Vietnamese Government Violating Religious Freedom of the Mennonite Church in Binh Duong Province, Vietnam

Update on December 17, 2014

At 3pm on December 15, Evangelist Dinh Nhat Minh Khoa received three phone calls from Mr. Pham Quoc Thai, chief of the police of Thoi Hoa District. Mr. Thai requested that Evangelist Khoa report to the police station before 4pm to get back his motorbike. Evangelist Khoa explained that he had another business to take care of. At 4:15pm, Mr. Thai again called him, ordering him to report to the police station before 8:00am the following day.

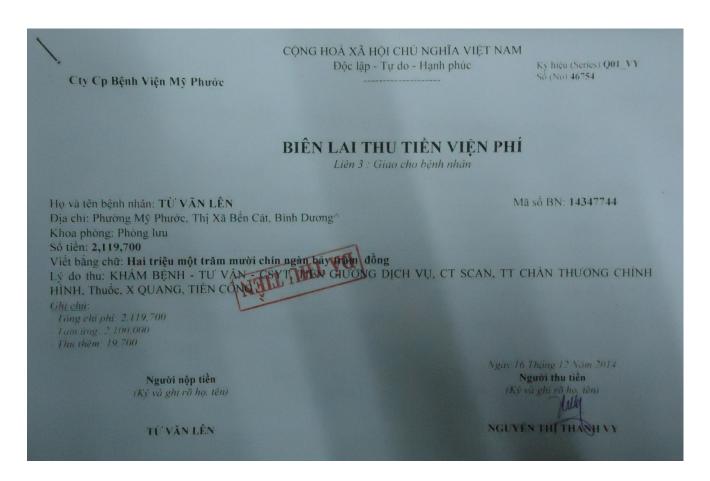
At exactly 8:00am on December 16, Evangelist Khoa asked a friend to drive him on motorbike to the police station. His friend then left. Evangelist Khoa entered the police station by himself to complete the paperwork for the return of his motorbike. He then phoned Evangelist Tu Van Len to pick him up and take him to the place where his motorbike was kept, which is 4 km away. Just as the two of them left the police station, six strangers on three motorbikes attacked them in front of the police station. The police did not intervene.

Evangelist Khoa was beat on the head. He had many bruises and a number of scratches on his arms and legs. He did not go to the doctor because he could not afford it.

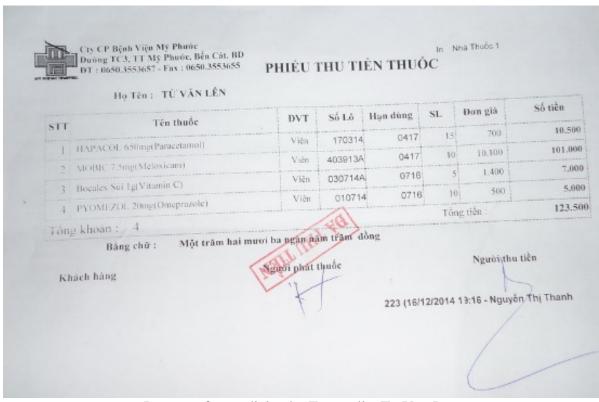
Evangelist Len was beaten and his left arm was broken. His left ear was torn and he had many bruises on his body. His head displayed many bruises, requiring X-ray and CT Scan. The doctor and staff at the My Phuoc Hospital said that they did not have enough means to treat him, and advised that he go to a hospital in Ho Chi Minh City for further diagnosis of head injuries.

Evangelist Len is of the Champa ethnicity. He is second-year student at the Mennonite Theological School and an active member of the Mennonite Church in My Phuong, Binh Duong. He had been harassed many times by the police of Thoi Hoa District. His family's concession selling sugarcane juice had been frequently disturbed by strangers.

Reported by Pastor Nguyen Hong Quang



Receipt of payment of hospital costs for Evangelist Tu Van Len



Payment for medicine by Evangelist Tu Van Len



Tu Van Len's broken left arm and torn left ear





Bruises and scratches all over his body and feet