

SANGHA OF VIETNAMESE UNITED BUDDHIST CHURCH
Lien Tri Temple – 153 Luong Dinh Cua Street, An Khanh Ward,
District 2, Hochiminh City

To: Mrs. Tran Thi Thanh Thanh
Vice President of People Committee of An Khanh Ward, District 2

Our temple received your letter inviting us to meet with you for negotiating the compensation to our religious establishment of Lien Tri Temple. Because of my old age and health condition, I delegate Venerable Thich Dong Minh and Venerable Thich Dong Tan to meet with you on behalf of the Sangha of the temple. The Sangha and all Buddhist members of our temple would like to request you to present this case to Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and People Committee of Hochiminh City to stop all activities of the public security agents who stood guard at our temple with intent to isolate us, harass us and suppress us.

We absolutely cannot accept the amount of VN\$5,418,076,120 offered in the plan presented by Mr. Nguyen Phuoc Hung, Vice President of District 2, to compensate for the loss of temple's land and real properties, as the government wants to destroy our temple.

We respectfully request that the Prime Minister and the People Committee of Hochiminh City respect the freedom of religion and belief, and human rights to stop the plan to erase Lien Tri Temple for using the land for commercial and business development. Please let us renovate our temple to preserve the Vietnamese cultural heritage and our religious tradition.

In case that the Prime Minister and the People Committee of Hochiminh City determine to erase our temple for commercial and business development purpose, please provide us with a legal document to take the temple's land and to force us to move elsewhere. With such a document, we will fast to pray for the freedom of religion and belief, for the human rights, for suppressed Vietnamese people to have better lives and for Lien Tri Temple to exist without being destroyed by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Buddhist Calendar 2558 – Lien Tri Temple, Thu Thiem, August 21, 2014.

Respectfully;

Abbott of the Temple
(signed and sealed)

Ven. Thich Khong Tanh
(birth name: Phan Ngoc An)

Other recipients of this letter:

- Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt, Special Rapporteur of United Nations on Religion and Belief
- All International Human Rights Organizations
“to help and intervene”
- All Civil Society Organizations and media
“to share and disseminate the information”

Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Independent – Liberty – Happiness

**People Committee
Of An Khanh Quarter**

No. 01/TM-UBND

An Khanh August 18, 2014

INVITATION LETTER

To: Master Thich Khong Tanh (birth name: Phan Ngoc An)
Address: 153 Luong Dinh Cua, Group 32, Area 2, An Khanh Ward, District 2

People Committee of An Khanh Ward respectfully request the presence of Master Thich Khong Tanh (birth name: Phan Ngoc An) to meet with us to negotiate the compensation for the religious establishment of Lien Tri Temple located in the new urban area of Thu Thiem.

The meeting will be chaired by Mr. Nguyen Phuoc Hung, Vice President of the People Committee of District 2;

Time and date of the meeting: 8:30 am August 21,2014;

Place of the meeting: Auditorium of the People Committee Office

(Address: 1A, Luong Dinh Cua Street, Area: 6, An Khanh Ward, District 2)

Due to the importance of the meeting, Master Thich Khong Tanh (birth name: Phan Ngoc An) should arrive at the meeting place on time.

Attached is the compensation plan for the damage/loss of the Lien Tri Temple at 153 Luong Dinh Cua Street, Group 32, Area 2, An Khanh Ward, District 2, located in the new urban area of Thu Thiem (not yet finalized)

For the People Committee of An Khanh Ward
Signed for the President
(and sealed)

Tran Thi Thanh Thanh

APPENDIX

Time to organize and implement the compensation, assistance and receiving the land and establishment of Lien Tri Temple
(attached is the plan No...../PA-HDBT Date:...../...../ 2014 of the Compensation Committee of the new urban area of Thu Thiem)

1. From July 28, 2014 to August 8, 2014: The People Committee of An Khanh Ward shall complete the legal process of the land and transfer it to the Compensation Committee for clearance of the plat. The District draft the compensation plan and assistance and forward to the Council of Compensation for their review. The inter-agencies group resolves any obstacle of the new urban area of Thu Thiem;
2. From August 11 to August 22, 2014: get in touch, advocate and announce legal aspect of the building and land, plan of compensation and assistance which was approved by the Compensation Council. The inter-agencies group will contact with and get approval from Mr. Phan Ngoc An (the person in charge of Lien Tri Temple). After completing this task, meet with the Compensation Committee, and finish the plat to be cleared; then report to the Compensation Council for issuing the compensation plan. The People Committee of the District then approve the plan of compensation and assistance;
3. From August 25 to August 29, 2014: The People Committee of the Ward will announce the approval of the compensation plan, and attach a copy of the plan to the document and deliver to Mr. Phan Ngoc An;
4. From September 3 to September 5, 2014: The Compensation Committee processes paper works to pay to Lien Tri Temple;
5. From September 8 to September 30, 2014: All agencies and working groups coordinate to receive the plat, on which the Lien Tri Temple has been erased;

In case Mr. Phan Ngoc An (who is in charge of the Lien Tri Temple) would not accept the government policy and decision, and deny to accept the monies offered for the compensation and assistance, the government will apply the administrative procedure to legally acquire the plat where Lien Tri Temple is situated.