

February 2017 Report on Vietnamese Government Violation of Independent Cao Dai Church's Freedom of Religion in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief
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1/- General Information

-Does the incident involve an individual or a group?

A group.

-If it involves a religious or belief group, please state the number of people involved and the denomination of the group

Approximately 30 members of the independent Cao Dai Church were involved.

-Countr(ies) in which the incident took place

Cambodia, but major actors were government officials from Vietnam and officials of the government-controlled Cao Dai denomination living in Cambodia or visiting from Vietnam

-Nationality(ies) of the victim(s)

All are Vietnamese citizens of the main “Kinh” ethnic group who live in Cambodia or Tay Ninh Province (Vietnam)

-Does domestic law require (re-) registration of religious associations and if yes, what is the current status of the group in question?

Vietnam requires all religious organizations to register. In Vietnam, the government banned the authentic Cao Dai Church (established in 1926). The state-sponsored Cao Dai denomination (established in 1997) is a tool of the Communist regime for demolishing the independent, authentic Church. In nearby countries with clusters of Cao Dai adherents, the state-sponsored denomination intends to do the same to implement the Vietnamese government's policy – in this case, in Cambodia.

2/- Identity of the Persons Concerned

Note: if more than one person is concerned; please attach relevant information on each person separately.

Family name: Nguyen Given name: Cho Middle name: Thi

Denomination of his/her religion or belief: Cao Dai (1926 vintage)

Place of residence or origin: Tum-Nup-Tuc Ward, Chom-Ca-Mon District, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Birth date: 1955 Gender: female

Persons authorized to represent victims:

- Dr. Nguyen Dinh Thang, an American citizen who is the Executive Director of Boat People SOS.
- Ms. Katie Duong, an American citizen currently on the International Relations Committee of the independent Cao Dai Church, to provide all the details to your Office. Her contact information: Tel. 469.525.3356 (3112 North Jupiter Road, Suite 216, Garland, Texas 75044, USA)

(the complete list of victims is in Part 1 of the addendum)

3/- Information regarding the alleged violation

-Date and time (approximate, if exact date is not known)

January 26, 2017 at 8 am

-Place (location and country/countries)

Cao Dai Temple at: 284 Mao-Senh-Tong Street, Tum-Nup-Tuc Ward, Chom-Ca-Mon District, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Synopsis: In October 2015, the Cambodian Ministry of Rites and Religion and the chairperson of the People's Committee of Phnom Penh City authorized the authentic, independent Vietnamese Cao Dai adherents (not part of the Vietnamese government-controlled Cao Dai denomination) in Cambodia to erect a commemorative statue of the revered Cao Dai leader whose religious title was the Ho Phap (Head

of Legislative Affairs) on the grounds of the Cao Dai temple in Phnom Penh. Vietnamese government-controlled Cao Dai adherents and Vietnamese diplomatic officials in Phnom Penh plotted to have the Cambodian government agree to remove the statue of the Ho Phap from the temple. The Vietnamese government intends to weaken and eradicate the independent Cao Dai Church in Phnom Penh through denying the right of its adherents to commemorate the Ho Phap, among other persecution tactics. The leader of the government-controlled Cao Dai denomination falsely claimed that the authentic Cao Dai adherents erected the statue to worship it. Since Cao Dai adherents may only erect statues for commemorative purposes and not for worshipping purposes, the Cambodian government authorized Vietnamese government personnel to remove the statue.

Please provide a detailed description of the circumstances of the incident in which the alleged violation occurred and the nature of the government action:

Cambodian authorities already gave Mrs. Nguyen Thi Cho, an adherent of the authentic, independent Cao Dai Church living in Phnom Penh, the permits to erect the Ho Phap's statue (in Cambodian script – Exhibits 1a, 1b, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 of Addendum 3 – 2.3 is the translation into Vietnamese). The Church adherents erected the statue in October 2015.

On January 26, 2017, Vietnamese personnel from their Phnom Penh embassy, Vietnamese police officers from Tay Ninh Province (Vietnam), and Cambodian officials and police officers came to the site of the Cao Dai Temple in Phnom Penh to remove the statue of the Ho Phap (Head of Legislative Affairs) that the authentic Cao Dai Church adherents had installed. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Cho, an authentic Church adherent, showed the group the permits issued in 2015 by the Cambodian government: decision authorizing the statue by the Ministry of Rites and Religion and permit by the chairperson of the People's Committee of the city.

However, the group led by the Vietnamese diplomats ignored the permits. They started by wrapping the statue in a white cloth with red stripes, and used adhesive tape to keep the cloth wrapped around the statue. Using a powered saw, they separated the statue's feet from its pedestal. They took the statue to the ward government's building in a 16-seat van (Addendum 2, Photos 1-4).

Which indications exist that the victim(s) has been targeted because of his/her religion or belief?

In various districts in Vietnam, government officials such as the commune's public security officers and members of the commune's Religious Affairs Committee, and members of the state-sponsored Cao Dai denomination have been attempting to pressure the followers of the independent Cao Dai Church (founded in 1926) to join the state-sponsored denomination that the government had established in 1997. The religious freedom violation in Cambodia stems from the same Communist policy.

The background for the incident is summarized below.

An overview of the Vietnamese Communists' Suppression of the Authentic Cao Dai Church

On July 20, 1978, the Vietnamese government issued a condemnation of the authentic Cao Dai Church that also accused the Ho Phap of betraying his country, the Cao Dai Church of being reactionary, and the Church's organization of being a disguised political administration.

On December 13, 1978, the government ordered the dissolution of the authentic Cao Dai Church organization throughout the country.

On September 14, 1989, the People's Committee of Tay Ninh Province issued Decision No. 88, whose Article 2 specifies that a new Governing Council of the Cao Dai Church shall implement the laws of Communist Vietnam.

In 1997 the government authorized the Governing Council to establish a new Cao Dai denomination. This denomination has been carrying out its mission of restricting and interdicting the authentic Cao Dai adherents from conducting religious activities in order to eradicate the independent Church both in and outside of Vietnam.

On January 26, 2017, the government-controlled Cao Dai denomination plotted to remove the Ho Phap's statue because the denomination was created to help implement the Vietnamese government's policy of destroying the authentic Church.

Key figures in the government-controlled denomination share the responsibility for this act. They are Nguyen Thanh Tam, Bui Van Con, Le Phuong Hong, and Vo Quang Minh (more on these later in the report).

Later, the local government asked Mrs. Cho to retrieve the statue from the ward government's building (Photo 4 showing her and the statue wrapped in the striped cloth), but she declined.

History of the Ho Phap's commemorative statue

The Ho Phap passed away in the Cao Dai temple in Phnom Penh in 1959. His last words were: "When our beloved country is united, we will be a NEUTRAL country. Our adherents and I share the aspiration that, by then, my remains will be moved to the Temple in the Tay Ninh Holy See" (from Exhibit 3b, lines 6-9). The Ho Phap's key words were: Vietnam must be politically NEUTRAL and his adherents will be the ones who move his remains. In 2006 Vietnam was a Communist country and the state-controlled Cao Dai denomination did not represent the Ho Phap followers. The state-controlled Cao Dai denomination, by moving the Ho Phap's remains to Tay Ninh in 2006, contradicted his last words with respect to the political system of Vietnam and the people who would do the act of moving the remains. The authentic Cao Dai Church followers were opposed to the action taken by the government's denomination, knowing that they had disobeyed the Ho Phap's last words.

Years ago, Mr. Nguyen Thanh Tam (leader of the government-controlled denomination) promised to erect a Ho Phap statue in Phnom Penh where the Ho Phap's remains used to be, as a way to assist local adherents in their commemoration of the Ho Phap. As late as 2014, Mr. Nguyen Thanh Tam still did not follow up on his promise made in 2006. The authentic adherents commissioned a statue of the Ho Phap and placed it in the Shrine of the Lady Buddha, and later moved it closer the Cao Dai temple, about 30 meters away from the Lady Buddha Shrine. The details of the statue project are given below.

In 2014 the authentic Church adherents met in the temple to discuss Mr. Tam's duplicity. They nominated Mrs. Nguyen Thi Cho as their representative to seek the Cambodian government's approval for erecting the Ho Phap's statue.

In 2015 the chairperson of the People's Committee of Phnom Penh issued his approval (Exhibit 2.1) and the Cambodian Ministry of Rites and Religion issued its permit (Exhibits 2.2; 2.3).

In October 2015 the authentic adherents began the project to erect the statue at the location approved by the Cambodian government.

On October 3, 2015, the government-controlled denomination's Thuong Minh Thanh (real name: Vo Quang Minh), manager of the Cao Dai temple in Phnom Penh (appointed by Mr. Nguyen Thanh Tam on behalf of Vietnam's government) ordered Messrs Lam and Giang (of the government-controlled denomination) to wreck the statue. The two men had just broken the statue's left hand into 2 pieces and broke 4 fingers of its right hand when the authentic adherents caught them at about 5 am on October 3, 2015 (Photos 5, 6). Mr. Tam's lawyer tried to get them out on bail, but the Cambodian government imprisoned them for 7 months.

On November 29, 2015, the authentic Church adherents held a ceremony of Statue Installation. Cambodian government representatives also attended the ceremony. The press reported the event which was also televised (Photo 7).

The authentic Church adherents did not repair the damages to the statue's hands as these serve as evidence of the destruction committed by the government's denomination.

On May 13, 2016, Mr. Nguyen Thanh Tam, leader of the Communist controlled denomination, submitted a request for approval by the Cambodian government to remove the statue. In the request, Mr. Tam falsely claimed that the statue was for worshipping instead of for commemoration (Exhibits 3a; 3b, Tam's May 2016 letter to the Cambodian government). Worshipping a statue is not an accepted Cao Dai tradition, and Tam wanted the Cambodian government to believe his false claim.

On December 14, 2016, Mr. Tam arranged a meeting in the temple involving adherents of the government's denomination (Thuong Minh Thanh, Subdignitary Phan Van Quang, Asst Subdignitary Tran Van Ngoan, Hien Tai Ria) and personnel from the Vietnamese Embassy, Vietnamese in Cambodia Association, and Cambodian government (Photo 8).

On December 27, 2016, the Cambodian government issued an invitation to Mr. Tam to discuss the "proposed selection of the management of the temple in Phnom Penh" (Exhibit 5). This proves that Mr. Tam added the discussion of the statue removal to the agenda during the meeting.

On January 5, 2017, adherents of the government's controlled denomination - Phoi Su Thai Con Thanh who was Acting (Principal Archbishop) Thai Chanh Phoi Su (real name: Bui Van Con), and Phoi Su Ngoc Hong Thanh (equivalent to an archbishop), the Thuong Thong Lai Vien (real name: Le Phuong Hong), representing Mr. Tam, and Vietnamese police officers from Tay Ninh Province attended the meeting at the Cambodian People's Committee of Chom-Ca-Mon District (Photos 9, 10). Also present were personnel from the Vietnamese Embassy, Vietnamese in Cambodia Association, and Cambodian government.

On January 26, 2017, personnel from the Vietnamese Embassy, Vietnamese in Cambodia Association, and Cambodian government removed the statue. Their denomination's representatives did not come. *The January 5 meeting in the Cambodian government's building did not include the authentic Church adherents, but involved only the government-controlled denomination and Vietnamese and Cambodian government officials. This shows that the Vietnamese government uses its Cao Dai denomination as a tool to remove the Ho Phap's statue in Phnom Penh.*

The Ho Phap's statue in the Ho Phap Hall on the grounds of the Tay Ninh Temple is under the purview of the government's denomination after the Communist Party forced authentic Cao Dai adherents to turn over most of their temples and other facilities to the Communist-controlled denomination.

The Ho Phap resided in the Phnom Penh temple from 1956 until he passed away in 1959. This is why the authentic adherents erected the statue to commemorate him.

The Ho Phap statue in Phnom Penh is a copy of the original statue in Ho Phap Hall in Tay Ninh. The Phnom Penh statue is not inside the Phnom Penh temple and does not have worship-related implements around it. The authentic adherents erected the statue only for commemoration purposes. They were therefore in compliance with Cao Dai religious law.

The authentic Church has installed other statues for commemoration purposes at the Central Temple in Tay Ninh Province (Vietnam):

The Buddha, the Sa Nac at the Dai Dong Xa spot in the front of the temple, the Good and Evil geniuses in the front of the temple, or the Buddhas of the 3 Worlds on the roof of the Bat Quai Platform.

Looking straight at the front of the temple, one can see the statues of the Church's early leaders: Acting Pope Thuong Trung Nhut (real name: Le Van Trung) and Lady Cardinal Lam Huong Thanh.

The statue in Phnom Penh showed the likeness of the Ho Phap blessing his adherents, just like the statue in Ho Phap Hall on the grounds of the Tay Ninh Temple (Photo 10).

In 1974 the Vatican offered the Cao Dai Church a statue of Our Lady of Fatima. On February 16, 1974, the Church welcomed the statue in a solemn ceremony and placed it in the Ba Hue Garden for commemoration purposes (Cao Dai Weekly Bulletin No. 92, 1974).

This shows that the Cao Dai Church has a tradition of using statues for commemoration.

Cao Dai tradition includes using statues to commemorate, but not to worship. Mr. Tam distorted the truth in claiming that the authentic adherents placed Ho Phap's statue on the site of the temple in Phnom Penh for worship because Mr. Tam needed to create an excuse to remove it.

On October 3, 2015, the government-controlled Cao Dai denomination tried to demolish the statue. The authentic adherents kept the damaged statue as evidence that the government's denomination is the Vietnamese government's tool for extinguishing the authentic Church.

On January 26, 2017, the government's denomination had Ho Phap's statue removed to bury the evidence, destroy the authentic adherents' belief in the eventual neutrality of Vietnam as a nation, and violate the authentic adherents' cultural and spiritual beliefs.

In brief:

Mr. Tam, leader of the Communist-controlled Cao Dai denomination, plotted to have Ho Phap's statue removed to: (a) bury the evidence that his denomination had tried to demolish the statue; (b) destroy the authentic Cao Dai Church's belief that Vietnam will eventually become a neutral country for good.

Are the perpetrator(s) known to the victim? Yes, per the facts described in previous section.

Are State agents or non-State-actors believed to be responsible for the alleged violation?

The perpetrators are Vietnamese diplomats stationed in Phnom Penh and Vietnamese residents of Phnom Penh associated with the Vietnamese government's Cao Dai denomination (established in 1997), aided by Cambodian government employees and Vietnamese police officers from Vietnam's Tay Ninh Province. The state-sponsored Cao Dai denomination is the Vietnamese government's instrument used to systematically eliminate the independent, authentic Church (established in 1926). The Vietnamese government must be held accountable for this violation of human rights.

-If the perpetrators are believed to be State agents, please specify (police, military, agents of security services, unit to which they belong, rank and functions, etc.), and indicate why they are believed to be responsible; be as precise as possible.

It is evident that individuals from Vietnam's Phnom Penh Embassy and the Vietnamese in Cambodia Association of Phnom Penh are State agents. Cambodian government personnel include officials from the local court, the Ministry of Rites and Religion, the Bureau of Religious Affairs, the Religious Affairs Committee, and police officers. While members of the government-controlled Cao Dai denomination did not participate in the actual removal of the statue, they had been previously meeting with Vietnamese government officials and Cambodian government officials to plot the act of removing the statue. Furthermore, two of the government-controlled adherents were caught trying to destroy the Ho Phap's statue in 2015 and were sentenced to prison terms by the Cambodian government. Details on the perpetrators are shown below.

Government of Vietnam

-Mr. **Ngô Minh Điển**, Embassy of Vietnam in Cambodia;

-Mr. **Chi**: Vietnamese in Cambodia Association;

-A number of police officers from Vietnam's Tay Ninh Province (did not reveal names).

Government-Controlled Cao Dai Denomination

-The **Đầu Sư** (religious title equivalent to Cardinal), **Thượng Tám Thanh** (religious name), real name: **Mr. Nguyễn Thành Tám**: Leader, government-controlled Cao Dai denomination (created in 1997). Mr. Tam is a former member of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

-The Acting **Thái Chánh Phối Sư** (religious title equivalent to Principal Archbishop), **Thái Côn Thanh**, real name: **Mr. Bùi Văn Côn**;

-The **Phối Sư Thượng Thống Lại Viện** (equiv. to Archbishop), **Ngọc Hồng Thanh**, real name: **Mr. Hồng**;

-Assistant Priest **Thượng Minh Thanh**, real name: **Mr. Võ Quang Minh**: he is also the manager of the temple in Phnom Penh;

-Subdignitary **Phan Văn Quang**; Asst. Subdignitary **Trần Văn Ngóan**.

The intruders' motive is to continue the implementation of the central government's Cao Dai Decision of July 20, 1978 and resolution of December 13, 1978 aiming at exterminating the original Cao Dai Church and its doctrine.

If identification as State agents is not possible, do you believe that government authorities or persons linked to them, are responsible for the incident? Why?

The victims could identify the perpetrators as state agents, i.e., Vietnamese government employees and members of the state-controlled Cao Dai denomination

- If there were witnesses for this event, please provide their names, relationship with victims, and contact information, e.g., email address, telephone numbers. In case they choose to keep their identities secret, state if they are family members, passers-by, etc. Please supply any available evidence: The victims listed on Page 1 and in Addendum 1 are the witnesses.

4/- Steps taken by the victim, his/her family, or anyone else on his/her behalf?

-Please indicate if complaints have been filed, when, by whom, and before which State authorities or competent bodies (i.e., police, prosecutor, court, etc.). No.

-Were there any other steps taken? None.

- Steps taken by the authorities: None.

-Indicate whether or not, to your knowledge, there have been investigations by the State authorities; if so, what kind of investigations? Please indicate progress and status of these investigations as well as which other measures have been taken.

The government does not and will not investigate because, as in numerous other cases, it is the mastermind and coordinator of the violations.

-In case of complaints by the victim or his family, how have those authorities or other competent bodies dealt with them? What has been the outcome of those proceedings?

If brought back to Vietnam, the government would accuse authors of complaints of sowing divisions or harming national solidarity or security.

5/- Identity of the person or institution submitting this form:

-Family name: Duong -First name: Katie

-Contact number or address (please indicate country and area code): phone: 469. 525. 3356 (3112 North Jupiter Road, Suite 216, Garland, Texas 75044).

-Status: individual, group, NGO, religious or belief group, intergovernmental agency, government. Please specify:

Religious group: the Cao Dai Popular Council is engaged in advocacy to enable all Churches, including the independent Cao Dai Church (authentic, vintage 1926) to enjoy freedom of religion (without having to depend on the government's approval of prescribed requests) as envisioned in the international covenants to which Vietnam is a party with the obligation to implement those covenants' provisions.

If the victims did not prepare this report, do you act with knowledge and on behalf of the victim(s)? Yes, the victims knew and collaborated on this reporting activity.

Please state whether you want your identity to be kept confidential: No

Report submitted on: February 10, 2017

Signature: Katie Dương

Addendum 1**List of victims (continuation from Page 1)**

Family name	Given name	Faith	Address	Birth Yr	Gender
Nguyen	Thi Ngoc	Caodai	Tum-Nup-Tuc Ward, Chom-Ca-Mon District, Phnom Penh City, Cambodia	1953	Female
Vo	Van Giau	Caodai	Ninh Trung Village, Ninh Son Commune, Town of Tay Ninh, Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam	1974	Male
Le	Dong	Caodai	Long Chi Village, Long Thanh Trung Commune, Hoa Thanh District, Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam	1970	Male
Nguyen	Thanh Binh	Caodai	Hiep Long Village, Hiep Tan Commune, Hoa Thanh District, Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam	1960	Male
Phan	Thi Hong	Caodai	Truong Cuu Village, Truong Hoa Commune, Hoa Thanh District, Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam	1976	Female
Truong	Thi Lien	Caodai	Long Chi Village, Long Thanh Trung Commune, Hoa Thanh District, Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam	1978	Female

Addendum 2

- **Photos:** If photos are available, number them by writing on the photos (or add number to the file name for electronic files), note location and date, time, describe relationship to the report, and identify persons in photos. In appropriate report sections, please note the number of the accompanying photos.

The photos are primarily for this report's Item 3, information on the violation, where details are provided on the violation of religious freedom and the government's role.



Photo 1: Commemorative statue of the Ho Phap before its removal from the site of the temple.



Photo 2: They wrapped the statue in a cloth before taking it down.



Photo 3: Moving the statue to a vehicle that transported it to the local government's building.



Photo 4: The statue in the Tum-Nup-Tuc Ward government's building (in Phnom Penh).



Photo 5: Two adherents of the government-controlled denomination were caught when they began to demolish the statue in 2015



Photo 6: The statue's left hand was broken into 2 pieces and four fingers of the right hand were broken.



Photo 7: Government officials and adherents at the ceremony establishing the statue (October 2015).



Photo 8: Personnel of the Vietnamese government and Cambodian government meeting in the temple (December 14, 2016).



Photo 9: Mr. Le Phuong Hong (last man on the right), government-controlled adherent from Tay Ninh Province (Vietnam), came for the January 2017 meeting at the People's Committee of Chom-Ca-Mon District.

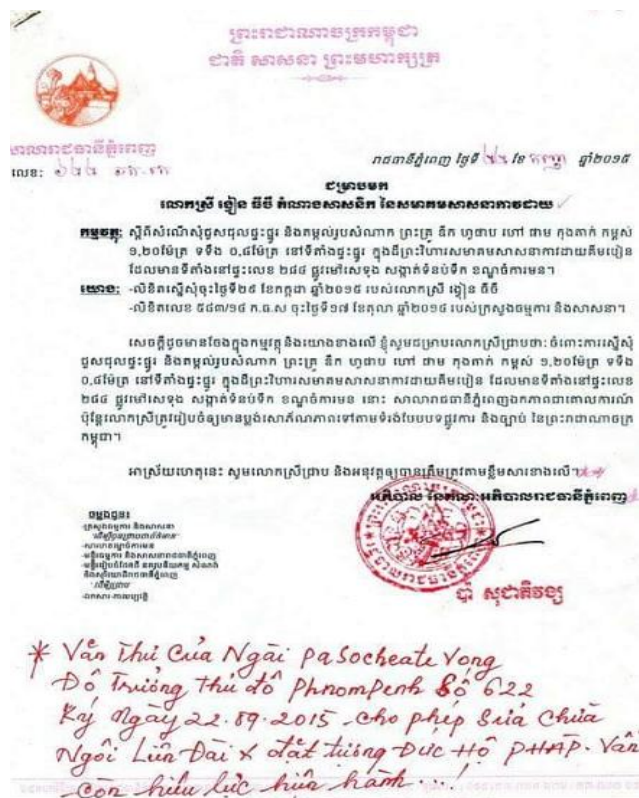


Exhibit No. 2.1. The approval of the statue from the Committee of Phnom Penh City.

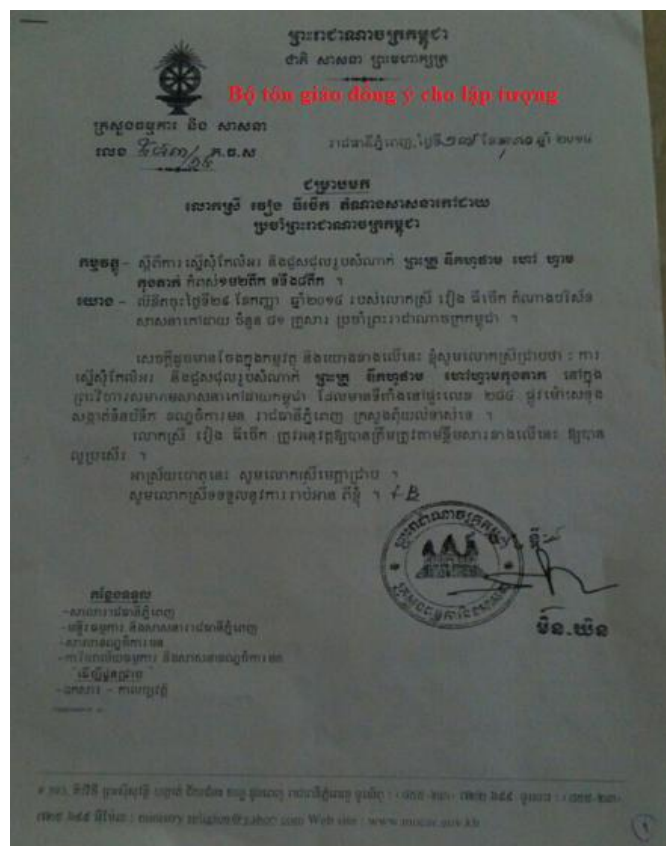


Exhibit No. 2.2. The Cambodian Ministry of Rites and Religion's approval of the statue (Cambodian language)

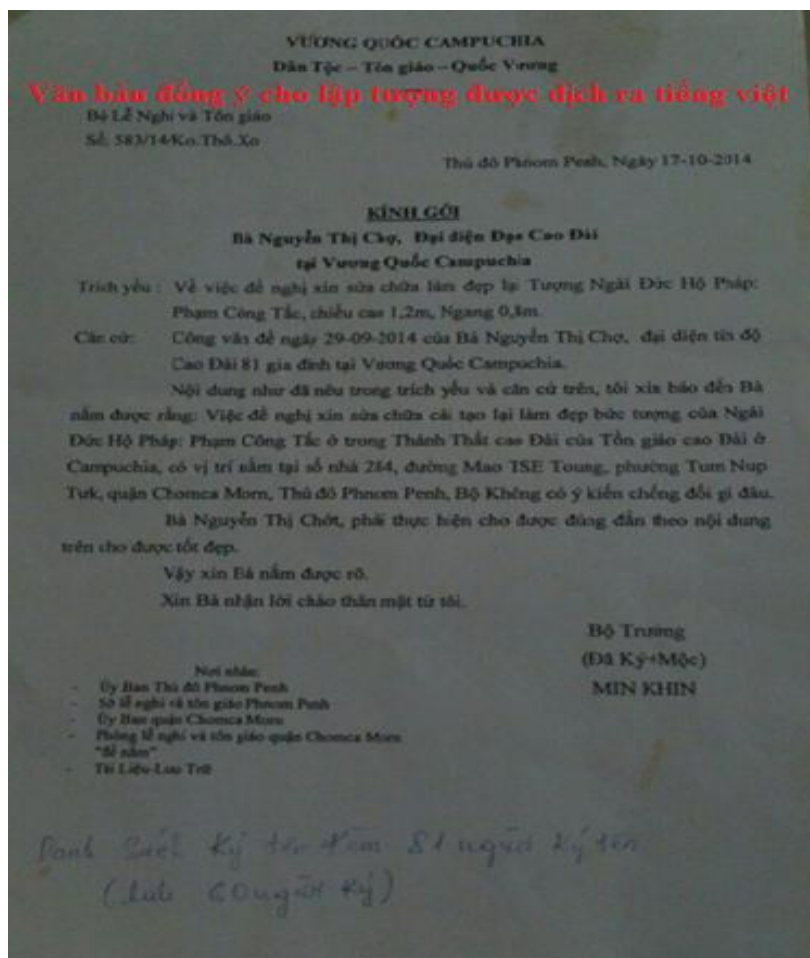


Exhibit No. 2.3. Vietnamese translation of the Cambodian Ministry of Rites and Religion's approval of the statue

BNS THÔNG TIN SỐ 122.

RA NGÀY 25. 04. ẤT MÃO (04. 06. 1975).

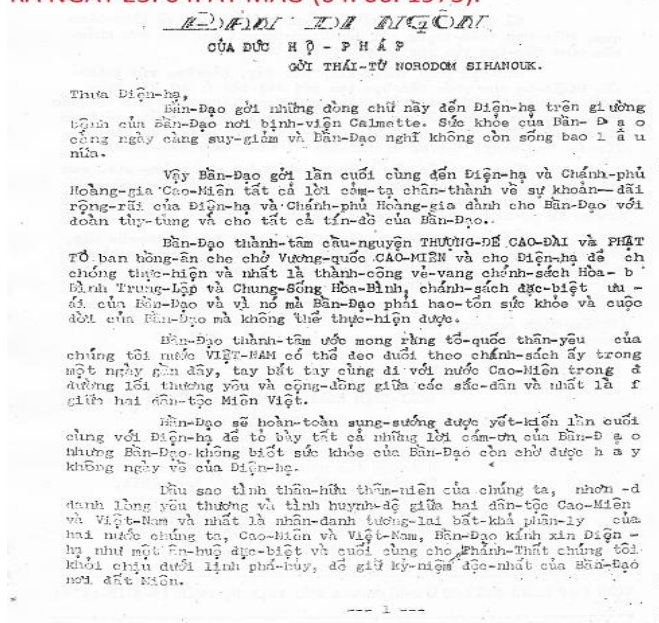


Exhibit No. 3a. 1975 Cao Dai bulletin: the Ho Phap's last words, addressed to Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia

BNS THÔNG TIN SỐ 122.

RA NGÀY 25. 04. ẤT MÃO (04. 06. 1975).

Để giúp Điện-hạ có một ý-niệm đúng-đắn về tình-hình
qua, Bản-Dạo trân-trọng gửi đến Điện-hạ một bản sao đơn khẩn-
cầu của Bản-Dạo vãn chuyển đến Hoàng-thượng.

Bản-Dạo phải thoát-kiếp nơi đây, Bản-Dạo xin thỉnh-
cầu Điện-hạ cho phép Bản-Dạo tạm gởi thi-hải ở nơi đất Miền
dưới sự bảo-vệ tối-cao của Hoàng-gia Cao-Miên. Ngày nào Tổ-quốc
thân-yêu của chúng tôi là nước VIỆT-NAM đã thống-nhất, sẽ theo
chánh-sách HÒA-BÌNH TRUNG-LẬP, mục-phiêu đời sống của Bản-Dạo,
Tín-đồ của chúng tôi sẽ đi thi-hải về TÒA-THÁNH TÂY-MINH.

Bản-Dạo khẩn-cầu Điện-hạ và Chánh-phủ Hoàng-gia, sau
khi Bản-Dạo thoát-xác, dành cho đoàn tùy-tùng và cả thiệt-nam
tín-nữ của Bản-Dạo, sự khoan-dãi rộng-rãi và các sự đê-dãi như
trước để tu-hành theo Tôn-giáo của chúng tôi.

Biết rằng Điện-hạ sẽ chiếu-cổ đến đơn thỉnh-cầu này,
Bản-Dạo sẽ thanh-thần nhắm mắt đem theo cái kỷ-niệm diu-dàng
nhất trong đời của Bản-Dạo. Kính xin Điện-hạ chấp-thuận lòng
tri-ân vĩnh-viễn của Bản-Dạo ./-

NAM-VANG, ngày 14 tháng 5 năm 1979.

(Phiên-dịch nguyên-văn
bản-chính bằng Pháp-văn).

H Ộ - P H Á P

HỒI-NIỆM NGÀY GIÁNG-SINH ĐỨC HỘ-PHÁP.

Vâng-linh CHỈ-TUÂN đến Việt-Nam,
THIÊN-QUÂN NGUYỄN đã lên-phàm.
Tạo-thời dựng-dựng thu tâm tục,
Cải-thế cùn nhơn diệt tính tham.
Chuyển loạn Hòa-bình thay đạo nghĩa,
Trừ oan Hống-lạc rạng danh-lam.
Đồng tu vạch-sân nhơn-tánh bước,
Chung sức trường-công găng-chí lam.

TỔ-TRƯỞNG

TỜM ĐẠO LƯƠNG NGÀY GIÁNG-SINH CỦA ĐỨC PHẠM HỘ-PHÁP (5-5-ẤM-LỊCH)

- 2 -

Exhibit No. 3b. Continuation of the Ho Phap's last words addressed to Prince Sihanouk.

Translation of Lines 6-9 (the Ho Phap's last words before his death):

"When our beloved country is united, we will be a NEUTRAL country. Our adherents and I share the aspiration that, by then, my remains will be moved to the Temple in the Tay Ninh Holy See"

ĐẠI ĐẠO TAM KỶ PHỔ ĐỘ Văn phòng HỘI THÁNH Số: 01/91/HT-VT	CỘNG HÒA XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM Độc lập – Tự do – Hạnh phúc Tòa Thánh, ngày 13 tháng 5 năm 2016
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HỘI THÁNH CAO ĐÀI TÒA THÁNH TÂY NINH

Kính gửi : Ngài BỘ TRƯỞNG BỘ LỄ NGHỊ TÔN GIÁO
Đồng kính gửi : Ngài CHỦ TỊCH UBND TP. PHNOM PENH
VƯƠNG QUỐC CAMPUCHIA

*V/v Xác nhận Giáo Lý - Giáo Luật của Đạo Cao Đài Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh
 không tổ chức thờ cốt tượng.*

Kính Quý Ngài,

Vừa qua, có một số người kéo đến Thánh Thất Cao Đài Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh tại số 284 đường Mao-Sên-Tong, phường Tùm-Núp-Túc, quận Chom-Ca-Mon, thành phố Phnom Pênh, chiếm cứ Thánh Thất, san bằng ngôi nhà Kỷ niệm quân Liên đài của Đức Hộ Pháp trước đây, **xây lại bệ và đặt một cốt tượng không rõ nguồn gốc do nhóm này tự đặt tên mà Hội Thánh Cao Đài Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh không cho phép.**

Căn cứ Giáo Lý - Giáo Luật qui định, Hội Thánh xin xác nhận :

"Đạo Cao Đài Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh, tại các Thánh Thất trong nước hoặc ngoài nước, thống nhất chỉ thờ Biểu Tượng Thiên Nhân (Con Mắt), còn Các Đấng Thiêng Liêng thờ thì viết bằng chữ Nho".

Nên việc làm trên của nhóm người không rõ nguồn gốc, tự xưng Tín đồ, là sai trái với Giáo Lý - Giáo Luật của Đại Đạo Tam Kỳ Phổ Độ Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh.

Theo nguyên tắc tổ chức, về Giáo Lý - Giáo Luật, thì mọi hoạt động Tôn giáo của Chức Sắc, Chức Việc và Tín Đồ Cao Đài Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh đều do mạng lệnh của Hội Thánh là pháp nhân lãnh đạo cao nhất của Nền Đạo. Số người nói trên tự xưng là Tín đồ Tôn Giáo Cao Đài Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh, có vị còn tự xưng là Đại diện Tôn giáo Cao Đài tại Campuchia mà Hội Thánh Cao Đài Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh không cho phép là sai trái, mọi việc làm của họ đều bất hợp pháp, nghịch mạng, phản loạn chơn truyền, căn cứ Luật Đạo phải bị trục xuất khỏi Nền Đạo.

Giáo Hữu Ngọc Minh Thanh (*Võ Quang Minh*) được Hội Thánh Cao Đài Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh bổ nhiệm làm Cai Quản Hộ Đạo Thành phố Phnom Pênh, được cơ quan chức năng Vương Quốc Campuchia công nhận là người Đại diện chính thức Tôn giáo Cao Đài Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh hiện nay hành đạo hợp pháp tại Vương Quốc Campuchia.

Exhibit No. 4a. May 2016: Mr. Tám falsely claimed that the authentic Church adherents erected the statue to worship it instead of for commemorating purposes (excuse for removing it). In this 5/13/2016 letter to the Cambodian Ministry of Rites and Religion and the mayor of Phnom Penh, he wrote (highlighted lines): **"a number of individuals...rebuilt the pedestal of the statue and installed a statue of uncertain origin without permission from Tay Ninh Cao Dai Church"** A few lines below, he wrote (original text italicized): *"Pursuant to our Doctrine and Rules, the Church states: 'All the temples, in Vietnam or other countries, allow the worship of the Divine Eye symbol, and Sacred Entities may be worshipped through symbolic Chinese characters'".* Right below the italicized paragraph, he wrote: "Therefore the group – whose origin is uncertain – acted counter to the Doctrine and Rules of the Cao Dai Church of Tay Ninh Temple".

In the last 2 paragraphs of the page, he claimed that Mr. Vo Quang Minh was appointed to manage the temple and, because the Tay Ninh Temple Cao Dai Church (i.e., the Communist-controlled denomination) appointed Mr. Minh the Phnom Penh temple manager, Mr. Minh is the legitimate representative of the Cao Dai Church in Cambodia. The fact: the authentic Cao Dai Church built the temple in Cambodia and managed it before the Communist takeover of South Vietnam in 1975.

Trong thời gian qua Ngài Bộ Trưởng Bộ Lễ Nghi Tôn Giáo, UBND TP. Phnom Pênh và các cơ quan chức năng Vương Quốc Campuchia đã nhiệt tình giúp đỡ mọi mặt cho Giáo Hữu Ngọc Minh Thanh (*Võ Quang Minh*) hành đạo tại Vương Quốc Campuchia thành công tốt đẹp. Nghĩa cử cao quý tốt đẹp này của Quý Ngài, Hội Thánh chúng tôi rất trân trọng.

Nay kính xin Quý Ngài giúp đỡ cho Giáo Hữu Ngọc Minh Thanh (*Võ Quang Minh*) Cai Quản Họ Đạo Phnom Pênh, người ~~Đại diện duy nhất của Tôn Giáo Cao Đài Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh tại Vương Quốc Campuchia~~, hướng dẫn Tín đồ Cao Đài Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh tu hành thuần túy, đúng Luật Đạo Cao Đài Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh tại Việt Nam và Luật pháp Vương Quốc Campuchia, góp phần xây dựng Vương Quốc Campuchia ngày càng phát triển bền vững, giàu, đẹp.

Hội Thánh xin biết ơn và trân trọng kính chào.

Nơi nhận :

- Như trên
- Đại Sứ Việt Nam tại Vương quốc Campuchia
- Chủ tịch Tổng Hội Người CPC gốc VN tại CPC
- Ban Tôn Giáo Chính Phủ Việt Nam
- UBND tỉnh Tây Ninh
- Sở Nội Vụ Ban Tôn Giáo tỉnh Tây Ninh "để kinh tường"

- Lưu : HS.TT



Đầu Su **THƯỢNG TÂM THANH**
(Nguyễn Thành Tâm)

Exhibit No. 4b. Continuation of 4a: Mr. Tám falsely claimed that the authentic Church adherents erected the statue to worship it instead of for commemorating purposes (excuse for removing it)
On this page, Mr. Tam urged the Cambodian government to assist Vo Quang Minh in “guiding Cao Dai adherents along the correct path of the Tay Ninh Temple Cao Dai Church”. It is noteworthy that Mr. Tam also sent copies of the letter to the Vietnamese embassy in Cambodia, the chairman of the Vietnamese in Cambodia Association, the Vietnamese Government’s Religious Affairs Committee, etc. - proof of the control exerted by the Vietnamese government on the government-created denomination under Mr. Tam.

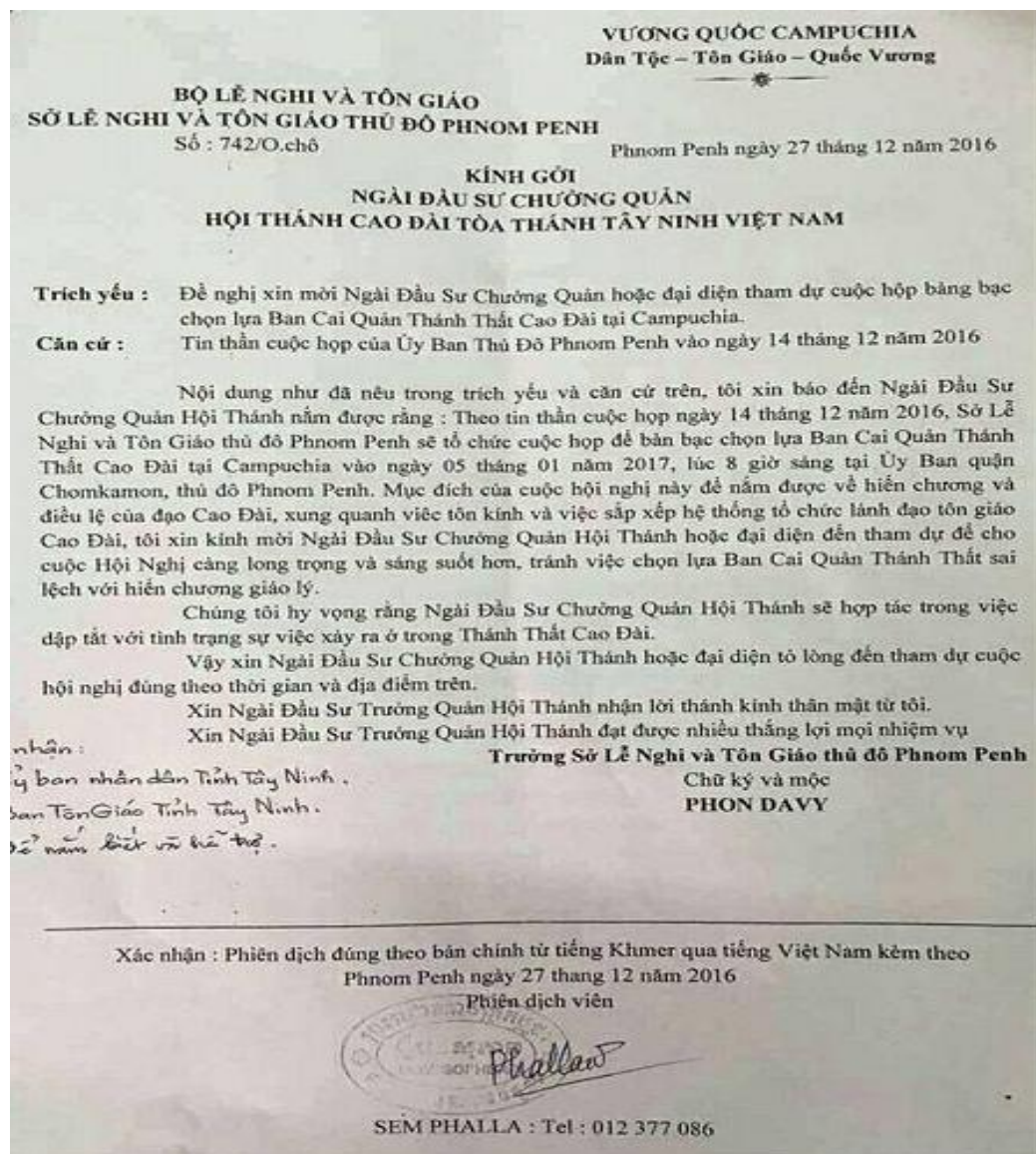


Exhibit No. 5. Cambodian government's December 2016 invitation to Mr. Nguyễn Thành Tám, the leader of the government-controlled Cao Dai denomination, to meet with Cambodian government personnel at the People's Committee of Chom-Ca-Mom District. At the meeting Mr. Tam added the topic of removal of the statue to the agenda.

Translation of Exhibit 5:

Ministry of Rites and Religion
Phnom Penh Capital Area Office
No. 742/O.cho

Kingdom of Cambodia
People – Religion – King

Phnom Penh, 12-27-2016

To: **the Leader, Tay Ninh Cao Dai Church of Vietnam**

Subject: We invite the Leader or his representative to a meeting on the selection of members of the management of the Cao Dai temple in Cambodia

Reference: 12/14/2016 meeting of the Committee of Phnom Penh City

As shown in the subject and reference, I would like to inform the Leader of the Cao Dai Church the following: From the 12/14/2016 meeting, the Phnom Penh Office of Rites and Religion will hold a meeting to discuss the selection

of the members of the management committee of the Cao Dai temple in Cambodia on January 5, 2017, at 8 am, at the Committee of Chonkamon District in Phnom Penh. The purpose is for us to understand the charter and rules of Cao Dai, centered on worship and the structure of the religious leadership. I am inviting the Leader or his representative to participate so that the meeting will be more formal and productive, to ensure that the selected members will meet the Church's charter and doctrine.

We hope that the Leader will collaborate on the resolution of issues in the temple.

Therefore, we hope that the Leader or his representative can meet as scheduled. Please accept my respectful and cordial salutation. I wish you constant success in your duties.

Director, Office of Rites and Religion of Phnom Penh

Signature and seal

Phon Davy

Certified true translation from Khmer to Vietnamese – Phnom Penh, 12/27/2016

Sem Phalla, tel. 012 377 086