

**THIRD AMNESTY OF GOD**  
**89<sup>TH</sup> Year**  
**TAYNINH HOLY SEE**

**Special Report**

Re: Government and Public Security Police of Vinh Long infringing upon the Freedom of Belief

To:     The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights  
          The UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief  
          The UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights  
          The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association  
          The Chairman of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom

We, all clergymen and members of the traditional independent Caodai Congregation of City of Vinh Long, Vinh Long Province respectfully report to you the following incident:

We held the 5th memorial service for Mrs. (Co Tanh) Ngo Thi Thanh Dao, 42 years old (at the time of her death), on January 5, 2014 at the house of Mr. (Subordinated Subdignitary or Thong Su) Le Ngoc Thuan, at Hamlet 1, Quarter 2, City of Vinh Long, Vinh Long Province. Mrs. Ngo was the sister-in-law of Mr. Le. She suffered terminal breast cancer and passed away on November 22, 2013.

The memorial service was conducted at Mr. Le's house instead of at his sister-in-law's because her family is very poor.



*Mrs. Ngo's husband was holding a tray carrying a vase of incense with his daughter standing beside him for the memorial service.*

Since early morning, several members of the Public Security Police sat in a coffee house across the street, in front of Mr. Le's house, secretly watching us.

At 12:00 noon, the clergy and members proceeded with the ritual for Noon Offering followed by the memorial service. Suddenly the members of: local government People Committee of Quarter 2, Public Security Police of Quarter 2, Police of City of Vinh Long, and of the Vietnamese Fatherland Front including the following officers:

1. Mr. Le Van Be, Vice President;
2. An unknown member of the People's Committee of Quarter 2;
3. Lady President of the Vietnamese Fatherland Front, Quarter 2;
4. Mr. Du Van Dan, Head of the Hamlet 1;
5. Major Duyen, local Security Police member;
6. Mr. Ngo Minh Nghia – Police of Political Protection Branch of the City of Vinh Long;
7. Mr. Nguyen Tan Lac, police agent of the City of Vinh Long
8. An unknown member of the Police of the City of Vinh Long



**Công an Nguyễn Tân Lạc (quay phim)**

Nguyen Tan Lac, police agent (in plain clothes) was filming the ceremony.

They came into the house of Mr. Le without asking the permission of the owner and went straight upstairs to the first floor, where our God's altar is installed. When we were about to start the service, Mr. Duyen and Mr. Nghia, members of police force, ordered us to stop the service session, did not allow us to videotape the incident and threatened to confiscate the video camera.

Mr. Nghia asked that why we prayed at home and yet did not invite the local pro-government Caodai Governance Council of Quarter 1, which is recognized by the Vietnam Government and has legal standing, to conduct the service, and stated that our group led by the Sub-Dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan is illegal.

Mr. Le responded that we are strongly committed to our traditional faith; thus, we have to uphold it. He added that the Governance Council set up by the government does not follow Caodai religious laws and the traditional rituals, and modifies the

Caodai religious constitution which was effective prior to 1975. Therefore, we do not follow the lead of the Governance Council.

Police agent Nghia told us that if the government recognizes the Governance Council, then we have to follow it.

Mr. Le responded that the government shall respect the freedom of belief of each citizen and not force us to follow or not to follow certain religious faith.

Police agent Nghia ordered the lady representing the Fatherland Front to prepare a report and asked Mr. Le to sign it. After he signed it, all the government officials and people that had come with them left.

Then came the next incident on January 14, 2014 on the occasion of the 6<sup>th</sup> memorial service for Mrs. Ngo. The People's Committee of Quarter 2, the police of Quarter 2 and the police of the City of Vinh Long disturbed us again destroying the peace and solemnity of the service. The police forced Mr. Le to secure the approval of the pro-government Governance Council with their sign and seal in order to conduct the memorial service.

The acts carried out by the Vinh Long government and police seriously violated the freedoms of belief and of peaceful assembly, infringed upon the citizens' religious rights, and disturbed the lives of the local faithful.

We, all members of the traditional independent Caodai Congregation of Vinh Long Province, denounce these immoral acts of the government and police of Vinh Long Province. They have exercised their power to suppress and destroy the traditional Caodai religion created by God.

Once more, we respectfully request that the Government of Vietnam complies with all of the commitments made when Vietnam was elected to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations. They shall respect freedoms of religion, belief and peaceful assembly and all other basic human rights of its citizens.

Yours Respectfully,

Vinh Long, January 15, 2014

Reported and Signed by:

- Sub-Dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan, Acting Head Religious District of Chau Thanh (Caodai Traditional Independent Congregation of Vinh Long), Deputy Head of the Representative Committee of the Popular Bloc of the Caodai Tayninh Holy See-Member of Interfaith Council of Vietnam.

Phone #: 011 84 988971117

- Lady Sub-Dignitary Nguyen Bach Phung, Lady Acting Head Religious District of Chau Thanh (Caodai Traditional Independent Congregation of Vinh Long), Secretary of the Representative Committee of the Caodai Tayninh Holy See- Member of Interfaith Council of Vietnam.

Phone #: 011 84988477719

- Twenty-four co-signees who are members of the Independent Caodai Congregation of Vinh Long and who witnessed the incident (please refer to the signature sheet attached).

Original Report was also sent to:

Prime Minister, Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
Vietnamese Central Government's Committee for Religious Affairs  
Chair, People's Committee of Vinh Long Province  
Chair, Religious Affairs Committee of Vinh Long Province

Cc:

Committee for Freedom of Religion in the U.S. Congress  
Committee for Freedom of Religion of the European Union  
Human Rights Watch  
Other international Human Rights organizations

Attachment: Signature sheet of the twenty- four co-signees and original report in Vietnamese.



# Đồng Kỳ Tên

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STT	HP	HỌ VÀ TÊN	NĂM SINH	ĐỊA CHỈ	KÝ TÊN
1	CTS	Hoàng Văn Bội	1942	Số 49/3A Mậu Thân P3 TP Vinh Long	Par
2	CTS	Đỗ Văn Loan	1946	Huyện An Long xã An Bình Long Hồ Tỉnh Vĩnh Long	Tam
3	PTS	Nguyễn Văn Tạo Rạng	1958	ấp An Hưng xã An Bình Long Hồ Tỉnh Vĩnh Long	Long
4	PTS	Nguyễn Văn Thành	1959	ấp An Long xã An Bình Huyện Long Hồ Tỉnh Vĩnh Long	Long
5	TS	Châu Văn Thành	1962	ấp An Long xã An Bình Huyện Long Hồ Tỉnh Vĩnh Long	Long
6	ĐH	Nguyễn Văn Thành	1935	191/88 Lê Văn Tấn xã An Bình TP Vĩnh Long	Long
7	ĐH	Đỗ Văn NGHĨA	1986	2576 ấp An Long xã An Bình Huyện Long Hồ TP Vĩnh Long	Long
8	TS	Lê Ngọc Thuận	1970	14 Lê Văn Tấn xã An Bình Huyện Long Hồ TP Vĩnh Long	Long
9	ĐH	Võ Văn Minh	1956	ấp An Long xã An Bình Huyện Long Hồ TP Vĩnh Long	Long
10	PTS	Nguyễn Văn Thành	1967	8 xã Thi Sơn P1 TP Vĩnh Long	Long
11	PTS	Đặng Mỹ Phương	1954	225 Phạm Hùng P9 TP Vĩnh Long	Long
12	ĐH	Nguyễn Văn Thành	1954	163B Phạm Hùng P9 TP Vĩnh Long	Long
13	PTS	Tô Thị Nho	1936	ấp An Long xã An Bình Huyện Vĩnh Long	Long
14	PTS	Nguyễn Văn Thành	1972	68B Ngã Văn Lầu P8 TP Vĩnh Long	Long
15	CTS	Đặng Thị Bích	1947	Số 49/3A Mậu Thân P3 TP Vĩnh Long	Long
16	CTS	Đặng Thị Bích	1953	ấp An Long xã An Bình Huyện Vĩnh Long	Long
17	ĐH	Nguyễn Văn Thành	1959	ấp An Long xã An Bình Huyện Vĩnh Long	Long
18	PTS	Nguyễn Văn Thành	1954	ấp An Long xã An Bình Huyện Vĩnh Long	Long
19	ĐH	Nguyễn Văn Thành	1977	Số 8 đường 90 xã An Bình Huyện Vĩnh Long	Long
20	TS	Nguyễn Văn Thành	1972	68B Ngã Văn Lầu P8 TP Vĩnh Long	Long
21	ĐH	Châu Văn Thành	1971	ấp An Long xã An Bình Huyện Vĩnh Long	Long
22	PTS	Nguyễn Văn Thành	1975	ấp An Long xã An Bình Huyện Vĩnh Long	Long
23	ĐH	Lê Thị Ngọc Mai	1972	ấp An Long xã An Bình Huyện Vĩnh Long	Long
24	ĐH	Trần Văn Thành	1979	ấp An Long xã An Bình Huyện Vĩnh Long	Long

## Đồng kính gửi:

- Thủ Tướng Chính Phủ Nước CHXHCNVN,
- Ban Tôn Giáo Chính Phủ.....Hà Nội,
- Chủ tịch UBND tỉnh Vĩnh Long,
- Ban Tôn Giáo tỉnh Vĩnh Long.....Đề tường.