

THIRD UNIVERSAL REDEMPTION RELIGION (Cao Dai Church)  
(Eighty Ninth Year)  
TAY NINH HOLY SEE

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PRAYING TO THE CREATOR

**REPORT BY THE POPULAR COUNCIL**

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**Subject: Government of Vietnam and Sects Created in 1997 violate human rights and religious freedom of the adherents of the THIRD UNIVERSAL REDEMPTION RELIGION**

Respectfully submitted to:

- United Nations Human Rights Council
- United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief
- The Legislative and Executive Branches of the United States
- Countries that value Freedom and Democracy
- Cao Dai Church's ordained members, dignitaries and other adherents

We, the Popular Council of the legitimate Cao Dai Church, present to you the government of Vietnam's violations of human rights and religious freedom (with the collusion of the Religious Governing Council that the government created in 1997) on the occasion of the ceremony "Installing the Divine Eye Banner at the Altar". This traditional Cao Dai rite, prescribed by the Cao Dai Church that God had established in 1926, was scheduled to take place in Mr. Nguyen Van Dam's home. The facts are described below.

**I/ INTIMIDATION ATTEMPT BEFORE THE DAY OF THE CEREMONY**

Mr. Vo Van Dam (b. 1956, residing at No. 4/95, Bao Sen Hamlet, Hao Duoc Village, Town of Tay Ninh) is on the Dragon Boats committee (Cao Dai funeral vehicles decorated in the shape of sacred dragons). He has upheld his faith in God and respect for Cao Dai adherents who had received titles based on their religious maturity and achievements. Mr. Dam therefore invited Le Sanh (Student Priest) Ngoc Nghe Thanh to his house on August 13, 2014, to perform the rite of installing the Divine Eye banner at his home's altar.

**1. Following government's rules in applying for permission to hold the ceremony**

Mr. Dam submitted the request for permission to conduct the rite to the hamlet administration on August 9, 2014. The hamlet administration forwarded the request to the National Front at the village level.

Hao Duoc Village's Chairman, Mr. Nguyen Tan Cong, invited Mr. Dam's family to meet with him at 9 a.m. on August 12, 2014, for "a discussion of villagers' activities".

Officials at the meeting included Chairman Cong, 2 public security (PS) agents from the village, 3 PS agents from the district, National Front representatives, and representatives of the Religious Governing Council that was created in 1997.

- Mr. Cong: "The Council includes Student Priests and other Cao Dai clergy. Why did you ask people outside of the Council to officiate at your planned event?"

- Mr. Dam: "I do not have faith in those Council members because they joined the 1997 branches that deviate from God's authentic Cao Dai Church. Therefore I invited the authentic clergy members from our original Cao Dai Church to officiate at the Altar rite".

- Mr. Cong: "I forbid you from using people who are not on the Council because we have all the clergy that you need. If you disobeyed my order and went ahead tomorrow, I warn you that there would be disorder and you would bear all responsibilities".

- Mr. Dam: My family guarantees that there will be no disorder, provided the Council's representatives do not come to our house. Council members have always brought disorder with them. How could you ask us to have faith in them when their conduct is so reprehensible?

The village chairman kept threatening that Mr. Dam must bear all responsibility for disorder if authentic Cao Dai clergy officiated at the Altar ceremony. Mr. Dam consulted with other believers about delaying the rite. They offered him their opinion: "The government's statement is not backed up

by any official document whereas the Altar ceremony is important. We already invited other believers and therefore should proceed”.

Mr. Dam proceeded with his plan to have genuine Cao Dai personnel officiate. Out of a total of 150 participants, several came from distant locations, e.g. Dong Nai, Go Cong (over 200-m trip), Saigon, Cu Chi, Tran Bang, Mo Cong, Truong Mit, etc.

#### **2/- The homeowner proceeded with the Altar ceremony, fortified by his faith in the Creator**

80 minutes before the rite began: Cao Dai adherents gathered at Mr. Dam’s home. The government and the 1997 sect began to apply pressure by sending public security (PS) agents, Council members, and thugs who prowled around the house and waited in nearby cafes.

At the beginning of the rite, Student Priest Ngoc Nghe Thanh, Mr. Dam, and the other participants began to find their seats in the procedure prescribed by the traditional Cao Dai Church, after Mr. Dam closed the fence door. All began the solemn rite in front of the altar.

#### **3/- Government disrupted the Seating portion of the Rite**

PS agents, 1997 Cao Dai adherents, and hired thugs began to throw stones and bags containing rotten eggs and other foodstuff over the fence. The projectiles landed in the courtyard, hit the roof, or landed near the altar.

The assailants let air from cars and motorcycles belonging to the participants, and threw garbage and stones at the windshields of participants’ cars.

Thugs even waited until the rite ended and ran after those who were leaving to throw garbage at the vehicles and their passengers.

#### **4/- The participants completed the Divine Eye Banner Installation Ceremony**

In spite of the government’s disruptive tactics, the participants completed the ceremony.

### **II/ PETITION**

The United States Congress and State Department have repeatedly advised Vietnam’s government that the country’s application to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and desire for closer ties with the U.S. hinge upon proving that Vietnam respects its people’s human rights and religious freedom.

Dr. Heiner Bielefeldt, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, visited Vietnam in July 2014 and suggested that its government needs to enable religious freedom.

Still, the government has continued to violate human rights, restrict freedom, and disregard human dignity.

We, adherents of the original Cao Dai Church, urge the UN, the U.S. government’s Executive and Legislative Branches, and all the governments that value freedom, human rights and democracy, to pressure Vietnam’s government to:

1- Abide by the Convention on Civil and Political Rights that Vietnam’s government signed when the country joined the UN.

2- Abolish the Governing Council with its 1997 Constitution (a Communist creation) and return the Tay Ninh Temple to the Creator’s Children who genuinely worship the Creator and follow His authentic religion. The authentic Path requires all believers to respect life, love all the earth’s people, and live in harmony and justice.

### **III/ PHOTOGRAPHS CAPTURING THE GOVERNMENT’S USE OF VIOLENCE TO DISRUPT THE ALTAR CEREMONY**



Certificate of Ngoc Nghe Thanh's promotion to Student Priest by Ceremony Dignitary Dang Van Nghe



Hao Duoc Village Government's invitation for Mr. Dam to meet at their offices.

**Governing Council (1997 Constitution) violates people's religious freedom**



Principal Overseer Thuong Duong Thanh and Sub-Dignitary Tu Mai (with glasses) (of the Governing Council) participated in the disruption of the Altar Ceremony.



Mr. Tu Mai pulling an authentic Cao Dai participant by his shirt, a thuggish act.



Homeowner closing the gate as the ceremony began.



Bags with filthy contents were thrown at the altar's vicinity during the ceremony



Disregarding the filth on their clothes from the projectiles thrown by the government's side, participants continued the solemn ceremony.



A female participant wiping the floor after garbage landed there.



Public security agent from Chau Thanh District and Governing Council's Sub-Dignitary Tur Mai ordering thugs to let air out of the tires of the car with the license plate 53M 50-98.



Photo showing government officials, Council members, and hired thugs. The officer wearing the black riot helmet and a mask (pointing) is Major Doan Van Quang, Hao Duoc Village public security chief. He directed the operation against the Altar Ceremony.

The man without a shirt is Doan Van Tron, a Communist Party member. The man wearing the green cap is Sub-Dignitary Do Thanh My, secretary of the Hao Duoc 1997 sect and president of the Hao Duoc Senior Citizens Association, The woman filming is Le Thi Hieu, a 1997 Sect member. The woman in the orange pants and light blue shirt is Vo Thi Me, daughter of Mr. Tu (Cao Dai adherent sponsored by the government).



Damage to the windshield of a vehicle used for humanitarian purposes - caused by the government's premeditated rock throwing.



Inflating tires whose air had been let out by assailants.



Spots on moped from stinking fermented fish thrown by assailants.

Mountain View Temple, August 19, 2014  
On behalf of the Popular Council of the Cao Dai Church in Vietnam

Q. C.T.S. Bùi-Văn-Quan

Q. C.T.S. Lê-Phú-Hữu

DANH SÁCH ĐỒNG ĐẠO ĐỒNG Ý		
VỚI BAN TỔNG TRƯỞNG VÀ THƯỜNG		
TƯỞNG Ở HƯƠNG ĐẠO HAO ĐUỐC, TỘC		
ĐẠO CHÂU THÀNH, CHÂU ĐẠO TÂY NINH.		
ngày 12-7- Giáp Ngọ - * - (dl 13-8-2014).		
T.T	ĐẠO ĐẠO	ĐP: 01687446751
01	LE SANH	Võ Ngọc Ngọc Chanh: <i>Ngọc Chanh</i>
02	CT.S.	Võ Văn Diễm <i>Diễm</i>
03	CT.S.	Nguyễn Thị Hoàng <i>Hoàng</i>
04	CT.S.	Nguyễn Văn Thành <i>Thành</i> DP: 01246556470
05	C.T.S:	Châu Ngọc Sương <i>Sương</i> DP: 0124856318
06	C.T.S	Trần Ngọc Diệp <i>Diệp</i> DP: 01212333173
07	C.C.T.S	Võ Văn Trọng <i>Trọng</i>
08	PTS	Trần Quốc Tiến <i>Tiến</i> 0938222409
09	Đ.H	Đường Xuân Lương <i>Lương</i> 01646043264
10	P.T.S:	Nguyễn Xuân Mai (đ.k) 0982894338

List of Cao Dai believers who attested to the veracity of this report regarding the disruption of the Altar Ceremony in Hao Duoc.

Danh sách đủ lễ mừng thọ  
tại tư gia Nguyễn viên Bân Nhà Phố  
Võ Văn Đàm 1956 tại trường Đa  
Hảo Dióc, Vạn Đạo Châu Thành  
Châu Đạo Tây Ninh. gồm:

- 01/ Đào Văn Nhân (Khách mời)
- 02/ Sĩ Tài Nhung và Phan (b) - Nhà Phố
- 03/ L.S Ngọc Ngà (Khách) Nguyễn (Khách)
- 04/ C.T.S Trần Ngọc Diệp (Khách)
- 05/ C.T.S - Dãy thư, Khúc (Khách) Tây Bân
- 06/ C.T.S - " Trần Văn Hoàng (Khách) An Hòa, T.
- 07/ T.S Nguyễn Văn Phương (Khách) An Hòa, T.
- 08/ Sĩ Tài (Khách) Tây Bân
- 09/ C.S. Nguyễn Văn (Khách) Tây Bân
- 10/ Đ.H. Nguyễn Văn (Khách) Tây Bân
- 11/ Đ.H. Trần Thị Thu (Khách) Tây Bân
- 12/ Đ.H. Đỗ Đình Hiệp (Khách) Tây Bân
- 13/ Võ Văn Liêm (Khách) Tây Bân
- 14/ Đỗ Thanh phước (Khách) Tây Bân
- 15/ Trần (Khách) Tây Bân
- 16/ Võ Văn Trung (Khách) Tây Bân

Huyệ Ninh Tâm ~~Suy~~ ~~Tại~~

Tường Nhật Tâm ~~Thư~~

Ng. Phú Hiệp ~~Phu~~  
Cường Huệ Đức ~~Phu~~  
Nguyễn Thị An ~~Phu~~

- Phó Su Hoàng Thị Kiều Hoa ~~mở~~ ~~cây~~
- 23 / Phạm Văn Tót-Tây Ninh ~~Le~~
  - 24 / Hồ Văn Thanh TN ~~Thư~~
  - 25 / Nguyễn Lê Hoàng TN ~~Thư~~
  - 26 / Ng. Thị Bạch Mai ~~Mở~~ ~~Công~~ ~~Mun~~
  - 27 / Lê Văn Chí ~~Tân~~ ~~Thư~~ ~~Thư~~
  - 28 / Phan Văn Giang ~~Kéo~~ ~~Công~~ ~~Thư~~
  - 29 / Ng. Hoàng Phi ~~Tân~~ ~~Thư~~ ~~Phu~~
  - 30 / Ng. Hoàng Sơn ~~Tân~~ ~~Thư~~ ~~T.N.~~ ~~Suy~~
  - 31 / Huỳnh Thị Châu ~~Thư~~ ~~Thư~~ ~~Phu~~
  - 32 / N. T. H. A. N. H. A. N. - ~~Mở~~ ~~Công~~ ~~Thư~~
  - 33 / Ngô Phát Đạt ~~Tân~~ ~~Thư~~ ~~T.N.~~ ~~Phu~~
  - 34 / Phan Văn Đức ~~Thư~~ ~~Thư~~ ~~Phu~~
  - 35 / Ng. Thị Bạch Yến ~~Thư~~ ~~Thư~~ ~~Phu~~
  - 36 / Ng. Chí Nhân ~~Thư~~ ~~Thư~~ ~~Phu~~
  - 37 / Lê Chí ~~Thư~~ ~~Thư~~ ~~Phu~~
  - 38 / Ng. Thị Mai ~~Thư~~ ~~Thư~~ ~~Phu~~

- 37/ Nguyễn Văn Hòa. MĐ Cờ ~~Thanh~~
- 38/ Nguyễn Ngọc Thu nt ~~Thu~~
- 39/ Đỗ Khắc Tĩnh và ~~Thị~~
- 40/ Nguyễn Xuân Mai. ~~Liệu~~
- 41/ Huỳnh Thị Lư ~~ng (X) Lư~~
- 42/ Phan Thị Hạnh. ~~Hạnh~~
- 43/ Nguyễn Thị Đu Tây Ninh ~~Du~~
- 44/ Nguyễn Thị Hồng Tây Ninh ~~Hồng~~
- 45/ Trần Thị Huyền Tây Ninh ~~Huyền~~