

**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. Can you find any information about the newspaper ‘Epoch Times International’?

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Google, Vivisimo & Copernic 2001 Personal Agent search engines

<u>Databases:</u>		
Public	<i>FACTIVA</i>	Reuters Business Briefing
RRT	<i>ISYS</i>	RRT Country Research database.

Response

1. Can you find any information about the newspaper ‘Epoch Times International’?

A search through the Tribunal’s resources located background information about this newspaper. Reading through the current articles, they tend to be highly critical of the PRC. According to the newspapers own website:

The Epoch Times: "A Fresh Look at Our Changing World"

Our Mission

The Epoch Times is an independent voice in print and on the web. We report news responsibly and truthfully so that readers can improve their own lives and increase their understanding and respect for their neighbors next door and around the globe. In our approach and in our content, we uphold universal human values, rights, and freedoms. We are a business that puts our readers' interests first, in all that we do.

Who We Are

The Epoch Times is a privately held news media company. The center is in New York, but our network of local reporters throughout the world uncovers stories that are authentically local, yet also globally relevant. Our independence enables us to report widely and present a diversity of opinions.

Our Purpose

During a time when the world is changing ever more quickly, people need reliable information to understand events and trends. We strive to make a positive impact on people's lives by helping all people understand the world and themselves, and to respect and appreciate each other. We report stories and air opinions unavailable elsewhere.

A special strength of the Epoch Times is our coverage of China. Today the world is increasingly looking to China, as this troubled giant goes through tremendous changes. Business and political leaders, and also world citizens, want to understand better what is happening there. We are able to provide well-sourced stories that no one else has through the original reporting done by the Chinese-language edition of The Epoch Times.

Our Values

A human being's fundamental right is the right to be heard. We uphold and defend freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly. We are also strong advocates for freedom of belief, and for all human rights, for all people.

We seek to speak out for those who are oppressed, and cannot speak for themselves. We speak to those in conflict, trying to show the common humanity they share, and the compassion that will help them truly respect the rights of others.

We work to tell the stories of daily life in our age, not on the basis of what is sensational at the moment, but instead in terms of what will be of lasting significance. We take the long view of humanity's history and future.

Our History

The English edition of The Epoch Times launched in September 2003 on the web, and in August 2004 as a newspaper in New York. It meets a growing need for news reported and published independently, uncovering stories that have depth and meaning to people. In English, as well as in other languages, it serves a broad, international readership.

The Chinese-language Epoch Times started publishing in response to the growing need for uncensored coverage of events in China. The first newspaper was published in New York in May 2000, with the web launch in August 2000. Local editions published by regional bureaus soon followed, making it the largest of any Chinese-language newspaper outside of Mainland China and Taiwan.

The Epoch Times continues to expand news coverage and newspaper distribution in more regions, and with editions in more languages. We are optimistic about the future. Watch us grow! ('The Epoch Times: A Fresh Look at Our Changing World, 2005, Epoch Times website [undated] <http://www.theepochtimes.com/aboutus.html> - Accessed 22 March 2006 – Attachment 1).

List of Attachments

1. The Epoch Times: A Fresh Look at Our Changing World, 2005, Epoch Times website [undated] <http://www.theepochtimes.com/aboutus.html>