Accessed 29 June 2005)
6. 'Min Nan' 2005, *Wikipedia*, 28 June 2005.
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Min-nan> - Accessed 29 June 2005)
7. 'Indonesian Chinese' 2005, *Wikipedia*, 17 June.
(http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Indonesian_Chinese&printable=yes – Accessed 1 July 2005)
8. 'Chinatown – Indonesia - Jakarta Chinatown –Glodok: Chinese in Indonesia' 2002, HuayiNet website, 20 November.
(<http://www.huayinet.org/chinatown/chinatown.htm> - Accessed 29 June 2005)
9. 'Peranakan' 2005, *Wikipedia*, 10 June.
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peranakan> – Accessed 1 July 2005)
10. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services 1999, *IDN99001.ZNY – Indonesia: Information on ethnic Chinese in Indonesia*, 23 July
(<http://uscis.gov/graphics/services/asylum/ric/documentation/IDN99001.htm> - Accessed 5 July 2005)
11. 'Consider Sulawesi' 2000, *The Economist*, 6 July.
(http://www.economist.com/surveys/PrinterFriendly.cfm?Story_ID=4383 – Accessed 29 June 2005)
12. 'High Lights Of Incidents In Indonesia' (n.d.), World Huaren Federation website.
(<http://www.huaren.org/focus/id/022498-01.html> - Accessed 28 June 2005)

13. Aid to the Church in Need (n.d.), *Religious Freedom in the Majority Islamic Countries: 1998 Report – Indonesia*, *Alleanza Cattolica* (Catholic Alliance) website. (http://www.alleanzacattolica.org/acs/acs_english/report_98/indonesia.htm - Accessed 1 July 2005)
14. International Crisis Group 2001, *Indonesia: Violence and Radical Muslims*, 10 October. (http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/asia/indonesia/reports/A400455_10102001.pdf)
15. Page, S. 2004, 'Indonesia Orders Tighter Security for Churches this Christmas', *Christian News Service* website, source: Compass, 22 December. (<http://www.worthynews.com/cgi-in/masterpfp.cgi?doc=http://www.worthynews.com/news-features-4/indonesia-tighter-security.html&top=http://www.worthynews.com> – Accessed 29 June 2005)
16. 'Fuzhou' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive World Atlas 2000*. (CDROM)
17. 'Fuqing (Rongcheng), Fujian, China' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive World Atlas 2000*. (CDROM)
18. 'Shangjing' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive World Atlas 2000*. (CDROM)
19. 'Fujian Agricultural University (FAU)' 2001, Wisard Organisation Information website, March. (<http://www.wisard.org/wisard/shared/asp/generalinfo/intermediate.asp?InstitutionID=7040> – Accessed 4 July 2005)
20. 'Geography: Fuzhou city' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive World Atlas 2000*. (CDROM)
21. 'Fujian: Agriculture; Livestock; Livestock & Herd' 2005, China Yellow Pages website. (<http://www.yellowpageschina.com/1355/2.html> - Accessed 4 July 2005)
22. RRT Country Research 2003, *Research Response CHN15850*, 31 March.
23. RRT Country Research 1999, *Research Response CHN13926*, 21 January.
24. RRT Country Research 1999, *Research Response CHN13404*, 7 January.
25. 'Standard Mandarin' 2005, *Wikipedia*, 5 July. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Putonghua> - Accessed 5 July 2005)
26. 'Chinese Service, Parramatta' 2005, Hillsong Church website (<http://www.hillsong.com/church/extensionservices/bin/view.pl?sitename=extensionservices&page=chineseparramatta&showAboutUs=true&showextensionservices=true> – Accessed 4 July 2005)
27. 'Pentecostalism' 2005, *Wikipedia*, 30 June. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentecostal> - Accessed 1 July 2005)
28. RRT Country Research 2005, *Research Response CHN17352*, 7 June.
29. RRT Country Research 2004, *Research Response CHN16481*, 27 February.

30. RRT Country Research 2003, *Research Response CHN15799*, 12 March.
31. RRT Country Research 2002, *Research Response CHN15645*, 23 December.
32. RRT Country Research 1995, *Research Response CHN10628*, 4 August.