

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: MYS33846
Country: Malaysia
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Keywords: Malaysia – MYS33846 – Ah Longs – Loan sharks – Chinese and Malay/Muslim Names – Chinese Muslim Ah Longs

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Questions

- 1. Are there Malay/Muslim Ah Longs or do they only come from the Chinese community?**
- 2. Are the names Kenny, Soon, and Ah Hoon likely to be Malay/Muslim or Chinese names?**
- 3. If the latter, could Chinese Muslims be Ah Longs?**

RESPONSE

- 1. Are there Malay/Muslim Ah Longs or do they only come from the Chinese community?**

Despite usury being prohibited by Islam (Berg C. & Kemp, A. 2007, 'Islam's free market heritage', Institute of Public Affairs website, March www.ipa.org.au/library/59-1_Islam+FreeMarket.pdf - Accessed 7 October 2008 – Attachment 1), information was found which makes specific reference to the operation of Muslim Ah Longs or loan sharks in Malaysia ('No jurisdiction over Muslim Ah Longs: Jheains' 2006, *Daily Express*, 28 April <http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news.cfm?NewsID=41730> - Accessed 3 October 2008 – Attachment 2). However, no information is given within this newspaper article identifying to which ethnic community the Muslim Ah Longs referred to belong.

It may be of interest that the sources consulted made reference to various forms of assistance offered to Muslims who experience personal and/or financial difficulties as a result of borrowing from Ah Longs (Chin, C. 2008, 'Help offered to Muslim Ah Long victims', *The Star Online*, 13 January <http://thestar.com.my/metro/story.asp?file=/2008/1/13/north/19997201&sec=north> - Accessed 3 October 2008 – Attachment 3 ; Bailand, V.N. 2008, 'NGO helping loan shark victims shocked by arrests', *The Star Online*, 29 July

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/7/29/nation/21944874&sec=nation> - Accessed 30 September 2008 – Attachment 4; ‘Council aids victims of Ah Long’ 2007, *The Star Online*, 10 December
<http://thestar.com.my/metro/story.asp?file=/2007/12/10/north/19714611&sec=north> – Accessed 3 October 2008 – Attachment 5). Within these sources no reference is made identifying to which ethnic group the Ah Longs referred to belong.

2. Deleted.

3. If the latter, could Chinese Muslims be Ah Longs?

No information was found in the sources consulted regarding Chinese Muslims operating as Ah Longs, although there is evidence to show that Ah Longs exist within both Chinese and Muslim communities (see response to Question 1).

For further information on Chinese Ah Longs see the following research responses:

- RRT Country Research 2007, *Research Response MYS31873*, 8 June (Attachment 15)
- RRT Country Research 2006, *Research Response MYS31156*, 21 December (Attachment 16)

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Region Specific Links

Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation website <http://www.emcpf.org/>

Malaysian Chinese Muslim Association website <http://www.macma.org.my/>

The Star Online <http://www.thestar.com.my.com/>

Daily Express (Sabah, Malaysia) www.dailyexpress.com.my/

The New Straits Times Online www.nst.com.my/

Malay Mail Online <http://www.mmail.com.my/>

Search Engines

Copernic <http://www.copernic.com/>

Google <http://www.google.com>

Google Scholar <http://scholar.google.com.au/>

Clusty <http://clusty.com/>

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Research & Information database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

MRT-RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. Berg C. & Kemp, A. 2007, 'Islam's free market heritage', Institute of Public Affairs website, March www.ipa.org.au/library/59-1_Islam+FreeMarket.pdf - Accessed 7 October 2008.
2. 'No jurisdiction over Muslim Ah Longs: Jheains' 2006, *Daily Express*, 28 April <http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news.cfm?NewsID=41730> - Accessed 3 October 2008.
3. Chin, C. 2008, 'Help offered to Muslim Ah Long victims', *The Star Online*, 13 January <http://thestar.com.my/metro/story.asp?file=/2008/1/13/north/19997201&sec=north> - Accessed 3 October 2008.
4. Bailand, V.N. 2008, 'NGO helping loan shark victims shocked by arrests', *The Star Online*, 29 July <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/7/29/nation/21944874&sec=nation> - Accessed 30 September 2008.
5. 'Council aids victims of Ah Long' 2007, *The Star Online*, 10 December <http://thestar.com.my/metro/story.asp?file=/2007/12/10/north/19714611&sec=north> - Accessed 3 October 2008.
6. Deleted.
7. Deleted.
8. Deleted.
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10. Deleted.
11. Deleted.
12. Deleted.
13. Deleted.
14. Deleted.
15. RRT Country Research 2007, *Research Response MYS31873*, 8 June.
16. RRT Country Research 2006, *Research Response MYS31156*, 21 December.