

## **Great Way of the Third Salvation**

**Eighty Eighth Year**

**Tay Ninh Holy See**

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### **REPORT**

Re: The Government and the Public Security Police of City of Vinh Long Interfering into the Internal Affairs of Cao Dai Religion

To: - Ms. FARIDA SHAHEED, Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, UN Human Rights Council  
- US Administration and Congress

We: Sub-dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan, Acting Chief of Religious District of Chau Thanh, Vinh Long, and Deputy Chair of Representative Committee of the Popular Council of Cao Dai Church;

Sub-dignitary Nguyen Bach Phung, Acting Female Chief of the Religious District of Chau Thanh, Vinh Long, and Secretary of the Representative Committee of the Popular Council of Cao Dai Church;

hereby report to the Special Rapporteur and to the US Administration and Congress the following incident.

On the first day of the tenth month of the Year of the Snake (03 November, 2013), a ceremony was held at the home of Sub-dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan, 191/8A, Lo Ren Street, Block 1, Ward 4, Vinh Long City, to commemorate the passing away of Student Priest Thai Kim Thanh, the late Chief of Religious District of Chau Thanh, Vinh Long.

This was the ninth such annual commemoration, in accordance to the tradition of the Vietnamese people, which has been kept through the ages, in the memory of ancestors and also to honor those who contributed to society or religion as well as those who served humanity -- a tradition that all Vietnamese people know about and respect.

However, ironically, officials of the government, the public security police of Ward 4, and the police of the City of Vinh Long came in a large contingent to the home of Sub-dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan, including:

1. Chau Nguyen Minh Thuc, Deputy Chair of the People's Committee of Ward 4, City of Vinh Long, Vinh Long Province
2. Pham Thanh Le, Chair of the Fatherland Front of Ward 4, City of Vinh Long, Vinh Long Province
3. Tran Dang Khoa, Chair of the Farmers Association of Ward 4, City of Vinh Long, Vinh Long Province
4. Quach Hoang Loc, Secretary General of Young Communists of Ward 4, City of Vinh Long, Vinh Long Province

5. Truong Van Xieu, Chair of the Cultural Committee of Ward 4, City of Vinh Long, Vinh Long Province
6. Le Chi Dung, Chair of the Veterans Association of Ward 4, City of Vinh Long, Vinh Long Province
7. Mrs. Huynh Thi Ngoc Lan, Deputy Chair of the Women's Union of Ward 4, City of Vinh Long, Vinh Long Province
8. Ho Xuan Truyen, Chief of Block 1, Ward 4, City of Vinh Long, Vinh Long Province
9. Nguyen Tan Lac, Public Security Police agent, City of Vinh Long, Vinh Long Province

They put pressure on Sub-dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan, demanding that he must obtain the approval of the local government before proceeding with the ceremony.

Mr. Chau Nguyen Minh Thuc, Deputy Chair of the People's Committee of Ward 4, stated that: "The memorial gathering would be allowed if participants were wearing regular dress, but here you and your fellow believers wear your long dress and head turban; this means religious activities are being conducted and they must be pre-approved or registered periodically with the People's Committee, in accordance with Articles 2, 4, and 5 as specified in Decree 92."

Sub-dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan and all participants were very upset and vehemently protested the pressure from the government officials, who were backed up by the police, in order to enforce Decree 92 in an attempt to eliminate the Truth Conservation Cao Dai Denomination that was established by the Supreme Being in 1926.

The government and police have taken four steps:

Step 1: They force followers to comply with Decree 92, mandating us to seek prior approval to conduct the memorial ceremony because of the gathering of many participants. Due to the strong protest of the participants, who argued that there is no law that prohibits participation in private memorial ceremonies, the government moved to Step 2.

Step 2: The government resorted to the tactic of writing up participants for administrative violation, and demanded that Sub-dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan signs it. Sub-dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan refused to sign and participants continued to protest. The government moved to Step 3.

Step 3: The public security police of Ward 4 got involved, demanding to check the ID cards of all participants. The participants protested such an unreasonable demand because there is no law stipulating that ID cards of participants in a private memorial ceremony be inspected by the police. Finally the public security police moved to Step 4.

Step 4: The police of Ward 4 schemed with the traffic police that was stationed at the entrance of the alley [where the home of Sub-dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan was located] to stop the vehicles of all participants as they went home. The traffic police blew their whistle and checked the driver's licenses and wrote down the names of all participants.

Then the public security police of Wards 1, 2 and 8 summoned the following Cao Dai followers in for questioning:

1. Ms. Le Thi Ngoc Mai, born 1972, resident of 54/26B, Pham Hung St, Ward 2, City of Vinh Long
2. Ms. Nguyen Ngoc Xuan Uyen, born 1977, resident of 8 Vo Thi Sau St, Ward 1, City of Vinh Long
3. Ms. Thai Thi Kieu Nga, resident of Ward 8. She was instructed by the police to sign a statement never to attend any future memorial ceremony at the home of Sub-dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan. She objected to such a demand.

This is clear evidence that the government of Ward 4 and the police of the City of Vinh Long have blatantly violated the freedom of religion of citizens, interfered in the internal affairs of our religion, denied citizens of their basic rights, undermined our religious practices and caused confusion and insecurity to people of faith in our locality.

We, the community of followers of the Truth Conservation Cao Dai Denomination in Vinh Long, strongly protest the acts of pressure and interference in the internal affairs of our religion by the Communist government of Vietnam in general, which has used Decree 92 to eliminate the Cao Dai religion and other pure religions in the country.

We ask the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the US Administration and Congress to use your influence and demand that the Vietnamese communist authorities carries out its commitments made upon joining the United Nations, and returns freedom of religion to citizens with respect to the Cao Dai Religion as established by God, and with respect to all other pure religions.

Respectfully,

Vinh Long, the fourth day of the tenth month, Year of the Snake

06 November, 2013

Reporting individuals:

- Acting Chief of Religious District and Deputy Chair of Representative Committee of the Popular Council

Signed

Nguyen Kim Lan

- Acting Female Chief of Religious District and Secretary of Representative Committee of the Popular Council

Signed

Nguyen Bach Phung

Co-Signed by:

List of 20 affected participants

Cc:

- Prime Minister, Socialist Republic of Vietnam
- Central Government's Committee for Religious Affairs
- Chair, People's Committee of Vinh Long Province
- Chair, Religious Affairs Committee of Vinh Long Province



**H/H Chánh Trị Sự  
NGUYỄN KIM LÂN**

Sub-dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan in traditional white dress with black turban



**Hiền Tỷ Nữ CTS  
NGUYỄN BẠCH PHỤNG**

Sub-dignitary Nguyen Bach Phung in traditional white dress



Chánh Quyền và Công An P4 TPVL tỉnh Vĩnh Long đang dùng NĐ 92 để ngăn cản Lễ Giỗ tại nhà CTS Nguyễn Kim Lan ngày mừng 01/10 năm Quý Ty (đi 03/11/2013)

Authorities coming to the home of Sub-dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan to stop the memorial ceremony



Công an mặc sắc phục - thường phục đứng trước cổng vào phủ thờ H/h Cố Lễ Sinh THÁI KIM THANH ( 11 h 30 ngày 03/11/2013 )

The local police and government officials in front of the home of Sub-dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan



Ông - Nguyễn Tân Lạc  
Cán Bộ An Ninh

A plain-clothed police agent filming all activities and participants at the home of Sub-dignitary Nguyen Kim Lan