

July 31, 2013

CSW Communications Procedure
Human Rights Section
UN Women
220 East 42nd Street, 17th floor,
New York, NY 10017
USA

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are submitting the following report on human rights violations against women in Vietnam. Such violations have steadily escalated since early 2007, when the government launched a massive political crackdown.

Our legal teams, permanently based in Bangkok and Malaysia, have interviewed over a hundred victims of persecution who had fled to these two countries. Among them many are women. The flow of Vietnamese seeking asylum in neighboring countries continues. We have also conducted interviews with victims in Vietnam.

We have observed a pattern of severe abuses against women in the following categories:

- Arbitrary arrests of women
- Torture of women in custody
- Forced labor imposed on women in prison
- Violation of the rights of women human rights defenders to freedom of expression and assembly
- Threats or pressure exerted on women not to complain or to withdraw complaints
- Denial of basic rights of women working overseas such as joining local labor unions in the destination country, being in romantic relationship with locals or marrying locals
- Contemporary forms of slavery, including trafficking in women and girls
- Impunity for violations of the human rights of women

Since the above violations were committed by government officials or by actors supported by government officials, there has been no investigation against the perpetrators.

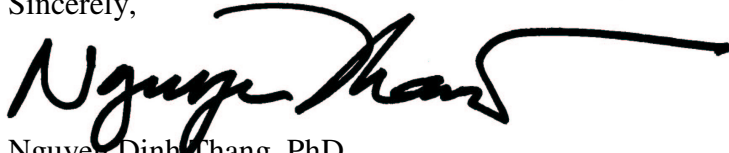
Attached are cases serving as illustration. Many of these cases were prepared by other organizations and have been submitted separately to the Commission on the Status of Women. They have kindly shared their submitted cases with us.

Also attached is the sample contract that the Vietnamese government imposes on employers of Vietnamese migrant workers, issued by the Vietnamese embassy in Malaysia. It prohibits Vietnamese migrant workers from joining local trade unions in Malaysia, from engaging in romantic relationship with locals and in marrying locals. The same language is imposed on Vietnamese migrant workers in all other destination countries. These violations of basic human rights affect the large number of Vietnamese women sent overseas under Vietnam's labor export program.

We also attach to the case of Nguyen Thi Luyen, a victim of labor trafficking who became persecuted for demanding justice, a description of the entire incident which affected 267 other Vietnamese women who were with her in Jordan. This is one of some 60 similar incidents of human trafficking involving some 2,000 Vietnamese women that we have documented.

Founded in 1980, Boat People SOS is a US-based organization with operations in 11 locations in the US and 3 locations in Asia. As part of our refugee protection work, we have since 1990 monitored country conditions in Vietnam. We are attaching a summary description of our organization's international initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nguyen Thang', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nguyen Dinh Thang, PhD
CEO & President

Enclosures:

Affiliation/Community	Name	Form of Violations	Prepared by
Montagnard	Kosa K. Lan	Torture in custody	Montagnard Human Rights Organization
	Lim Thi Hong	Torture in custody	Montagnard Human Rights Organization
Hmong	Ly Thi My	Beating by police, torture in custody, arbitrary detention	Association of Hmong in Exile
	Ly Thi Song	Beating by police, torture in custody, arbitrary detention	Association of Hmong in Exile
	Vue Moua	Attacked by the police, forced renunciation of faith	Association of Hmong in Exile
Cao Dai	Le Thi Ket	Beating by thugs brought in by police	United Caodai Tayninh Holy See Overseas
Catholic	Vo Thi Thu Thuy	Arbitrary arrest	The Nguyen Kim Dien Priests Group
	Phan Le Nguyen Nhung	Threat of arrest	BPSOS
	Doan Thi Hong Anh	Forced to withdraw complaint about husband's being tortured to death	Association of Con Dau Parishioners
	Le Thi Van	Torture resulting in miscarriage	Association of Con Dau Parishioners
	Nguyen Thi Hoa	Beating by thugs brought in by police	Association of Con Dau Parishioners
	Nguyen Thi The	Torture in detention	Association of Con Dau Parishioners
Phan Thi Nhan	Torture in detention	Association of Con Dau Parishioners	
Hoa Hao	Mai Thi Dung	Arbitrary arrest	Hoa Hao Buddhist Congregation
Sex Trafficking Victims	Huynh Thi Be Huong and 14 other victims	Forced by embassy officials to return to the traffickers	BPSOS
Labor Trafficking Victims	Nguyen Thi Luyen	Threatened by the police, hurt by staged traffic accident	Coalition to Abolish Modern-day Slavery (CAMSA)
	Tran Thi Nga	Arbitrary arrest, beating by the police	United Farmers & Workers Organization
Bloggers	Ta Phong Tan	Arbitrary arrest and detention	Vietnam Human Rights Council
	Huynh Thuc Vy	Abduction and beating by the police	Bloc 8406
	Pham Thanh Nghien	Arbitrary detention	Bloc 8406
	Do Thi Minh Hanh	Arbitrary arrest, forced labor	United Farmers & Workers Organization
	Bui Thi Minh Hang	Arbitrary arrest and detention, torture in custody	Vietnamese Canadian Federation
Human Rights Advocates	Nguyen Hoang Vi	Arbitrary arrest, beating and sexual assault in custody	Vietnam Human Rights Network
	Nguyen Phuong Uyen	Arbitrary arrest, beating in custody	Vietnamese Canadian Federation
	Le Thi Ba	Threats and harrassment by the police	Vietnam Human Rights Network
Land Rights Activists/Victims	Tran Thi Thuy	Arbitrary arrest, forced labor	BPSOS
	Ngo Thi Anh	Beating by the police	Bach Dang Giang Foundation
	Ho Thi Bich Khuong	Arbitrary arrest, forced labor, torture in custody	Coalition to Abolish Modern-day Slavery (CAMSA)