Responses to Information Requests (RIR) respond to focused Requests for Information that are submitted to the Research Directorate in the course of the refugee protection determination process. The database contains a year archive of English and French RIRs. Earlier RIRs may be found on the UNHCR's Refworld website.

1. Circumstances and Authorities Responsible for Issuing Summons or Subpoenas

In correspondence sent to the Research Directorate, an associate professor of law at the Procedure Research Institute of the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) explained that there is a "significant difference" between the legal system in China and the one in Canada, making it difficult to compare summonses and subpoenas in the two countries (Associate Professor, CUPL 2 Oct. 2012). However, the Professor at the CUPL added that,

if summonses are defined as "the official requirement to defendant[s] to [appear] before the authorities or the court" [and] subpoenas as "the official requirement to witnesses to testify before the authorities or in court" there are similar legal arrangements in China. (ibid.)

1.1 Summons

In correspondence sent to the Research Directorate, a visiting scholar on the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong, who has extensive research experience regarding Chinese criminal justice and administrative detention, provided detailed information regarding the summonses in use in China (Visiting Scholar, Sept. 2012). The Visiting Scholar stated that there are three types of summonses in China: public security summonses, criminal summonses, and "coercive summonses" (ibid.).

According to the Visiting Scholar,

[Public security summonses (zhì'ān chuànhuàn)] are issued by public security organs to persons who violate the Security Administration Punishment Law of the People's Republic of China (SAPL), or any other piece of regulation on the administration of public security. (ibid.)

The Visiting Scholar provided the following information regarding criminal summonses

Criminal summonses (xíngshì chuànhuàn) are served by the people's courts, people's procuracies, public security organs to criminal suspects or defendants who need not be placed under pretrial detention to appear before courts or undergo interrogation by the procuracy, the police or state security organs. (ibid.)
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