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RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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29 September 2003

VNM42006.E

Vietnam: Treatment and status of Chinese-Vietnamese, especially Chinese-Vietnamese women, by the Vietnamese government and society in general (2001-2003)
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Information on the treatment and status of Chinese-Vietnamese by the Vietnamese government and society in general was scarce among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

No references to the treatment of Chinese-Vietnamese women, in particular, could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. Moreover, the International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) non-governmental organization, drawing on the second, third and fourth periodic reports submitted by Vietnam to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), reports that there are "no independent women's organizations" in the country (IWRAP n.d.). However, the government-affiliated Vietnam Women's Union acts to improve policies that affect women in Vietnam (ibid.).

In the *World Refugee Survey 2003* Country Report, the U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR) states that there are 3,000 ethnic Chinese, who arrived in Vietnam in the 1970s and 1980s, residing in UNHCR-sponsored refugee camps in Binh Duong and Binh Phuoc provinces and in Ho Chi Minh City (2003). According to the report, although the refugees are free to travel anywhere in the country, they are required to obtain official permits each time they leave the camps (USCR 2003). No information on the treatment of ethnic Chinese refugees in Vietnam was provided in the report.

Information on the situation of ethnic Chinese in Vietnam was found on the Center for International Development and Conflict Management's Minorities at Risk (MAR) project Website and is attached below. For the complete assessment, please consult the Website.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate 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. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP). n.d. "Vietnam: Combined Second, Third and Fourth Periodic Report (CEDAW/C/VNM2, CEDAW/C/VNM/3-4)."

<<http://iwrw.org/publications/countries/vietnam.htm>> [Accessed 24 Sept. 2003]

U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR). 2003. "Vietnam." *World Refugee Survey 2003*.

<http://www.refugees.org/world/countryrpt/easia_pacific/2003/vietnam.cfm> [Accessed 24 Sept. 2003]

Additional Sources Consulted

Dialog

IRB Databases

Internet sites, including:

Amnesty International

Asian Human Rights Commission

Country Reports 2002

Free Vietnam Alliance

Human Rights Watch

International Women's Rights Action Watch

UNHCR News

U.S. Committee for Refugees

Vietnam Human Rights Network

World News Connection

Attachment

Minorities at Risk (MAR) Project, Center for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM). 12 July 2002. "Chinese in Vietnam." Edited and compiled by Deepa Kholsa et al.
<<http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/mar/data/vietchi.htm>> [Accessed 24 Sept. 2003]

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