



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

**China - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Monday 27 April 2015**

**Information on the current security situation: including in Fu Jian and adjoining provinces; Guandong province; Beijing; & Shanghai**

A paper issued by the *European Union Institute for Security Studies* in March 2015 points out that:

“The main danger to China’s national security today appears to be a domestic one. The most pressing threat is posed by extremists in China’s westernmost province Xinjiang, where the Turkistan Islamic Group, a terrorist outfit, is active” (European Union Institute for Security Studies (March 2015) *China’s People’s Liberation Army: The Politico-Military Nexus*, p.4).

In April 2015 *Radio Free Asia* notes that:

“Authorities in northwest China’s restive Xinjiang region have killed three people and jailed two others from an ethnic Uyghur family during a three-month operation targeting suspected terrorists, according to state media and a relative of one of those killed” (Radio Free Asia (7 April 2015) *Chinese authorities kill three, jail two members of Uyghur family in ‘anti-terror’ raids*).

This document also notes that:

“In recent years, China has launched a series of “strike hard” campaigns in Xinjiang in the name of fighting separatism, religious extremism and terrorism. The targets of these campaigns, the minority Turkic-speaking, Muslim Uyghurs, complain of pervasive ethnic discrimination, religious repression, and cultural suppression by China’s communist government. Uyghurs say they chafe under strict police scrutiny and controls on their movements and violent clashes with authorities are not uncommon in the region” (ibid).

A report issued in January 2015 by *Freedom House* commenting on events of the previous year notes:

“During 2014, harassment of both underground and state-sanctioned churches increased, especially in Zhejiang Province, where officials sought to curb the popularity of Christianity by removing publicly visible crosses and demolishing many church buildings...” (Freedom House (28 January 2015) *Freedom in the World 2015 – China*).

Zhejiang Province is adjacent to Fujian Province.

A map issued in 2011 by the *CIA* shows Fujian Province and all adjacent Provinces (Zhejiang, Jiangxi & Guangdong) along with Shanghai and Beijing (CIA (2011) *China Administrative Divisions*).

In March 2015 a report issued by the *United States Overseas Security Advisory Council* notes that:

“Beijing, with a population of almost 20 million people, is generally safe when compared to other major urban areas. The police and security service presence serves to deter most serious crimes...” (United States Overseas Security Advisory Council (18 March 2015) *China 2015 Crime and Safety Report: Beijing*, p.1).

A report released in April 2015 by *Radio Free Asia* notes that:

“Authorities in the southern province of Guangdong are widening the net in an ongoing crackdown on critics of the ruling Chinese Communist Party with the detention of an Internet user for "rumor-mongering," activists and their relatives said on Friday” (Radio Free Asia (10 April 2015) *Police in China's Guangdong Widen Crackdown on Activists, Netizens*).

In April 2015 the *International Business Times* states:

“Police in China have detained or taken away over 50 people after two separate protests in the capital of Beijing and southern Guangdong region, state news agency Xinhua reported” (International Business Times (4 April 2015) *China Police Arrests Protesters In Guangdong, Beijing*).

In April 2015 a publication issued by *Radio Free Asia* notes that:

“Authorities in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong have detained an unknown number of people after clashes between police and protesters over allegations of official corruption, local residents said on Friday” (Radio Free Asia (3 April 2015) *China: Guangdong anti-graft activists held after clashes on high-speed rail line*).

No further information on any of these issues could be found among sources available to the RDC.

## References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre 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 read in full all documents referred to.

#### Sources Consulted

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