

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
Independence – Liberty- Happiness

June 15th, 2016

DENUNCIATION LETTER

Reference: **Violations of Gia Lai province officials and police authorities**

To:

- **Mr. Tô Lâm, Minister of Public Security.**
- **Mr. Vu Van Lau, Director of Gia Lai Provincial Police Department.**
- **Mr. Nguyen Van Long, Director of Pleiku city Police Department.**

Cc:

- **President Tran Dai Quang.**
- **Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc.**
- **National Assembly Chairwoman Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan.**
- **The Supreme People's Procuratorate.**
- **Gia Lai Provincial People's Procuratorate.**

Denunciator: Mrs. **TRAN THI HONG.**

Born in: 1981

Address: Alley 169, CMT8 Street, Residential cluster #10, Hoa Lu ward, Pleiku city, Gia Lai Province.

Accused organizations and individuals: **Government officials and public security agents of Hoa Lu ward, Pleiku city and Gia Lai province.**

Denunciations: **Government officials violate human rights stipulated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention Against Torture, Inhuman and Demeaning Treatments (for which Vietnam has ratified), and the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.**

The following rights have been violated:

- **The right to freedom of religion.**
- **The right to freedom of association.**
- **The right to freedom of movement.**
- **The right not to be arbitrarily detained.**
- **The right not to be beaten, tortured.**

I (Tran Thi Hong) would like to present the following incidents:

On March 30th 2016, while my 10-year old son (named Nguyen Tran Cong Hoa) and I were on our way to the Hoang Anh Gia Lai hotel (in Pleiku city) for our meeting with the Ambassador-at-Large on religious freedom, Mr. David Saperstein (US State Department), we were intercepted by several public security agents, including Mr. Thao, public security officer from Pleiku city, Mr. Pham Van Tu, First-lieutenant,

deputy-chief of Hoa Lu ward public security, Mr. Quoc Anh, Gia Lai Provincial public security officer and other unidentified public security agents.

Mr. Pham Van Tu pushed me off my motorbike and confiscated it in order to prevent me from meeting with Ambassador At Large David Saperstein (I later reclaimed my motorbike at 2PM of the same day). We were forced into a taxi and driven back to our home. The US delegation led by Ambassador David Saperstein came to meet me at my house after having learned that I had been intercepted by public security agents.

On April 14th 2016, at 8:30 AM, public security forces from Hoa Lu ward, Pleiku city, Gia Lai province came to my house and forcibly brought me to the People's Committee Office of Hoa Lu ward (City Hall). Four individuals carried me into a car, pushed my head down while holding my legs up then drove me to the People's Committee Office of Hoa Lu Ward, where several people beat, dragged, pinched me for 3 hours. Among them, I recognized Mr. Quoc Anh, Gia Lai provincial public security officer and 4 unidentified individuals (3 female and 1 male).

Due to the torture, I could not stand or walk. The public security agents took me home by car and threw me onto the sidewalk in front of my house. Passing by neighbors lifted me up and took me into my house as I could not walk on my own. I suffered injuries to my head, knees, legs, hands, and feet. I experienced pain and difficulty moving my arms. I was most concerned about my head injuries, which caused pain even at a light touch. [*Pictures of my wounds after returning home can be found in **Appendix A***].

On May 9th 2016, I received an "Invitation Letter" from Mr. Huynh Van Tra, Chief of the People's Committee of Hoa Lu ward, requesting me to come to the People's Committee office of Hoa Lu ward for a working session on May 10th 2016. However, I declined due to the trauma of the recent torture there.

On May 11th 2016, Mr. Tra issued a second "Invitation Letter" requesting me to come to the working session at 2PM that same day, I refused to go. At 3PM, the public security agents came to my house and forcibly brought me to the People's Committee Office of Hoa Lu ward. Upon arrival, I did not see Mr. Tra, Chief of the People's Committee of Hoa Lu ward, who signed the Invitation Letters. Instead, I had to work with Mr. Hai from Gia Lai provincial public security department. They were questioning me about my interviews with foreign media, my being a follower of the Lutheran Protestant Church, and my allegation that they seized my property. I presented the facts truthfully. On the contrary, they played deaf ears when I asked them to explain about their beating me on April 14th 2016. I started a hunger strike (the first) in protest the acts of torture committed by the public security force.

On May 12th 2016, at 2PM, public security agents came to my house again and forcibly brought me to the public security station of Hoa Lu ward. They forced me to sign a prepared statement which included the following:

1. My attempt to meet with Ambassador-at-Large on Religious Freedom, David Saperstein, on March 30th was in violation of Vietnam's Laws.
2. Vietnamese public security never prevented me from meeting with the US Delegation on Religious Freedom nor did they seize my property (i.e., my motorbike).

3. Practicing my faith with the Evangelical Lutheran church, which has not yet been recognized by the Vietnamese authorities, is in violation of Vietnam's Laws.
4. Joining the Vietnamese Women for Human Rights is a violation of Vietnam's Law as this Civil Society organization is not recognized by the Vietnamese authorities.

When I refused to sign the statement, four female officers immediately pinned me to the ground and repeatedly and sharply pinched and pulled on my face. I was subjected to interrogation and physical abuses until 5PM then was released. *[Pictures of my bruises can be found in **Appendix B.**]*

On May 13th 2016, public security agents came to my house yet again early in the morning at 7 o'clock. They forcibly brought me to Hoa Lu ward public security station where they continued to torture me for 3 hours as I refused to sign the aforementioned statement. At one point, I was in such excruciating pain that I attempted to kill myself by biting on my tongue, but they pried my mouth open with a pair of chopsticks to stop me from biting and continued to torture me. From that day on, public security agents came to my house every day to take me to the public security station for their working sessions until May 19th 2016.

On May 20th 2016, they stopped bringing me to their working sessions. I also stopped my 9-day hunger strike. However, the public security set up checkpoint in front of my house to monitor me. On May 27th 2016, they resumed their daily working sessions with me at Hoa Lu ward public security station. On May 30th 2016, I started my second hunger strike (which lasted 4 days) to protest the human rights violations committed by government officials of Gia Lai province and Hoa Lu ward.

On June 3rd 2016, the police said they would continue to work with me every day until I accepted to sign a readily prepared statement, which forced me to lie that they had not beaten, tortured, or confiscated my property.

Due to their daily questioning session, I was unable to see a doctor to diagnose the injuries they had caused. In addition, I could not take care of my 4 children, with the youngest is only 5 years old. I also could not attend weekend mass at the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Dear Sir and Madam,

All the above actions committed by the authorities and the public security agents of Hoa Lu ward, Pleiku city and Gia Lai province seriously violated international laws, the Constitution and the laws of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

1. Violation of religious freedom as stipulated in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 24 of the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
2. Violation of freedom of association as stipulated in Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 25 of the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
3. Violation of freedom of movement as stipulated in Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 23 of the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

4. Violation of the inviolability of the body as stipulated in Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 20 of the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
5. Violation of freedom from arbitrarily arrest and detention as stipulated in Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 20 of the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Appendix C includes a list of officials involved in the aforementioned violations.

I therefore request that:

- 1. The Ministry of Public Security to order Gia Lai Provincial public security department to stop detaining and torturing me (Tran Thi Hong).**
- 2. The Ministry of Public Security to investigate my denunciations.**
- 3. The Ministry of Public Security to inform in writing about the investigation and the punishment of officials who have violated the laws, including prosecution of the case.**
- 4. The Ministry of Public Security to take appropriate measures to ensure that similar incidents will not happen to me in the future.**
- 5. Compensations will be made for all the damages incurred by the violations, including material losses, physical and mental health, and emotional distress.**

Best regards.

Plaintiff

Tran Thi Hong

Enclosures (3)
Appendices A, B and C