



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

China

China – CHN37825 – Guizhou Province –
Ethnic groups – Guizhou police force

29 November 2010

1. Please provide any available information about the ethnic composition of the general population, and the police force in particular, in Guizhou Province.

Guizhou is reported to be one of China's most multi-ethnic provinces. Guizhou has 49 different minority groups¹ that comprise approximately 37 per cent of the total population of the province and include Yao, Miao, Yi, Qiang, Dong, Zhuang, Buyi, Bai, Tujia, Gelao and Shui communities.²

General Population

According to the Wikipedia entry for Guizhou province, the 2000 population census in China listed the ethnic composition of the province as follows:³

Han - 62%
Miao - 12%
Buyi - 8%
Dong - 5%
Tujia - 4%
Yi - 2%
Undistinguished - 2%
Gelao - 2%
Shui - 1%

The Miao are the largest ethnic minority group in the province; 48.1 per cent of the Miao living in China reside in Guizhou.⁴ Travel company China Highlights notes that "people often refer to Guizhou Province as "the base of the Miao nationality"⁵.

¹ 'China City and Province: Guizhou Province' (undated), China Today website

<http://www.chinatoday.com/city/guizhou.htm> - Accessed 25 November 2010 – Attachment 7

² 'Guizhou Travel Guide' 2010, China Tour 360 website <http://www.chinatour360.com/guizhou/> - Accessed 25 November 2010 – Attachment 1; 'Ethnic Minorities in China' (undated), Chinese Culture Centre of San Francisco website <http://www.c-c-c.org/chineseculture/minority/minority.html> - Accessed 25 November 2010 – Attachment 2

³ 'Guizhou' 2010, Wikipedia, 19 November <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guizhou> - Accessed 25 November 2010 – Attachment 3. Wikipedia is a Web-based free-content encyclopaedia which is written collaboratively by volunteers via a wiki application which allows for the creation of Wikipedia articles, and for the editing of the majority of Wikipedia's existing articles, by anyone with access to a web browser. The collaboratively written products which the wiki system engenders can often provide the Wikipedia user with a source of accurate and timely information. Nonetheless, Wikipedia's open nature has seen instances of abuse, error and vandalism, which have led to the publication of misinformation. For this reason, care should be exercised when deciding what reliance to place on the content of this publication in connection with review decision making. Research Services recommends that users of Wikipedia familiarise themselves with the regulatory practices which Wikipedia employs as a preventative measure against vandalism, bias and inaccuracy.

Guizhou has nine prefectural divisions, three of which are autonomous regions where populations of ethnic minorities are higher.⁶ The Southeast Guizhou (Qiandongnan) Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, South Guizhou (Qiannan) Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture and Southwest Guizhou (Qianxinan) Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture are inhabited mainly by Miao, Dong, Buyi and Shui nationalities.⁷ One travel website describes Guizhou as “the home to many ethnic groups which are minority in China [where] the government has made it point [*sic*] to ensure their exclusivity by declaring half of the province autonomous”.⁸

The Miao population is particularly dominant in the southeast of the province in Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture. The county with the highest concentration of Miao people is Tai County, where 97 per cent of the population is Miao. The China Highlights travel website states that the Miao tend to live in remote and mountainous areas far from the city.⁹

Guizhou Police Force

No information was located regarding the ethnic composition of the police force in Guizhou province. One source was located that notes that in some Miao-dominated areas in Guizhou, before the autonomous prefectures were established, priority was given to election of Miao delegates to the People's congress and training and appointment of minority administrative staff. The source states that as a result there are now a large number of Miao people in township and district official posts.¹⁰ This could indicate that in minority-dominated localities within Guizhou province, local police forces could be staffed with a high proportion of individuals from ethnic minorities; however, no sources were located to confirm this.

It may be of note that a number of reports were located that describe violent clashes in 2008 between police and locals in Guizhou province over allegations of corruption. Several articles describe a June 2008 incident in Weng'an County, Guizhou, in which up to 30,000 people rioted over an inadequate police response to the suspicious death of a teenage girl. Police cars, the main police station and government headquarters were all set on fire by protesters.¹¹ None of the reports indicated, however, that ethnic tensions were involved in the violence.

⁴ ‘Basic facts of various ethnic groups’ 2009, China Daily website http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/ethnic/2009-08/18/content_8582984.htm - Accessed 25 November 2010 – Attachment 4

⁵ ‘Miao Minority’ 2010, China Highlights website <http://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/nationality/miao.htm> - Accessed 25 November 2010 – Attachment 5

⁶ ‘Guizhou’ 2010, Wikipedia, 19 November <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guizhou> - Accessed 25 November 2010 – Attachment 3.

⁷ ‘Ethnic China: Ethnic Guizhou’ 2007. Ethnic China website <http://www.ethnic-china.com/Geo/Guizhou/guizhouintro.htm> - Accessed 26 November 2010 – Attachment 8

⁸ ‘Guizhou’ (undated), Maps of the World website <http://www.mapsofworld.com/china/provinces/guizhou/> - Accessed 26 November 2010 – Attachment 13

⁹ ‘Miao Minority’ 2010, China Highlights website <http://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/nationality/miao.htm> - Accessed 25 November 2010 – Attachment 5

¹⁰ ‘The Miao Ethnic Group’ 2005, China Through a Lens website, 21 June <http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/EthnicGroups/136935.htm> - Accessed 25 November 2010 – Attachment 6

¹¹ Wong, E. 2009, ‘Chinese Question Police Absence in Ethnic Riots’, *New York Times*, 18 July http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/18/world/asia/18xinjiang.html?_r=1 – Accessed 26 November 2010 – Attachment 9; Fei, X. 2008, ‘Girl’s Murder Triggers Riot in Guizhou Province’, *Epoch Times*, 29 June <http://www.theepochtimes.com/news/8-6-29/72671.html> - Accessed 26 November 2010 – Attachment 10; Unrest in Guizhou Province Quashed by Armed Police’ 2008, *Epoch Times*, 30 June

Attachments

1. 'Guizhou Travel Guide' 2010, China Tour 360 website
<http://www.chinatour360.com/guizhou/> - Accessed 25 November 2010.
2. 'Ethnic Minorities in China' (undated), Chinese Culture Centre of San Francisco website <http://www.c-c-c.org/chineseculture/minority/minority.html> - Accessed 25 November 2010.
3. 'Guizhou' 2010, Wikipedia, 19 November <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guizhou> - Accessed 25 November 2010.
4. 'Basic facts of various ethnic groups' 2009, China Daily website http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/ethnic/2009-08/18/content_8582984.htm - Accessed 25 November 2010.
5. 'Miao Minority' 2010, China Highlights website <http://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/nationality/miao.htm> - Accessed 25 November 2010.
6. 'The Miao Ethnic Group' 2005, China Through a Lens website, 21 June <http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/EthnicGroups/136935.htm> - Accessed 25 November 2010.
7. 'China City and Province: Guizhou Province' (undated), China Today website <http://www.chinatoday.com/city/guizhou.htm> - Accessed 25 November 2010.
8. 'Ethnic China: Ethnic Guizhou' 2007. Ethnic China website <http://www.ethnic-china.com/Geo/Guizhou/guizhouintro.htm> - Accessed 26 November 2010.
9. Wong, E. 2009, 'Chinese Question Police Absence in Ethnic Riots', *New York Times*, 18 July http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/18/world/asia/18xinjiang.html?_r=1 – Accessed 26 November 2010.
10. Fei, X. 2008, 'Girl's Murder Triggers Riot in Guizhou Province', *Epoch Times*, 29 June <http://www.theepochtimes.com/news/8-6-29/72671.html> - Accessed 26 November 2010.
11. Unrest in Guizhou Province Quashed by Armed Police' 2008, *Epoch Times*, 30 June <http://www.theepochtimes.com/news/8-6-30/72694.html> - Accessed 26 November 2010.
12. Buckley, C. 2008, 'Girl's death sparks rioting in China', *Reuters*, 28 June <http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKPEK27256220080628?sp=true> – Accessed 26 November 2010.

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/news/8-6-30/72694.html> - Accessed 26 November 2010 – Attachment 11;
Buckley, C. 2008, 'Girl's death sparks rioting in China', *Reuters*, 28 June
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKPEK27256220080628?sp=true> – Accessed 26 November 2010 – Attachment 12;
'Guizhou police detain 117 for June unrest', *Xinhua*, China Daily website, 20 July
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2008-07/20/content_6861550.htm - Accessed 26 November 2010 – Attachment 14

13. 'Guizhou' (undated), Maps of the World website
<http://www.mapsofworld.com/china/provinces/guizhou/> - Accessed 26 November 2010.
14. 'Guizhou police detain 117 for June unrest', *Xinhua*, China Daily website, 20 July
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2008-07/20/content_6861550.htm - Accessed 26 November 2010.