

Information about actual violations of the right to freedom of religion in the province of Dong Thap, Southwestern of Vietnam, involving vietnamese Hoa Hao Buddhists.

To the

Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations at Geneva
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Switzerland
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E-mail: freedomofreligion@ohchr.org or urgent-action@ohchr.org
(then please include in the subject box: Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief)

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Does the incident involve an individual or a group?

- Does the incident involve an individual or a group? A group
- If it involves a religious or belief group please state the number of people involved and the denomination of the group: 24
- Country(ies) in which the incident took place: Vietnam
- Nationality(ies) of the victim(s): Vietnamese
- Does domestic law require (re-)registration of religious associations and if yes, what is the current status of the group in question? non-registered

Incident #1

On Feb 9, 2014 Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen was brutally assaulted and arrested at his house in Dong Thap Province, Vietnam. His wife, Mrs Bui thi Kim Phuong, was arrested and released in the evening. Public security personnel vandalized his house and damaged purposely the Hoa Hao religious altar and furniture.

On Feb 24, 2014 Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen and Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong were intercepted just 100m from the Australian Embassy in Hanoi and were injured by the Vietnamese secret police as they were going to meet this Embassy to report on the violations of religious freedom against the Hoa Hao Buddhists in Vietnam. Mr David Skowronski, Australian Second Secretary in charge of Politics, had to rescue and take them to the hospital.

Incident# 2

On Feb 11, 2014 a group of 15 Hoa Hao Buddhists together with 6 rights defenders were on their way to visit Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen and his wife, and were ambushed by hundreds of policemen and thugs in Hung Nhon Hamlet, Long Hung B village, Lap Vo district, Dong Thap province / South Vietnam. They were arrested. 18 were released after 3 days. 3 remain in prison.

Does domestic law require (re-)registration of religious associations and if yes, what is the current status of the group in question?

Since 2004 the Ordinance on Religion and Belief serves as the primary document governing religious practice in Vietnam and requires that all religious organizations must be registered. Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen, Mrs Bui thi Kim Phuong, Mrs Bui thi Kim Cam and the 15 Hoa Hao Buddhists belong to the unsanctioned “Southwestern Hoa Hao Buddhist Church”, not affiliated with the government approved Hoa Hao Administrative Council (HHAC).

2. IDENTITY OF THE PERSONS CONCERNED

Note: if more than one person is concerned, please attach relevant information on each person separately.

The 2 victims of the incident on Feb 9, 2014

Victim # 1

- Family name: Nguyen
- First name: Bac Truyen
- Denomination of his/her religion or belief: Hoa Hao Buddhist
- Place of residence or origin: Hung Nhon Village, Long Hung B Commune, Lap Vo District, Dong Thap Province / South Vietnam (he is registered un #29, 42 Street, Ward 4, District 4, Ho chi Minh City)
- Age 46
- Sex male .
- Nationality: Vietnamese

Victim # 2

- Family name: Bui
- First name : thi Kim-Phuong
- Denomination of his/her religion or belief: Hoa Hao Buddhist
- Place of residence or origin: Hung Nhon Village, Long Hung B Commune, Lap Vo District, Dong Thap Province / South Vietnam
- Age : 38
- Sex : female .
- Nationality: Vietnamese

Victim # 3

- Family name: Bui
- First name : thi Kim Cam
- Denomination of his/her religion or belief: Hoa Hao Buddhist
- Place of residence or origin: Hung Nhon Village, Long Hung B Commune, Lap Vo District, Dong Thap Province / South Vietnam
- Age : 47
- Sex : female .
- Nationality: Vietnamese

Attachment 1: List of the 21 victims of the incident on Feb 11th, 2014

3. INFORMATION REGARDING THE ALLEGED VIOLATION

Incident #1/ a

- Date and time (approximate, if exact date is not known): Feb 09, 2014 (4PM)
- Place (location and country/countries): Hung Nhon Village, Long Hung B Commune, Lap Vo District, Dong Thap Province / South Vietnam
- *Detailed description of the circumstances of the incident in which the alleged violation occurred respectively the nature of the governmental action:*

Sunday Feb 9, 2014

At about 10 AM, the local police of Long Hung B Commune surrounded Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen house and summoned him to the police station for a “working session” which is indeed an interrogation (Picture 1). Nguyen Bac Truyen requested them to present an official warrant order in compliance with the law but they didn't. Nguyen Bac Truyen refused to follow the convocation because according to the law summon shall be issued and arrive 3 working days in advance, or has to be presented in original.

At about 4 PM, nearly hundred of public security officers in uniform and plain cloth, armed with Kalashnikov rifles, truncheons, electric batons, fired 3 times into the air, cut the fencegate lock (Picture 2), broke the metal front door (Picture 3), the metal back door (Picture 4), the glass door (Picture 5), assaulted Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen, Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong and her sister, Mrs Bui thi Kim Cam, who lived in the house.

The public security personnel brutally twisted the victims' arms behind their backs and handcuffed Nguyen Bac Truyen. They taped Nguyen Bac Truyen eyes and mouth and beat him brutally in the front yard. They brought him to the Ho chi Minh city police office, 150 km away from his house. The police there said, debtors had filed a complaint because they hadn't been paid. After his protest and request to have his lawyer at the interrogation, and probably because of intervention of some embassies, he was released in the evening. But since ever he cannot return to his home in Dong Thap Province.

His wife Bui Thi Kim Phuong was taken to the Long Hung B commune police station and interrogated 5 hours long. His sister-in-law Bui Thi Kim Cam must watch helplessly the public security personel conducting a 3 hour illegal “search” of her home without search warrant. They damaged the furniture, broke surveillance cameras, rummaged through the altar, threw the sacred picture of “Master Huynh Phu So” (the founder of the Hoa Hao Buddhism) to the ground (Picture 6), and calumniated the Hoa Hao Buddhists as outlaws disturbing the society and being anti-government . They confiscated one laptop, two mobile phones, memory cards of the surveillance system, business cards of embassies of the United States of America, Canada, Australia, Germany and Switzerland in Vietnam without filing any reports (Picture 7).

From Feb 9 to 14, 2014 police stationed right in front of his house, and in both directions of the street leading to his house. They harassed customers who attempted to visit his sister-in-law's (at-home seamstress). During this time, they constantly terrorized his wife and his sister-in-law with many different methods such as: continuously stoning on the house sometimes for as long as two hours straight, stoning outside light bulbs and surveillance camera equipment, pouring glue into door locks, drinking and yelling in front of the house, threatening to kill his wife, chopping down trees around the house, vandalizing and stealing irrigation hoses, cutting the water, observing other family members who visited the house. Once the terrors became unbearable, his wife and her sister had to flee on February 14th, 2014. His wife joined him in Ho Chi Minh City and his sister-in-law foundnd temporary asylum at her sister's home.

Incident #1/ b

- Date and time (approximate, if exact date is not known): Feb 24, 2014 (2PM)
- Place (location and country/countries): next to the Australian Embassy 8 Dao Tan Street, in front of the Australian Embassy, No. 8 Dao Tan Street,
- *Detailed description of the circumstances of the incident in which the alleged violation occurred respectively the nature of the governmental action:*

Sunday, Feb 23, 2014

Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen and his wife Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong arrived in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, where they will meet diplomats of The European Union and of the Embassies of the United States, Australia, Holland, Germany and England. to report about the human rights violations and repression of the Hoa Haos by the public security forces of Lap Vo district and of Dong Thap province.

On arrival at Noi Bai airport, they were immediately followed by suspicious government agents.

Monday Feb 24, 2014, at around 2 PM,

On the way to meet an Australian diplomat, Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen and Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong were intercepted just 100m from the Australian Embassy in Hanoi. They were dragged out of the taxi, punched and kicked savagely by four men on motorbikes with no license plates. Nguyen Bac Truyen and his wife identified two of them as secret agents who have followed them since their arrival in Hanoi. Later Mr David Skowronski, Australian Second Secretary in charge of Politics, took both of them to a hospital (Picture 8: Nguyen Bac Truyen at an international Hospital in Hanoi on Feb 24, 2014). The medical report attested superficial injury in the nose, superficial abrasions on forehead and eyebrows, nasal bone fracture (Picture 9: Medical summary of Nguyen Bac Truyen on Feb 24, 2014).

Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen and his wife changed the hostel to the Catholic Church in Thai Ha, Hanoi for preventing to be attacked again by the police. The meetings with other embassies planned for the following days were subsequently combined to one meeting on Feb 25, 2014. Many rights defenders in Hanoi escorted them, Because the police surrounded the meeting place, Mr. Felix Schwarz, Consul of the German Embassy, has driven Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen and his wife back to the Church Thai Ha.

Incident #2

On Feb 11th, 2014 a group of 15 Hoa Hao Buddhists together with 6 human rights defenders were on their way to visit Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen and his wife, Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong and were ambushed by hundreds of policemen and thugs in Hung Nhon Hamlet, Long Hung B village, Lap Vo district, Dong Thap province / South Vietnam. They were arrested. 18 were released after 3 days. 3 remain in prison.

(the incident #2 will be reported to the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief in another individual submission)

Situation-background

Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen is a former prisoner of conscience. He was arbitrarily arrested in 2006 and sentenced to 3.5 years prison and 2 years house arrest on the charge of “spreading propaganda against the state” according to §88, Vietnamese criminal law.

After serving his sentence, Nguyen Bac Truyen came in May 2010 in contact with the Hoa Hao Buddhists in the provinces of An Giang, Dong Thap, Can Tho...(Mekong Delta) and started to support their peaceful struggle for the Right to freedom of religion.

As a jurist, Nguyen Bac Truyen helped the Hoa Hao Buddhists to develop their knowledge in human and civil rights according to international and Vietnamese laws, which enable them to deal with the government’s infringements and protect their rights in matter of religious activities and beliefs.

In addition, Nguyen Bac Truyen taught the Hoa Hao to use Internet as a tool, for breaking the isolation tactics and one-way propaganda of the government. Everyday activities of Hoa Hao Buddhism are introduced to the world on internet showing a peaceful religion of kind, honest and helpful peasants as opposed to the distorted propaganda of the authorities presenting the Hoa Hao as a group of violent, disturbing, secessionist people (see <http://truyenthongphatgiaohao.blogspot.com/>).

The presence of Nguyen Bac Truyen in areas with large Hoa Hao population is a challenge to the authority of a government used to suppression methods.

The family of Mrs BtKim Phuong has believed in the Hoa Hao religion for many generations. According to the teaching of the founder, Sacred Master Huynh Phu So, the HH Buddhists are not encouraged in building temples, whereas each home can be a place of worship for everyday practice. Thus, Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong family has often invited friends to gather to pray together, listen to readings of the teaching, helping each other to cook vegetarian food.... Being not registered with the government approved Hoa Hao Administrative Council, the family of Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong has been closely monitored from May 2013 by the local Public security force, and the harassment kept intensify since.

The civil marriage of Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen and Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong was performed and registered in the office of the People 's Committee of Long Hung B Commune (Lap Vo district, Dong Thap province)

In October 2013 . The religious wedding ceremony according to Hoa Hao buddhist ritual was planned for the of Februar18, 2014 in their house in Long Hung Commune. The assault on Feb 9, 2014 - 9 days ahead of the widely announced religious wedding – could aimed to prevent a gathering of Vietnamese rights defenders of the country and foreign diplomats..

Relating to the pretext used to arrest Nguyen Bac Truyen on Feb 9, 2014 it is noteworthy that Nguyen Bac Truyen has indeed made some depts when his company filed bankruptcy following his arbitrary arrest in 2006. After his release in 2010 he had arranged with some debtors that he could find. Two complainers he could meet after being arrested on Feb 9, 2014 told him that they were threatened by the police who had advised them to complain.

-Which indications exist that the victim(s) has been targeted because of his/her religion or belief?

-During the illegal search of the home of Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong (victim 2) on Feb 9, 2014 the public security personnel rummaged through the Hoa Hao altar, threw the sacred picture of “Sacred Master Huynh Phu So”(the founder of the Hoa Hao Buddhism) to the ground, and in the presence of Mrs Bui Thi Kim Cam (victim #3) calumniated the Hoa Hao Buddhists as outlaws disturbing the society and being anti- government .

After the Feb 9, 2014 incident, the Dong Thap Province Television showed a video clip in which 4 individuals claimed being Hoa Hao Buddhists and accused Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen not being a Hoa Hao follower because he had not been registered with the government approved Hoa Hao Administrative Council. They also accused Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen for violating the laws when living Dong Thap Province, and that he only called for Hoa Hao praying sessions to plot against the government. They required the government to prosecute Nguyen Bac Truyen.

In the same video clip, the chief of the public security force of Dong Thap province, Police General Nguyen Minh Thuan, also accused Nguyen Bac Truyen of only staying at his wife's house with aim to incite Hoa Hao Buddhists against the government.

During the interrogation of his wife, Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong, in the police station of Long Hung B Commune, the public security forces of Dong Thap Province and of Ho chi Minh city accused Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen to be a reactionary, a political prisoner residing illegally in her house in order to incite the local Hoa Hao Buddhists to participate in politics, and to have organized religious meetings in her house without having registered it with the Board of the state-sanctioned Central Hoa Hao Church, which are violations of the laws.

Lieutenant Colonel Tran van Bach, head of the public security force of Long Hung B commune, told Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong that her wedding ceremony scheduled on Feb 18, 2014 is only a plot

to disturb security, and she would be allowed to practice her religion if stopping her contact with Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen (i.e. her husband!)

After the Feb 9, 2014 incident, the public security forces of Lap Vo district and Dong Thap province have sent “invitations to working sessions” to many Hoa Hao Buddhists telling them that they are banned from assembling at Nguyen Bac Truyen wife’s house for prayers, religious studies or rituals and practices, otherwise they would be arrested. Currently all Hoa Hao neighbours of Nguyen Bac Truyen and his wife or the ones who used to frequent her house are being monitored closely.

-Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen is forbidden to reside in his wife’s or in anyone else house in Dong Thap province

-Identification of the alleged perpetrator(s), name(s) if known and/or function, suspected motive:

Group#1 (involved in the Feb 9, 2014 incident are the public security officers of Lap Vo District, of Dong Thap province and of Ho chi Minh City in uniform and many in plainclothes. In following are the name of their leaders:

- a) **Major General Nguyen Minh Thuan**, Public security Chief of Dong Thap province, leading the attack and arrest of Bui Thi Kim Phuong and Nguyen Bac Truyen on Feb 9, 2014, giving order to subordinates to search the house without search warrant,
- b) **Colonel Nguyen Thanh Long**, Public security Chief of Lap Vo district, commander of the security police monitoring Mrs. Bui Thi Kim Phuong from May 2013 and her sister Bui Thi Kim Anh from Feb 9, 2014 until now.
- c) **Senior Lieutenant Colonel Le Hoang Dung**, Public Security Deputy Chief of Lap Vo district, repeatedly summoned Mrs Bui Thi Kim Anh (another sister-in law of Nguyen Bac Truyen) to the police station, intimidated her, and asked her to cooperate with the police against Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen.
- d) **Senior Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen Cong Khanh**, Public Security Deputy Chief of Lap Vo district, requested several times Ms. Bui Thi Kim Anh per telephone to cooperate with the police.
- e) **Captain Huynh Van Thuan**, Public Security Deputy Chief of Lap Vo district, was chief of the police team who threw stones at Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong house from Feb 10 to Feb 14, 2014, threatening to kill Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong and Bui Thi Kim Cam, stealing irrigation pipe, cutting pipes for water supply ...
- f) **Lieutenant Colonel Tran Van Bach**, Public Security Deputy Chief of Long Hung B commune, has been led the arrests and interrogations of the relatives and friends who visited Bui Thi Kim Phuong and Bui Thi Kim Anh
- g) **Public Security Major Nguyen Van Dong**, LapVo district, has been leading the monitoring of Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong, BtKim Cam and BtKim Anh when they leave their house.
- h) **Major Tran Huu Phu** from Ho chi Minh City police station, interrogated Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen
- i) **Maj. Nguyen Tan Sy**, from Ho chi Minh City police station, interrogated Mrs Bui Thi Kim Phuong.

Their unconcealed motives are

1/ to prevent the religious wedding according to the Hoa Hao rituals of Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen and Mrs. Bui Thi Kim Phuong on February 18, 2014. Their civil marriage in October 2013 was without incident .

2/ to prevent Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen from residing in Dong Thap Province and to cut off the help he has been bringing to the Hoa Hao buddhists.

- Are the perpetrator(s) known to the victim? yes. Some of them are identified by the victims.
- Are state agents or non-state-actors believed to be responsible for the alleged violation? Yes.
- If the perpetrators are believed to be State-agents, please specify (police, military, agents of security services, unit to which they belong, rank and functions, etc.), and indicate why they are believed to be responsible; be as precise as possible. see above
- If identification as State agents is not possible, do you believe that Government authorities or persons linked to them, are responsible for the incident, why?
- If there are witnesses to the incident, indicate their names, age, relationship and contact address. If they wish to remain anonymous, indicate if they are relatives, by-passers, etc.; if there is evidence, please specify. Bui Thi Kim Cam (sister-in-law) of Nguyen bac Truyen for the incident # 1 and David Skowronski (Australian Embassy in Hanoi, David.Skowronski@dfat.gov.au, Tel: +84 4 3774 0250) for the incident #2

4. STEPS TAKEN BY THE VICTIM, HIS/HER FAMILY OR ANYONE ELSE ON HIS/HER BEHALF?

- Please indicate if complaints have been filed, when, by whom, and before which State authorities or competent bodies (i.e. police, prosecutor, court): no
- Were any other steps taken? Communications with several NGOs, for instance the VETO! HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' NETWORK (Director Mr. Vu Quoc Dung, VETO.germany@gmail.com) Radio Free Asia, Radio France International, Voice of America, British Broadcasting Corporation, AP, ... have reported Communication with Embassies of USA, Germany, the Netherlands, Canada, UK, Sweden, Norway.
- Steps taken by the authorities: unknown
- Indicate whether or not, to your knowledge, there have been investigations by the State authorities; if so, what kind of investigations? Please indicate progress and status of these investigations as well as which other measures have been taken? unknown
- In case of complaints by the victim or its family, how have those authorities or other competent bodies dealt with them? What has been the outcome of those proceedings? The victims believe that an intervention can improve the situation. Nguyen bac Truyen, his wife Bui Thi Kim Phuong and sister-in-law Bui Thi Kim Cam cannot return home.

5. IDENTITY OF THE PERSON OR INSTITUTION SUBMITTING THIS FORM

- Family name: Nguyen
- First name: Bac Truyen
- Contact number or address (please indicate country and area code): No. 29, đường 42, phường 4, quận 4, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Fax:
- Telephone: +84 128 955 1543
- Email: khanang2010@gmail.com
- skype: michael.cane777
- Status: individual, group, non-governmental organization, religious or belief group, inter-governmental agency, Government. Please specify: Representative of the Southwestern Hoa Hao Buddhist Church

Power of representation:

- Family name: Vu
- First name: Quoc Dung

- Contact number or address: VETO! HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' NETWORK - Deutsche Sektion e.V. P.O. Box 1506, 61215 Bad Nauheim, Germany
- Telephone: +49 176 495 23110
- Email: VETO.germany@gmail.com
- Do you act with knowledge and on behalf of the victim(s)? from victim

- Please state whether you want your identity to be kept confidential: no

Date you are submitting this form: Apr 30, 2014

Author

NGUYỄN BẮC TRUYỀN

Related links:

Human Rights Watch

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/02/13/vietnam-stop-harassment-rights-defenders>

Reporters Sans Frontieres

<http://en.rsf.org/vietnam-thumbing-nose-at-un-vietnam-beats-11-02-2014,45853.html>

Defend the Defenders

<http://vietnamhumanrightsdefenders.net/2014/02/27/vietnam-dissident-beaten-ahead-diplomat-meeting/>

Citizen's Newspaper

<http://danlambaovn.blogspot.de/2014/02/complaint-against-communist-government.html>

PICTURES

Some pictures are screenshots of the video clip on the provincial state-sanctioned Dong Thap Television:

<http://thdt.vn/?s=TV&TelID=6vslIf%2FKpMuzU%2FfJl60cEA%3D%3D&ID=61MmoonEoXihaY%2FkABLqNw%3D%3D&file=ChuyenDe%2F2701+CM+ANTQ.flv>



Picture 1: Police officers summoned Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen at the fence door (Dong Thap Television)



Picture 2 (l): Cutted fence lock of Nguyen Bac Truyen house on Feb 9, 2014
Picture 3 (r): The metal front door of Nguyen Bac Truyen house was destroyed on Feb 9, 2014



Picture 4: The metal back door of Nguyen Bac Truyen house was destroyed on Feb 9, 2014



Picture 5: The glass front door of Nguyen Bac Truyen house was destroyed on Feb 9, 2014



Picture 6: The sacred picture of “Master Huynh Phu So” was thrown to the ground



Picture 7: Confiscated items (Dong Thap Television)



Picture 8: Nguyen Bac Truyen at an international Hospital in Hanoi on Feb 24, 2014

our health. Our care.

MEDICAL SUMMARY

Patient Name : Bac Truyen Nguyen
File No. : HR-34142
Doctor : Michael E. B. Santos
Report Date : 24/02/2014
Visit date : 24/02/2014

DOB : 12/08/1968
Age : 45 Year(s) 7 Month(s)
Sex : Male
Visit Type: OP

Active Problems: Mauling

Present Illness:
2 hours patient was mauled by 4 individuals. (+) injury in the face and in the chest. No lost of consciousness.

Allergies: No known allergy

Vital Signs: Body temperature 36.5 deg C, Systolic 145 mmHg, Diastolic 79 mmHg, Heart rate 116 bpm

Physical Examination:

Head: Remarks: Superficial injury in the nose

Eyes: Normal eye movement
Remarks: Orbital hematoma, conjunctival hemorrhage right eye

Nose: Remarks: Swelling on bridge of the nose with superficial wound

Skin: Remarks: Superficial abrasions on forehead and eyebrows

Lungs: No respiratory distress, Clear lungs on auscultation

Heart: S1 S2 normal, No murmurs

Investigations & Procedures:
Nasal bone x-ray

Diagnosis :
Multiple physical injury secondary to mauling
Nasal bone fracture

Prescriptions:
Ibuprofen 400 STADA tablet, 400.0 mg, every 6 hr(s) for 4 times, for 3 day(s), as needed: for pain after meal, Route: ORAL

Doctor Notes:
Daily wound care , Advised , Head trauma precaution

Referral Requests: Internal referral placed to **Vu Trung Luong** , Specialty: ENT.

CTY TNHH PHÒNG KHÁM GIA ĐÌNH HÀ NỘI.

298 I Kim Mã, Phường Kim Mã,
Quận Ba Đình, TP. Hà Nội.

ĐT: 84-4-38430748
Fax: 84-4-38461750

SA

Vin Phuc Diplomatic Compound, 298 I Kim Ma Road, Ba Dinh District, Hanoi, Vietnam
T: 24hr 84 4 38430748 F: 84 4 38461750

Picture 9: Medical summary of Nguyen Bac Truyen injury on Feb 24, 2014

Violations against Hoa Hao Buddhist and human rights defender Nguyen Bac Truyen

From: Vietnamese Redemptorists' News, VRNs

(1) Hundreds of Dong Thap police officers raided the home of Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen



VRNs (Feb 10th, 2014) At 4:40pm on Feb. 9, 2014, hundreds of Dong Thap police officers raided the home of Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen. They used lever, and crow-bars destroyed the fence, broke into the house, smashed the altar of the Master Huynh Phu So of Hoa Hao Buddhism, broke all machinery, camera, furniture ... left nothing but destruction. Dozens of policemen violently tied, gagged, and handcuffed Mr. Truyen like an animal, they threw him in the car and took off. The police also falsely accused him of robbing billions of Vietnamese dong from others to build his house. As of right now, Ms. Phuong, Truyen's fiancé' is in custody of the communal police station, and Mr. Truyen, according to the local residence, were transported by ferry Cao Lanh ... possibly being taken to Saigon.

Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen, 45, is a former prisoner of conscience, sentenced to 3 and a half years in prison for allegedly "conducting propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam." Mr. Nguyen is also the author of a number of highly appreciated articles on several independent and international media, such as Dan Lam Bao, RFA, VOA, RFI, whose content calls for promoting democracy and human rights, and speaking out for prisoners of conscience currently detained in communist prisons.

<http://www.vrnews.org/2014/02/hundreds-of-dong-thap-police-officers.html#!/2014/02/hundreds-of-dong-thap-police-officers.html>

(2) Second attack on human rights defender Mr Nguyen Ban Truyen



VRNs (*Feb 26th*, 2014) - Saigon - On 24 February 2014, at approximately 2:30pm, human rights defender Mr Nguyen Bac Truyen, along with his wife, was attacked by undercover policemen as they made their way to the Australian embassy in Hanoi. This is the second serious attack against the human rights defender this month.

Nguyen Bac Truyen provides free legal assistance to victims of land grabs, and campaigns for multi-party democracy. He has also campaigned for the release of human rights defender Mr Le Quoc Quan, and has spent time in jail on charges of “anti-state propaganda”. He was released on probation in 2010.

Nguyen Bac Truyen had been invited to the Australian embassy on 24 February 2014, in order to provide information on the recent attack and unlawful arrest against him by Dong Thap police, amongst other human rights issues. As the couple passed the intersection of Dao Tan and Lieu Giai in a taxi, three men stopped and assaulted the driver, and then attacked the human rights defender. Passers-by managed to stop the violence by informing the driver and the couple that the men were actually plain-clothes policemen. The human rights defender and his wife then fled to the Australian embassy, where the diplomat who had invited them escorted them to Hanoi Family Medical Clinic for examination. It has been reported that undercover policemen monitored all of these movements closely, and that they have been monitoring and harassing the couple for some time.

On 9 February 2014, police reportedly fired gunshots at and stormed the human rights defender's then-fiancée's home in Dong Thap, where the couple were staying before their wedding. Nguyen Bac Truyen was assaulted, blindfolded and handcuffed before being arrested by police and government agents. The human rights defender's fiancée was also briefly detained, and his laptop and mobile phone were confiscated. Nguyen Bac Truyen was detained on charges of alleged theft, but was released 24 hours later.

The Vietnamese government recently came under fire at the UN Human Rights Council during its Universal Periodic Review over its treatment of government critics, activists, bloggers and human rights defenders such as Nguyen Bac Truyen. There were also reports that some human rights defenders had been prevented from travelling to Geneva for the review.

[Front Line Defenders](#) is concerned that the attack by state security forces on Nguyen Bac Truyen and his wife was directly related to his peaceful and legitimate work in defence of human rights in Vietnam, and condemns it as such. Front Line Defenders is further concerned for the physical and psychological integrity of of Nguyen Bac Truyen and his family.

<http://www.vrnews.org/search?q=Nguyen+Bac+Truyen#!/2014/02/vietnam-second-attack-on-human-rights.html>