



Australian Government

Department of Immigration and Border Protection

Standard Q&A Report

Bangladesh: BGD15871 – Treatment of returnees to Bangladesh

Requesting Organisation DIBP
Date of Report 03 March 2014

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Background

An applicant claims that he will be persecuted in Bangladesh because he left the country illegally.

Questions

1. Please provide information on returnees to Bangladesh and their treatment by the authorities.

Answers

1. Please provide information on returnees to Bangladesh and their treatment by the authorities.

COIS has not found information that would indicate that departure from Bangladesh by illegal/irregular means would result in ill-treatment by Bangladeshi authorities. The US State Department report of 2013 states that passport holders do not require exit permits or visas to leave the country:

The law provides for freedom of movement within the country, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation, and the government generally respected these rights in practice, except in two sensitive areas, the CHT and Cox's Bazar.

[...]

Foreign Travel: Passport holders do not require exit permits or visas to leave the country. There were no special controls on women or minorities. Some senior opposition officials reported extensive delays in getting their passports renewed. The international travel ban continued on war crimes suspects from the 1971 liberation war.¹

Information on the treatment of returnees in general is limited. A report by the Danish Institute of International Studies in 2013 noted that:

...there is a general lack of data on the lives of returnees, particularly in the medium and long term. The time limited project span of return programmes and the tradition of subcontracting to migrant organization makes it difficult to evaluate the situation of returnees in the long term. This hampers evaluations of the sustainability of returns.²

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) provides assistance to persons wishing to return voluntarily to Bangladesh. The IOM website contains the following information:

Facilitating Migration: Return and Reintegration

IOM works with different governments and has been designing and implementing return and resettlement programmes and offering support to both government and returnees in the form of Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR – Iraq, Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, Ukraine, Libya, Morocco), Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP – UK) and the Return Information Fund (RIF – Switzerland), AVR programme with IOM France (ARER). IOM also assists rejected asylum seekers, trafficked victims, stranded migrants, labour migrants and qualified nationals to return home on a voluntary basis and family reunification and tracing of migrants and individuals. A document verification programme for the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Programme (AINP) is also being conducted on a regular basis.

IOM facilitates refugee resettlement programmes including movement, travel and cultural orientation training to Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Sweden, Norway, Ireland and the UK. In addition, IOM is engaged in family tracing programmes.

¹ 'Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2012 - Bangladesh', *US State Department*, 19 April 2013 <<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2012&dldid=204395>> accessed 24 February 2014

² Zachary Whyte and Dan V. Hirsland 'International Experiences with the Sustainable Assisted Return of Rejected Asylum Seekers', *Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)*, p.9, 2013 <http://www.diis.dk/files/publications/Reports2013/RP2013-13-Sustainable-assisted-return_web.jpg.pdf> accessed 24 February 2014

Projects

- Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme - VARRP
- AVR programme with IOM France – ARER
- Assisted Voluntary Return – AVR
- Return Information Fund - RIF
- Refugee Resettlement Programmes
- Verification for the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Programme³

An IOM report of 2012 provides information on the number of people returned to Bangladesh through IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) program. Over the period 2000-2011, 1,269 Bangladeshis returned.⁴

ANNEX I

Overview of AVRR to countries of origin, 2000–2011*

Country of origin	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
Afghanistan	73	1	557	609	777	1,192	1,018	628	514	981	1,308	834	8,492
Albania	433	876	747	976	831	777	619	414	173	205	224	85	6,360
Algeria	51	72	94	127	146	158	234	140	103	120	127	118	1,490
Angola	15	21	58	333	539	580	629	253	173	181	144	108	3,034
Antigua and Barbuda								1	4		2		7
Argentina	5	6	4	22	52	69	88	148	227	228	162	123	1,134
Armenia	546	435	603	584	708	508	441	289	376	276	377	504	5,647
Aruba											1		1
Australia	699	299	195	242	129	157	212	259	232	140	103		2,667
Austria	2	28		5	4	1	6	6	2	5	3	1	63
Azerbaijan	136	153	172	200	300	377	316	226	176	233	248	180	2,717
Bahamas						1	1						2
Bahrain		2						6	1	1	1	0	11
Bangladesh	39	12	30	35	45	149	121	97	262	127	226	126	1,269
Barbados									1		1	0	2
Belarus	76	175	186	302	345	259	184	130	80	101	120	281	2,239

The United Kingdom has a policy of assisting Bangladeshi failed asylum seekers to voluntarily return to Bangladesh. The UK Border Agency's Operational Guidance Note of 2013 states:

6. Returns

6.1 There is no policy which precludes the enforced return to Bangladesh of failed asylum seekers who have no legal basis of stay in the United Kingdom.

[...]

6.4 Bangladeshi nationals may return voluntarily to any region of Bangladesh at any time in one of three ways. Leaving the UK:

- (a) by themselves, where the applicant makes their own arrangements to leave the UK,
- (b) through the voluntary departure procedure, arranged through the UK Immigration service, or
- (c) under one of the assisted voluntary return (AVR) schemes.

³ 'Bangladesh', *International Organisation for Migration (IOM)*, May 2011 <<http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/where-we-work/asia-and-the-pacific/bangladesh.htm>> accessed 25 February 2014

⁴ 'Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration: Annual Report of Activities 2011', *International Organisation for Migration (IOM)*, 2012, p. 95 CIS 27320, <https://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/partnerships/docs/2012-IOM-CSOConsultations/Additional_Resources/AVRR_Report_2011.pdf> accessed 26 February 2014

6.5 The AVR schemes are implemented on behalf of the Home Office by Refugee Action which will provide advice and help with obtaining any travel documents and booking flights, as well as organising reintegration assistance in Bangladesh.

The programme was established in 1999, and is open to those awaiting an asylum decision or the outcome of an appeal, as well as failed asylum seekers. Bangladeshi nationals wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity for assisted return to Bangladesh should be put in contact with Refugee Action Details can be found on Refugee Action's web site at: www.choices-avr.org.uk.⁵

The program 'Choices', run by Refugee Action with assistance in-country from Caritas, provides assistance to asylum seekers who choose to return voluntarily to a number of countries including Bangladesh.⁶ On the Bangladesh page of the Choices website it states:

Number of people returning with Choices

In the 18 months from April 2012 to September 2013, **503** people returned to Bangladesh with Choices. Of these, 225 returned with VARRP [Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme], 62 returned with AVRIM [Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants] and 16 returned with AVRFC [Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children].

Outcomes for returnees

Many returnees told us that they are living with family, and say that they are happy to be home. But some returnees report they are living independently, and several have started businesses. Several returnees said they were concerned about high prices and the difficulties of making a living.

[...]

Experiences of people who have returned to Bangladesh*

Akash

Akash told Choices that he finds that life has improved considerably since he started running his taxi driving business, and that the outlook is quite encouraging.

Salman

Salman told Choices that he is very happy to be back. He says that he has used his reintegration money to set up a fast food business and that everything is going well.

Mahmud

For Mahmud, life upon return has been difficult. He said he is very happy to be reunited with his family, but he has little money and is unsure about his job prospects.

**Names have been changed to protect people who've shared their story with us.⁷*

Additional Reading

⁵ 'Operational Guidance Note: Bangladesh', *UK Border Agency*, September 2013 <<http://www.refworld.org/docid/5236fec34.html>> accessed 20 February 2014

⁶ 'What does Choices offer?', *Choices*, n.d. CX318424, <http://www.choices-avr.org.uk/about_choices/what_does_choices_offer> accessed 25 February 2014

⁷ 'Bangladesh', *Choices*, n.d., CX318423, <http://www.choices-avr.org.uk/countries_of_return/bangladesh> accessed 25 February 2014

- General information on return issues. Michael Collyer and Dulani Kulasinghe, 'Review of information on return conditions of origin for asylum seekers in the UK: Report prepared for the Independent Advisory Group on Country Information', April 2010 <<http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Review-of-information-on-return-conditions-of-origin-for-asylum-seekers-in-the-UK.doc>> accessed 24 February 2014
- General information on the human rights situation in Bangladesh. 'World Report 2014 – Bangladesh', *Human Rights Watch*, 21 January 2014 <<http://www.refworld.org/docid/52dfde02b.html>> accessed 25 February 2014

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Wednesday, 19 March 2014 2:11 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) [IMMI]
Subject: RE: Bangladesh - In-country visit [SEC= [REDACTED]]

Thanks very much for taking another look s 47E(d)
and s 47E(c)
I hope to get the chance to look into all of these issues during the visit. s 47C and 47E(d)

In answer to your question below, the report will cover relevant police and court procedures, which should cover the majority of the issues you've noted.

Will be in touch on return from Bangladesh.

Regards, s 47E(d) and
s 47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) @IMMI.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 18 March 2014 4:22 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Subject: FW: Bangladesh - In-country visit [SEC= [REDACTED]]

[REDACTED]
Hi s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

I have been through the claims in the summary of IMA pipeline caseload, I won't comment about those generally in writing. There is not a lot more that I can add.

s 33(a)(iii) and s 47E(d)

(
s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii) and s 47E(d)

19

Probably we have covered enough for this first report at this stage.

Let me know if you need anything further and good luck with the visit,

s 47E(d) and s
47E(c)

██████████

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Monday, 17 March 2014 12:52 PM
To: (DFAT)
Subject: RE: Bangladesh - In-country visit [SEC=██████████]

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

██████████

Dear s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Thank you, I trust your travel plans are all in place. Some Canberra staff have spent some time looking at and briefly summarising IMA Bangladesh claims last week and I will have a look at what is in that. An initial sample I had the week before did not show much of great significance, but it is certainly useful to have something that is current that we can cross-check.

Will also see if there is anything about documentation. I should be able to get back to you by tomorrow.

Regards,

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

██████████

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

From: (DFAT)
Sent: Monday, 17 March 2014 11:17 AM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Subject: Bangladesh - In-country visit [SEC=██████████]

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Hi hope this finds you well.

I'm heading to Bangladesh next week to conduct the in-country visit (departing Monday). Apart from the caseload data and claims set overview, and the additional question of s 47E(d) I wanted to check whether there might be any additional questions or requests from COIS/decision makers.

s 33(a)(iii) and s 47E(d)

Thanks, s 47E(d) and s
47E(c)

s 47E(d) and s
47E(c) Executive Officer
Country Information Section (CIS)
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
P: 02 s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
e: @dfat.gov.au

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

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From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Thursday, 20 March 2014 3:11 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s
Cc: 47E(c) s 47E(d)
Subject: FW: appointments of and s [SEC= [REDACTED]]
 47E(c)

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Hi I look forward to meeting with you and next week. Given we may not have a lot of time on Tuesday, I thought it might be useful to provide an idea of what I'd like to discuss beforehand.

Not sure your level of awareness re DFAT's Country Information Section (and I don't want to tell you how to suck eggs)..in short, CIS is responsible for providing assessments on refugee source countries to assist decision-makers (DIBP and MRT-RRT) make PV assessments. As you're no doubt aware, the reports are published on the DIBP website. Obviously I'm producing one on Bangladesh.

s 47E(d) and
 s 47E(c)

I understand you've liaised with my colleagues in relation to reports on other countries, including Sri Lanka and India, and likely have a good understanding of the purpose of the report.

In terms of Bangladesh, I would be interested to learn more about the following:
 s 47E(d) and s 47C

I am by no means expecting answers to these questions before I arrive next week, I merely wanted to give you a heads up on the issues I'd like to explore when we meet. Please also let me know if there's any information I can provide on the process before I arrive.

Thanks, s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

s 47E(d) and s
 47E(c) Executive Officer
 Country Information Section (CIS)
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
 P: 02 s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
 e: s 47E(d) and s @dfat.gov.au
 47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Wednesday, 19 March 2014 9:25 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Subject: FW: appointments of s 47E(d) [SEC= [REDACTED]]
 and s
 47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Wednesday, 19 March 2014 4:03 PM

To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Subject: RE: appointments of s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) [SEC= [REDACTED]]

Hi s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) can meet with me. We are travelling to Cox's together so we may have time at the airport etc to talk. DIBP Regional Director, s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) will also be here so s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) will have a chance to speak with s 47E(d) and s 47E(c).
 cheers, s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Sent: Wednesday, 19 March 2014 2:32 PM

To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Cc:

Subject: FW: appointments of s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) [SEC= [REDACTED]]

Hi please advise who can meet with s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) from the DIBP.

Thanks

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Sent: Wednesday, 19 March 2014 10:04 AM

To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Cc:

Subject: RE: appointments of s 47E(d) [SEC= [REDACTED]] s 47E(d)

Thanks very much and s 47E(c) I highly appreciate all of the work you're putting into this program.

It's looking very good. I'm very keen to meet with the s 47C, s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)

I realise we're constrained by public holidays and awful traffic, so anything you can do in terms of the above requests would be helpful. In terms of the Friday, I would be free to have any meetings over breakfast, lunch or dinner if that was an option for any interlocutors.

Thanks again s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) @border.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 February 2016 3:24 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s
Cc: 47E(c) [DIBP]
Subject: RE: Bangladesh framework document [SEC= [REDACTED]]
Attachments: FD - Bangladesh_9 Feb 16.docx

Hi s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Bangladesh document attached as requested. I apologise for the delay in getting this to you.

Please note that we continue to have considerable difficulty in obtaining access to consolidated claim set and other data relating to applicant profiles. The Department continues to work on improving business intelligence in this area but progress is hard to detect.

We did manage to obtain some useful information from areas processing onshore protection and in one instance, IPV applications, and this is included in a consolidated format in the document.

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) and I are happy to discuss with you if you require.

Regards,

s 47E(d) and s
47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) @dfat.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 8 February 2016 5:47 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s
Cc: 47E(c)
Subject: RE: Bangladesh framework document [SEC= [REDACTED]]

Hi s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Are you able to send through the document tomorrow?

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) @border.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 5 February 2016 2:02 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Subject: RE: Bangladesh framework document [SEC= [REDACTED]]

Hi s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

We will be slightly delayed, something has arisen urgently for OSB.

Will get back to you on Monday.

Regards,

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) [redacted]@dfat.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 27 January 2016 12:29 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Subject: RE: Bangladesh framework document [SEC=[redacted]]

[redacted]
 Thanks [redacted] s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) Yes, if [redacted] could provide something by the end of next week, I'll be able to organise appropriate meetings in Dhaka.

[redacted] s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Regards
 s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) [redacted]@border.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 27 January 2016 8:43 AM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Subject: RE: Bangladesh framework document [SEC=[redacted]]

[redacted] s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) Thank you [redacted] s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) yes we could do that, however [redacted] s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) who has primary responsibility for Bangladesh is on leave until next Tuesday. We could look to perhaps returning something to you around the end of next week, if that would work for you.

Regards,
 s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) [redacted]@dfat.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 27 January 2016 8:33 AM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Subject: Bangladesh framework document [SEC=[redacted]]

[redacted]
 His 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

I am updating DFAT's Bangladesh Country Information Report, with an in-country visit tentatively planned for late February [redacted] gave me your details as a COISS POC – are you able to prepare a framework document for Bangladesh?

Kind regards,
 [redacted] s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Executive Officer | Country Information Section
 Human Rights Branch | Multilateral Policy Division
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
 Phone +61 s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

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Framework document

Country Information Report: Bangladesh

1. Filled out by: COISS, DIBP

2. Caseload data: Onshore Protection 2014-15 (most recent programme year)

Lodgements: 182

Granted: 12

Refused: 175

Applied RRT: 171

RRT Affirm: 110

RRT Remit: 18 (14%)

TPV (IMA) Caseload

- See previous submission. TPV/IMA caseload for Bangladesh for most recent programme year not applicable.

3. Claim set overview

a. Race / nationality

s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)

b. Religion

s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)

c. Political opinion (actual or imputed)

s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)

d. Groups of interest

s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)

4. Information gaps:

s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)

s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)

5. Priorities and sensitivities:

6. Other current country information products:

- a. Section maintains one issues paper (Treatment of BNP and Awami League Supporters) and resource guide.

7. Decision maker requests

- a. **1 Jan – 31 December 2015:**
 - i. 18 extended country requests
 - ii. 34 document upload requests

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2016 7:35 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Subject: RE: Follow up questions [REDACTED]
Attachments: Bihari documents. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Hi s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Attached, the UNHCR material.

Working on the rest.

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2016 7:45 AM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Subject: RE: Follow up questions [DLM=REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
No probs mate. I've asked for feedback on the draft report by 29 Nov so if you're able to meet that deadline, that'd be great.

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2016 12:39 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Subject: RE: Follow up questions [DLM=REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Hi s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Sorry late response. Just catching up after KL last week.

Will work on these questions. What are your deadlines?

cheers

s 47E(d) and s
47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Monday, 7 March 2016 12:03 PM

To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) [DIBP]

Subject: Follow up questions [DLM= [REDACTED]]

[REDACTED]

Hey mate,

Hope you had a good weekend (despite the work interruptions).

I'm just following up on some questions from our chat on Friday:

s 47E(d) and s 47C

Thanks mate,

s 47E(d) and s
47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) @BORDER.GOV.AU>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 March 2016 1:48 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) s 47E(d) and s
Cc: [DIBP]; 47E(c) [DIBP]
Subject: FW: Draft Bangladesh Country Information Report [SEC= [REDACTED]]
Attachments: Draft Bangladesh Country Information Report 2016_COISSfeedback.docx

Dear s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
 Thank you for an opportunity to comment.
 Our comments are below and attached.
 Kind regards

s 47E(d) and s
 47E(c)

Director Country of Origin Information Services Section (COISS)
 Refugee and Humanitarian Program Branch
 Department of Immigration and Border Protection
 T: (02) s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) @border.gov.au

Sent from my iPhone with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 01:41 PM AUS Eastern Standard Time
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Draft Bangladesh Country Information Report [SEC= [REDACTED]]

Dears s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

s 47E(d)
 and s 47E(c) and I have reviewed the draft updated DFAT report on Bangladesh.

I have merged comments etc from each of us into the one document. A few minor track changes are marked also.

We both felt that this report is of a good quality, and without making any invidious comparisons, thought that the quality and clarity of the assessments was noteworthy.

s 47E(d) and
 s 47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Thursday, 17 March 2016 3:55 PM

To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Subject: FW: Draft Bangladesh Country Information Report [SEC= [REDACTED]]

Dear s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

For action please. Grateful comments for clearance by 28/3.

Cheers

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Director Country of Origin Information Services Section (COISS)

Refugee and Humanitarian Program Branch

Department of Immigration and Border Protection

T: (02) s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

[@border.gov.au](mailto: [REDACTED]@border.gov.au)

Sent from my iPhone with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) [@dfat.gov.au](mailto: [REDACTED]@dfat.gov.au)

Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 03:20 PM AUS Eastern Standard Time

To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Cc: (DFAT)

Subject: Draft Bangladesh Country Information Report [SEC= [REDACTED]]

[REDACTED]

Dear s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Please find attached the draft Country Information Report for Bangladesh. I'd be grateful if COISS can provide feedback on the report by **COB Tuesday, 29 March 2016**. This will allow me to finalise the report before I leave Canberra in early April s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please let me know if you would like to discuss the report or any of the findings from my in-country visit in further detail.

Kind regards,

s 47E(d) and s
47E(c)

Executive Officer | Country Information Section
Human Rights Branch | Multilateral Policy Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Phone +61 2 s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

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Framework document

Country Information Report: Bangladesh

1. Filled out by: COIS, DIBP

2. Caseload data: Non-IMA 2012-13

Total applicants: 169

Group	Number	Percentage
Male	s 47E(d); s 47F(1) and s 33(a)(iii)	
Female		
Ethnicity (lodgement data)		
Group		
Bengali		
Bangladeshi		
Unknown		
Rohingya (Burma)		
Nepalese		
Other		
Religion (lodgement data)		
Group		
Islam		
Hinduism		
Sunni		
Buddhism		
Christian		
Other		

- Primary Grants (2012-13): 36
- Primary Refusals (2012-13): 94
- Finally Determined Grants (2012-13): 41
- Finally Determined Refusals (2012-13): 55
- Cases on Hand (Primary) as at 3 January 2014: 160

IMA Caseload

- s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- 2013-14 arrivals to date: 158

3. Claim set overview

Claim sets (RRT – based on caseload data November 2012-June 2013)	
s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)	(44.3%)
s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)	(8.2%)
s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)	(4.9%) and (4.9%)
s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)	July – October 2013
s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)	

(single digit figures for these)

- a. Race / nationality
- b. Religion
- c. Political opinion (actual or imputed)
- d. Groups of interest

4. Information gaps:

5. Priorities and sensitivities:

6. Other current country information products:

- a. Section maintains one issues paper (Treatment of BNP and Awami League Supporters, esp re 2013 elections) and resource guide.

7. Primary decision maker requests

- a. 1 Jan – 31 December 2013: s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)

8. RRT requests –

- a. 1 July 2012-30 June 2013 Total requests (16)
- b. 1 July -31 December 2013 Total requests (4)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) @aat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 3 February 2016 7:35 AM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Bangladesh framework document [SEC=██████████]
Attachments: MRD-DFAT Framework - Bangladesh - January 2016.docx

Hi s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Apologies for the delay in sending this to you. Please find attached Bangladesh framework document as requested.

Regards

s 47E(d) and s
47E(c)

Executive Assistant

**Administrative Appeals Tribunal
Principal Registry, Sydney**

Executive

T: 02 s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Es 47E(d) and aat.gov.au
s 47E(c)

www.aat.gov.au

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) @dfat.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 January 2016 5:30 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Cc:
Subject: Bangladesh framework document [SEC=██████████]
██████████

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

I am updating DFAT's Bangladesh Country Information Report, with an in-country visit tentatively planned for late February. Could you please prepare a framework document for Bangladesh with an accompanying list of questions from decision-makers so I can tailor the visit program accordingly?

Kind regards,

s 47E(d) and s

Executive Officer | Country Information Section
Human Rights Branch | Multilateral Policy Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Phone +61 2 s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

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Framework document

Bangladesh Country Information & Thematic Report

1. Filled out by: **s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) Country Liaison Officer, Migration and Refugee Division AAT.**

2. Caseload data:

In the period since 1 July 2015 to 31 December 2015, Bangladesh cases made up 3.9% of all refugee case lodgements of the MRD.

The refugee Bangladesh caseload data for the period is summarised as follows:

1 July 2015 to 31 December 2015

Refugee Lodgements: **75**

- Affirm Decisions: **31**
- Set Aside Decisions: **10**
- Withdrawn Decisions: **4**
- No Jurisdiction Decisions: **2**
- Active Cases on Hand (as at 1 November 2015): **313**

As at 31 December 2015 the active refugee Bangladesh caseload consisted of 193 unconstituted cases and 120 cases which had been allocated to Members.

3. MRD Protection Claim set overview:

The following table outlines issues which have been identified in relation to the MRD refugee Bangladesh cases lodged between 1 July 2015 and 31 December 2015.

s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)

Bangladesh
Claims to be:

Other issues which have been identified in relation to refugee cases from Bangladesh include:

s 47E(d) and s 33(a)(iii)

Additionally, RRT Senior Members have requested that, if possible, the following issues be addressed in the papers:

- Stateless and Rohingyas - report states at paragraph 3.16 that Rohingyas are not eligible for Bangladeshi citizenship and at paragraph 5.31 it says that the returns process for Rohingya can take longer than for other people but it is unclear whether this is intended to imply that Bangladesh will take back stateless Rohingya
- Land disputes - usually between relatives but often connected to political claims (for example claims that the applicant and/or his family have been unable to enforce their right to a piece of land because the other side in the dispute has political connections). I note that the DFAT report says at paragraph 4.3 that victims of enforced disappearances and kidnapping include individuals connected with land disputes and that it comments at paragraph 5.13 about the difficulties which ordinary citizens face in obtaining justice through the court system. I am not sure if there is much that DFAT could add in relation to land disputes but it may be worth mentioning

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Thursday, 20 February 2014 2:03 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s [IMMI]
Cc: 47E(c)
Subject: Meeting Request - Bangladesh [SEC= [REDACTED]]
s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Dear [REDACTED] I've recently joined the DFAT Country Information Section and am working on the Bangladesh report. I had the chance to s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I understand your team has responsibility for Bangladesh. I would be keen to have a discussion sooner rather than later, first to say hello, but secondly to discuss the key points on Bangladesh that will assist inform the report. I'm working on coming down to Melbourne to meet your team in person, in the meantime, I'll need to arrange a VTC at a suitable time.

I'm was hoping we could chat mid to late next week. But please let me know what would suit you best.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Regards, s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

s 47E(d) and s
47E(c) Executive Officer
Country Information Section (CIS)
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
P: 02 s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
e: s 47E(d) and s@dfat.gov.au
47E(c)

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Monday, 2 June 2014 8:40 AM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) [IMMI] | s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) immi.gov.au
Subject: Bangladesh DFAT Country Information Report - for consideration
 [SEC= [REDACTED]]
 s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Dear [REDACTED] was good to meet you last week, I hope the rest of your time with your colleagues went well. As discussed, I have the draft of the Bangladesh DFAT Country Information Report ready for your consideration.

I would be grateful if you and relevant members of your team could run your eyes over the report given your expertise on Bangladesh. The report is also being reviewed by other agencies and has already been considered by Post.

Let me know if you would like to discuss the content at any point Tuesday 10 June. I would be grateful for any comments by

Thanks, s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
 Executive Officer
 Country Information Section (CIS)
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
 P: 02s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
 e: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c) @dfat.gov.au
 47E(c)



angladesh_Countr
 Information...

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Sidhu, Harinder
Sent: Tuesday, 7 October 2014 6:31 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Subject: Bangladesh Report [SEC= [REDACTED]]

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Have been through the amended Bangladesh report, which looks v good. A couple of minor amendments and I'm happy for it to go out:

s 33(a)(iii), s 47C and s 47E(d)

All else fine to go.

Well done

H

Harinder Sidhu

First Assistant Secretary
Multilateral Policy Division
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From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2014 11:18 AM
To: s 47E(d) and s
Cc: 47E(c)
Subject: Finalisation of new DFAT Report - Bangladesh [SEC: ██████████]

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

DFAT is nearing the very final stages of preparing a report on Bangladesh. I expect to be able to release it to decision makers late this week. Could you please alert tribunal members to the impending finalisation?

I will provide you with a copy directly as well as giving one to DIBP for uploading onto CISNET.

Regards

s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Director
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 47E(d)
and s
47E(c)

Country Information Section
Human Rights & Gender Equality Branch
Multilateral Policy Division

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W | www.dfat.gov.au

From: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2016 1:08 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Cc: Wilcock, Greg; s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Subject: Meeting requests [DLM= [REDACTED]]

[REDACTED]

His 47E(d) and s 47E(c)

Please find attached the framework documents from DIBP and the AAT, as well as the visit itinerary for the last CIS STM to Bangladesh.



FD -



MRD-DFAT



Itinerary s 47E(d)

Bangladesh_9 Fe... Framework - Ba... and s 47E(c)

I have used the DIBP/AAT claim sets to compile the following list of meeting requests. Please let me know if any of these are not feasible (for security or other reasons), and please feel free to suggest alternative meetings.

s 33(a)(iii). s 47E(d) and s 47C

I will send through the draft Country Information Report and an accompanying question guide in the week commencing 22 February. I will also cable through my flight details later this week.

Thanks in advance,

s 47E(d) and
s 47E(c)

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s 47E(c)

From: Wilcock, Greg
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2016 8:21 PM
To: s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Draft Bangladesh Country Information Report [SEC= [REDACTED]]

This is good works s 47E(d) and s 47E(c)
s 47E(d) and s 47C

Greg

s 22(1)(a)(ii)