

## **Special Report of the Living Condition and Tradition of Ethnic Jorai of Gia Lai province, Vietnam Before 1975 and after 1975**

My name is Rmah Bun, born on December 11, 1965, resided at Betel villages, communes Ia Rong, Chu Puh District, Gia Lai province; nationality: Vietnam. I represent the entire ethnic Jorai community currently living in Thailand.

Our living condition and traditional/cultural activities before 1975 were as follows:

1. Our lives were comfortable and satisfactory;
2. We had adequate lands for cultivating, and no dispute on property rights occurred;
3. We raised cattle on wide pasture lands;
4. School was organized to teach native language;
5. A hospital located in Ham Rong mountain of Gia Lai Province took care of our health;
6. Traditional dances along with “gong” instrument at burial sites were conducted freely;
7. “Yang” praying service at the harvest season was celebrated;
8. Feasts served with beef and water buffalo meat and traditional dances at the community center (nha rong) were held;
9. We could travel freely, no permit was required;
10. The right to give birth was respected; and no forced sterilization was applied.
11. The burial sites were kept with respect. No one was allowed to damage or infringe on the sites;
12. All native rituals celebrated at weddings, housewarmings, longevity celebrations, birthdays, funerals were conducted;
13. All children were admitted to schools without paying any fees.
14. We enjoyed the right of worship at the following churches lead by local pastors:
  - Plei-Ku Church with pastors: Siron, Oi and Long;
  - Plei-Betel Church with pastors: Ksor Bing and Siu Suenh;
  - Plei -Thohga Church with Pastor kPa Khoan.

After 1975 our living condition was miserable and all cultural traditions were no longer respected. The followings briefly described the atrocities committed and prohibitions made by the Vietnamese Government:

1. All producing lands belong to our ethnic Jorai were confiscated by the Vietnamese Government to grow rubber plants. Government official of Chu Puh District declared that people are prohibited from cultivating on Government’s lands. Cattle were no longer allowed on pasture lands which were now under the Government control!

2. School where native language taught was destroyed by the Government. Jorai language teacher no longer existed;
3. One has to pay fee when treated or admitted to the hospital. Government made propaganda focusing on sterilization. If women giving birth at the hospital doctors would sterilize them. Men were also talked into sterilization. Several of them, men and women, died because of sterilization.
4. Government banned any ceremony with more people participating in, such as the feast served with beef or water buffalo meat held at community center, funeral, traditional “gong” dance at burial site, Yang praying service at the harvest season, and gatherings to worship God.

All of the churches at Plei-ku, Plei-Betel and Plei-Thohga of Jorai ethnic were destroyed by the Government. They also banned all former pastors (cited under item #14 above) from preaching at any church.

I attested that all of the facts mentioned above are true. I hereby respectfully request your consideration of the atrocities and prohibitions made by the Vietnamese Communist Regime against the cultural and human rights of our Jorai ethnic living in Vietnam.

Respectfully yours;

Executed in Thailand on November 6, 2013

By R. B.  
Representative of Jorai Ethnic