

**INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
ON THE ELIMINATION
OF ALL FORMS OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**



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OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
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CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION

Initial reports of States parties due in 1983

Addendum

CHINA 1/

[22 February 1983]

I. General:

1. The People's Republic of China is a unitary multinational state with 56 different nationalities. According to the census of 1 July 1982, the total population of China is 1,031,882,511, out of which 1,008,175,288 are on the mainland.
2. People of the Han nationality on the mainland number 936,703,824, making up 93.3 per cent of the country's total population. People of the 55 minority nationalities number 67,233,254, making up 6.7 per cent of the total population.
3. The eight most populous minority nationalities are as follows:
 1. Zhuang, 13,380,000
 2. Hui, 7,220,000
 3. Uygur, 5,960,000
 4. Yi, 5,450,000
 5. Miao, 5,030,000
 6. Man, 4,290,000
 7. Zang (Tibetan), 3,870,000
 8. Monggol (Mongolian), 3,410,000

1/ The text of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China is available in the files of the Secretariat for consultation by members of the Committee in English, as furnished by the Government.

4. The least populous is the Hezhen nationality with a population of 1,476.

II. Distribution of the minority nationalities:

5. The main regions where the minority nationalities live in compact communities are the Nei Monggol Autonomous Region in the north, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in the northwest, the Xizang Autonomous Region in the southwest, the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in the south, and Qinghai, Gansu, Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan Provinces. In Jilin, Liaoning, Heilongjiang, Hubei, Hunan and Guangdong Provinces, there are also compact communities of minority nationalities. In Taiwan Province, there is the Gaoshan nationality. In addition, over 17,000,000 people of minority nationalities live intermingled or scattered in cities, towns and villages in all parts of the country.

III. The basic policies and regulations with regard to the nationality question:

6. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Government and people have persistently taken the position of opposing racism and racial discrimination and supported the people of other countries in their struggle against racism and racial discrimination. Internally, in order to eliminate all forms of national oppression and discrimination left over from history, effective measures have been taken and all systems of national oppression and discrimination abolished. In the Common Programme adopted in 1949 and the Constitutions promulgated by the People's Republic of China in 1954, 1975 and 1978, there are explicit provisions regarding the equality, unity, development and prosperity of nationalities as well as the exercise of equal rights by citizens of all nationalities. Regarding the question of nationality, the Constitution of 1982 summarizes the experience in nationality work since the founding of the People's Republic and the need for the common development and prosperity of all nationalities in the future and includes more comprehensive provisions in various respects. The relevant articles are cited below:

- 1. Principles regarding the nationality question

(a) The People's Republic of China is a unitary multinational state built up jointly by the people of all its nationalities (Preamble).

(b) All nationalities in the People's Republic of China are equal. The state protects the lawful rights and interests of the minority nationalities and upholds and develops the relationship of equality, unity and mutual assistance among all of China's nationalities. Discrimination against and oppression of any nationality are prohibited; any acts that undermine the unity of the nationalities or instigate their secession are prohibited.

The state helps the areas inhabited by minority nationalities speed up their economic and cultural development in accordance with the peculiarities and needs of the different minority nationalities.

Regional autonomy is practised in areas where people of minority nationalities live in compact communities; in these areas organs of self-government are established for the exercise of the right of autonomy. All the national autonomous areas are inalienable parts of the People's Republic of China.

The people of all nationalities have the freedom to use and develop their own spoken and written languages, and to preserve or reform their own ways and customs (Article 4).

- 2. On regional autonomy of nationalities

(a) The organs of self-government of national autonomous areas are the people's congresses and people's governments of autonomous regions, autonomous prefectures and autonomous counties (Article 112).

(b) The chairmanship and vice-chairmanships of the standing committee of the people's congress of an autonomous region, prefecture or county shall include a citizen or citizens of the nationality or nationalities exercising regional autonomy in the area concerned (Article 113).

(c) The administrative head of an autonomous region, prefecture or county shall be a citizen of the nationality, or of one of the nationalities, exercising regional autonomy in the area concerned (Article 114).

(d) People's congresses of national autonomous areas have the power to enact autonomy regulations and specific regulations in the light of the political, economic and cultural characteristics of the nationality or nationalities in the areas concerned. The autonomy regulations and specific regulations of autonomous regions shall be submitted to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for approval before they go into effect (Article 116).

(e) The organs of self-government of the national autonomous areas have the power of autonomy in administering the finances of their areas. They can independently arrange for and administer local economic development under the guidance of state plans (Articles 117 and 118).

(f) The organs of self-government of the national autonomous areas independently administer educational, scientific, cultural, public health and physical culture affairs in their respective areas, protect and cull through the cultural heritage of the nationalities and work for the development and flourishing of their cultures (Article 119).

(g) In performing their functions, the organs of self-government of the national autonomous areas, in accordance with the autonomy regulations of the respective areas, employ the spoken and written language or languages in common use in the locality (Article 121).

(h) Citizens of all nationalities have the right to use the spoken and written languages of their own nationalities in court proceedings. The people's court and people's procuratorates should provide translation for any party to the courts proceedings who is not familiar with the spoken or written languages in common use in the locality.

In an area where people of a minority nationality live in a compact community or where a number of nationalities live together, hearings should be conducted in the language or languages in common use in the locality; indictments, judgments, notices and other documents should be written, according to actual needs, in the language or languages in common use in the locality (Article 134).

- 3. The National People's Congress should include deputies of the minority nationalities

(a) The National People's Congress is composed of deputies elected by the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government, and by the armed forces. All the minority nationalities are entitled to appropriate representation (Article 59).

(b) Minority nationalities are entitled to appropriate representation on the Standing Committee on the National People's Congress (Article 65).

- 4. Rights of the people of all nationalities

(a) All persons holding the nationality of the People's Republic of China are citizens of the People's Republic of China. (Article 2 of China's Nationality Law stipulates that the People's Republic of China is a multinational state and persons belonging to any of the nationalities of China have Chinese nationality.)

All citizens of the People's Republic of China are equal before the law.

Every citizen enjoys the rights and at the same time must perform the duties prescribed by the Constitution and the law (Article 33).

(b) All citizens of the People's Republic of China who have reached the age of 18 have the right to vote and stand for election, regardless of nationality, race, sex, occupation, family background, religious belief, education, property status, or length of residence, except persons deprived of political rights according to law (Article 34).

(c) Provisions are made in Articles 13, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47 and 49 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China with respect to freedom of religious belief, the inviolability of freedom of person, the inviolability of personal dignity, the inviolability of citizens' home, freedom of correspondence, right to work, to rest, to health service and social relief, the right to receive education, the freedom to engage in scientific research, literary and artistic creation and other cultural pursuits, the freedom of marriage and the state protection of the right to own or to inherit private property.