

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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Questions

1. **Is there any information concerning the position of Christians in 2005-06 in Nanning City in Guangxi?**
2. **Is there any information concerning the position of Christians in 2005-06 in Haikou City in Hainan?**

RESPONSE

1. Is there any information concerning the position of Christians in 2005-06 in Nanning City in Guangxi?

There is scarce information in the sources consulted concerning Christians in 2005-2006 in Nanning City, Guangxi. Sources reporting the death of Meng Ziwen, the underground Catholic bishop of Nanning, in 2007 at 103 years of age, do briefly refer to the situation of Christians in Guangxi.

One news article cites Fr Giancarlo Politi, a missionary with the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions and a China expert, who refers to Guangxi in the following terms:

Father Politi remembers that the prelate “always led humble life. Although he could not call himself bishop he was always relatively free to move around Guangxi to visit small Christian communities and lived quietly. Here, there never were any of the open clashes with the Church as elsewhere in China”... (‘Underground bishop, a “humble but extraordinary pastor”, dies at 103’ 2007, AsiaNews.it website, 12 January <http://www.asianews.it/index.php?l=en&art=8219&geo=6&theme=2&size=A#> – Accessed 21 September 2007 – Attachment 1).

However, the articles note that the bishop, who had been detained in earlier years, did not use his title in public to avoid problems for himself or his community ('Underground bishop, a "humble but extraordinary pastor", dies at 103' 2007, AsiaNews.it website, 12 January <http://www.asianews.it/index.php?l=en&art=8219&geo=6&theme=2&size=A#> – Accessed 21 September 2007 – Attachment 1; 'Bishop Meng Ziwen' 2007, Timesonline website, 8 February <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/obituaries/article1350299.ece> – Accessed 21 September 2007 – Attachment 2).

Tony Lambert, in the 2006 publication *China's Christian Millions*, briefly surveys the situation in Guangxi (Lambert, Tony 2006, *China's Christian Millions*, Monarch Books, Oxford, p.244 – Attachment 3).

In respect of unregistered churches Lambert writes:

...Throughout the province, there are many meeting-points, both registered and unregistered. City house churches are small, and run their own short-term training sessions...(Lambert, Tony 2006, *China's Christian Millions*, Monarch Books, Oxford, p.244 – Attachment 3).

Other general information on Christians in China, including house churches, is in the following documents:

- US Department of State 2007, *International Religious Freedom Report 2007 – China*, 14 September – Attachment 4.
- Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2007, *CHN102492.E – China: Reports of raids on Protestant house churches; frequency and location of raids (2005 – 2007)*, 22 June – Attachment 5.
- Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2007, *CHN102491.E – China: Treatment of "ordinary" Christian house church members by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) (2005 – 2007)*, 13 June http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=451316 – Accessed 21 September 2007 – Attachment 6.
- Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2007, *CHN102493.E – China: Whether a person detained at an underground church meeting would have his or her name placed in the Public Security Bureau (PSB) database*, 8 May http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=451178 – Accessed 22 August 2007 – Attachment 7.
- Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2007, *CHN102494.E – Chinese Communist Party first as opposed to God or Jesus; differences between the Chinese Patriotic Church and the unregistered Christian churches*, 27 April http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=451150 – Accessed 21 September 2007 – Attachment 8.

2. Is there any information concerning the position of Christians in 2005-06 in Haikou City in Hainan?

No information was found in the sources consulted concerning Christians in Haikou City, Hainan, and little information was found in respect of Hainan province.

Lambert, in the 2006 publication *China's Christian Millions* on Hainan writes:

Hainan has at least 39,000 Christians. Reports by some overseas sources that there are over 200,000 have yet to be verified. House-church leaders from several places across the island have given estimates reaching as high as 50,000. Idolatry and folk religion are rife and very strongly rooted (Lambert, Tony 2006, *China's Christian Millions*, Monarch Books, Oxford, p.246 – Attachment 3).

And:

House churches on Hainan are numerous, but appear to be split with rivalries between leaders (Lambert, Tony 2006, *China's Christian Millions*, Monarch Books, Oxford, p.246 – Attachment 3).

For other information on Christians in Hainan see: RRT Research & Information Services 2006, *Research Response CHN31077*, 22 December, quest. 1 – Attachment 9.

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Google search engine <http://www.google.com.au/>
China Aid Association <http://www.chinaaid.org/>
Christian Solidarity Worldwide <http://www.csw.org.uk/Countries/index.php?id=1>
Forum 18 <http://www.forum18.org/Analyses.php?region=3>
Human Rights in China <http://www.hrichina.org/public/index>
Radio Free Asia <http://www.rfa.org/english/>

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. 'Underground bishop, a "humble but extraordinary pastor", dies at 103' 2007, AsiaNews.it website, 12 January
<http://www.asianews.it/index.php?l=en&art=8219&geo=6&theme=2&size=A#> – Accessed 21 September 2007.
2. 'Bishop Meng Ziwen' 2007, Timesonline website, 8 February
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/obituaries/article1350299.ece> – Accessed 21 September 2007.

3. Lambert, Tony 2006, *China's Christian Millions*, Monarch Books, Oxford, pp.244-247. (MRT-RRT Library)
4. US Department of State 2007, *International Religious Freedom Report 2007 – China*, 14 September.
5. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2007, *CHN102492.E – China: Reports of raids on Protestant house churches; frequency and location of raids (2005 – 2007)*, 22 June.
6. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2007, *CHN102491.E – China: Treatment of “ordinary” Christian house church members by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) (2005 – 2007)*, 13 June http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=451316 – Accessed 21 September 2007.
7. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2007, *CHN102493.E – China: Whether a person detained at an underground church meeting would have his or her name placed in the Public Security Bureau (PSB) database*, 8 May http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=451178 – Accessed 22 August 2007.
8. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2007, *CHN102494.E – Chinese Communist Party first as opposed to God or Jesus; differences between the Chinese Patriotic Church and the unregistered Christian churches*, 27 April http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=451150 – Accessed 21 September 2007.
9. RRT Research & Information Services 2006, *Research Response CHN31077*, 22 December, quest. 1.