



Australian Government

Migration Review Tribunal · Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice Service

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The Country Advice Service assists Tribunal Members with advice, analysis and information on country of origin issues relevant to MRT and RRT reviews.

The Service has a particular role assisting Members in their determination of the validity of the claims in RRT reviews.

Stakeholders and interested groups are welcome to contribute to the Tribunals' knowledge and holdings of country of origin information and to comment on the country advice published on the website.

Suggestions for improvement of the Service would be appreciated.

The Country Advice Service critically evaluates and analyses a wide range of open source material in order to provide RRT Members with the following:

- oral and written advice and analysis of available country of origin information relevant to particular refugee claims;
- individual face to face and workshop briefings of Members on general and comprehensive country of origin information;
- hearing briefings to assist Members' preparation for and conduct of hearings;
- question & answer service;
- verification of evidence;
- file reviews to identify country information issues relevant to refugee claims; and
- draft decision checking to ensure country information is up-to-date.

The Country Advice Service maintains awareness of political and social developments and conflict around the world, with a special focus on the major source countries for RRT reviews.

Organisations and groups in source countries are also researched, as are matters such as internal freedom of movement and the position of minorities. A range of issues relevant to MRT reviews are researched, including family structure, marriage and adoption laws and customs in several countries.

The service consults reputable sources from Australian and overseas governments, as well as international development and humanitarian organisations, NGOs, religious and interest groups. Academic and media sources are also consulted where appropriate. Country Advice also makes off-shore enquiries on behalf of Members directly and through overseas diplomatic posts of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Country Advice Service products are published on the Tribunals' website for the information of applicants, migration advisers, other stakeholders and the general community. Published country advice is selectively edited to remove information which may identify an applicant for a protection visa. Publication will be delayed while a protection visa application is currently before the Refugee Review Tribunal and where there is potential for prejudice to a particular review applicant.

For more information on the Tribunals please refer to the Tribunals' website www.mrt-rrt.gov.au or contact:

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