



**Malaysia – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 20 August 2013**

**Information on the treatment of failed asylum seekers on return to Malaysia.**

Information on the treatment of failed asylum seekers returned to Malaysia was extremely scarce among sources available to the Research and Information Unit.

A country advice document published by the Refugee Review Tribunal of Australia, in response to the request ‘Please provide information on the treatment of failed asylum seekers returning to Malaysia’, quoted information contained in an earlier response dated 4 November 2009 as follows:

“Commentators such as the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), US Department of State human rights reports, Freedom House, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch would appear to have expressed no concerns, in their most recent annual reports, about the treatment of Malaysian citizens returned to Malaysia after seeking asylum overseas.” (Refugee Review Tribunal of Australia (6 January 2010) *Malaysia – MYS35944 – Women – Ethnic Chinese – Non-Muslims – Buddhists – Muslim fundamentalists – Khalwat – State protection – Asylum seekers*)

The US Department of State country report on Malaysia for 2012, in a section titled “Freedom of Movement, Internally Displaced Persons, Protection of Refugees, and Stateless Persons”, states:

“The constitution provides for internal movement, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation and the government generally respected these rights in practice, although there were some restrictions, particularly with respect to the eastern states of Sabah and Sarawak. The government generally cooperated with the UNHCR during the year and the UNHCR reported good access to government officials. The government generally did not impede other humanitarian organizations in providing protection and assistance to internally displaced persons, refugees, returning refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, and other persons of concern, with the exception of the deportation of six Uighurs and the deportation of Hamza Kashgari.” (US Department of State (19 April 2013) *2012 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Malaysia*, p.28)

An article from The Malay Mail Online which refers to a government programme aimed at enticing Malaysians working overseas to return home states:

“The government spent RM65 million to entice a total of 2,105 Malaysian ‘experts’ to return to the country since 2011, which works out to RM30,879

each, Parliament was told today. Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar said that Talent Corp's Returning Expert Programme (REP) had brought back 680 experts in 2011, 923 in 2012 and 502 from January to June this year. The majority of the returnees were Chinese Malaysian men." (The Malay Mail Online (18 July 2013) *Returning Malaysians: 2,105. Price: RM65m. Minister: Money well spent*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit 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.

### **References:**

The Malay Mail Online (18 July 2013) *Returning Malaysians: 2,105. Price: RM65m. Minister: Money well spent*  
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### **Sources Consulted:**

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Google  
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