

Vietnam's Persecution against Montagnard Christians in the Central Highlands

Prepared by BPSOS, January 2019

Egregious human rights violations: Torture, imprisonment, extra-judicial killing, forced recantation of faith, forced conversion to state-sanctioned faith.

BPSOS's 2017 version of the current report showed that persecution against Montagnard Christians emanated from policies at the provincial and regional, if not central, government levels. We can trace the regional policy to the Central Highlands Steering Committee, founded in 2002 by the Vietnamese Communist Party. In 2004, the Ministry of Public Security established its Central Highlands Security Bureau (PA 90) to coordinate the implementation of policies set by the Central Highlands Steering Committee.¹ BPSOS cited several prominent sources (including government websites associated with the Public Security Ministry and Prime Minister's office) discussing very explicitly the need to "eradicate the evil cults" - the official characterization of the various unapproved Montagnard Christian denominations that have been so thoroughly persecuted. The 2017 report cited articles such as the one titled "Those who rescue the people from darkness", dated February 27, 2015, and published on Public Security Minister Quang's website: *"...When I arrived in the Central Highlands, our task of rescuing the people from the evil Hà Mòn cult was accomplished only recently. The Security Team of the Police Force of the Town of Kontum performed deeds that were representative of the indefatigable efforts of security forces throughout the Central Highlands in our fight against reactionary enemy forces disguised as ethnic religious groups..."*

<http://trandaiquang.org/nhung-nguoi-cuu-dan-ra-khoi-bong-toi-u-me.html>

Equally explicit material was in another article by the Public Security Ministry:

"Through 10 years of growth and combating the enemy, a more mature Ethnic Communities Security Office (PA90) of Gia Lai Province, in coordination with the local government and the people, has derailed plots by the reactionary FULRO and contributed to the security of the region. From 2004 on, the Office has unmasked and dealt with several FULRO organizations, "Degar Evangelical Church", and established 3 projects to end FULRO elements' operation out of the forest. The Office captured 12 Hà Mòn Cult adherents, convinced 69 fugitives to give themselves up, made substantial progress in resolving the Hà Mòn Cult issue, and achieved several other unheralded successes.

With its outstanding results, PA90 has been honored 4 times with the President's Order of Merit while its employees have been honored with several other awards from the President, the Prime Minister, and other officials." Source: Public Security Ministry, *Heroes in the battle against FULRO*". See <http://vnca.cand.com.vn/Truyen-thong/Nhung-nguoi-linh-anh-hung-chong-Fulro-350266/>

Background information:

The following chart, an update of the 2017 chart, includes instances of persecution directed at Montagnard Protestant house churches in the Central Highlands and is compiled from incident reports that we have submitted to the UN Special Procedures since 2013. These instances

¹ Vietnam's Persecution against Montagnard Christians in the Central Highlands (BPSOS 2017)

include 25 or more incidents of torture, 4 extrajudicial killings, over 30 imprisonment cases, 150 reports of forced renouncement of faith, and 4 detentions exceeding a month without warrants.

The chart shows a pattern that is consistent over time and spans multiple provinces. For example, affiliates of the Montagnard Evangelical Church of Christ in different provinces, and in multiple communes of each affected province, were targeted for forced renouncement of faith by the police at both the local and provincial levels, all occurring at around the same time. Other Montagnard Christian house churches, such as the Dega, HaMon, Lutheran and Mennonite house churches, were similarly targeted in those provinces.

The incidents included in the chart occurred under both the more recent and prior chairmanships of the Central Highlands Steering Committee (note: in 2018 the central government no longer puts the public security minister in this position but has not changed its focus on eradicating independent churches).

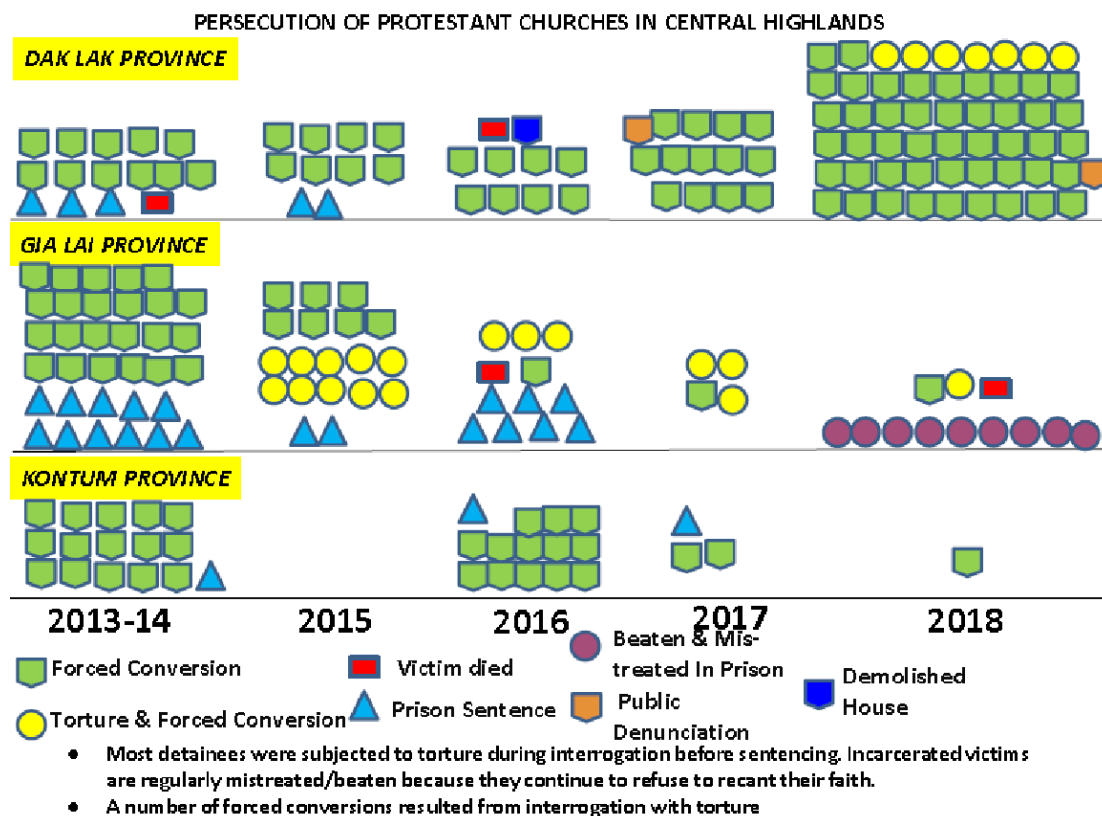


Figure 1. Religious Freedom Violation Incidents Reported by Victims (submitted to UN Special Procedures) –references are listed at the end of this report.

Figure 1 notes:

- Each symbol represents an individual being persecuted on a specific day – can be the same individual on a different day or a different individual on the same day – this characterization allows one to compare the persecution severity among different provinces.

- *The mistreatment of imprisoned senior members of Christian churches, when reported in 2018, were added to the graph (e.g., the purple circles).*

Below are summaries of the incident reports. The reports were primarily compiled from first sources. The incidents for mid-2017 through the present are additions to the earlier material from the 2017 report. These recent incident reports submitted to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief are available upon request.

Approximately 60 victims imprisoned in 2013 or earlier and who are currently in prison or were released within the past 3 years are listed in the appendix.

Case 1 -- Torture

Report for Human Rights Defender Fund

Summary: Mr. Rmah Klum who was born in 1964. is from Lop Village, Ya Le Commune, Chu Puh District, Gia Lai Province. A member of the Evangelical Church of Vietnam/Southern Region, he worshipped at home. Police arrested him at his home in October 2016, detained him for 19 days, and tortured him for his religious activities.

Case 2 – Forced renouncement of faith and long-term imprisonment

Report PROTDegar Inci_Eng GiaLai 2014-11-11EventstoSep2014

Summary: On November 26, 2013, the Degar Church planned to build a prayer house to worship God as believers from several villages added up to a sizeable number of adherents and there was no place for them to worship together. The lead church member in Kenh San Village, Mr. Kpuih Khuong, donated a lot to the Church for this purpose. As church members were meeting at Mr. Kpuih Khuong's house in Kenh San Village, Ia Le Commune, Chu Puh District, Gia Lai Province -- also present were the lead church member and the deputy lead member for the Degar Church in Puoi A Village, police officers came to disperse them and confiscate their tools, including hammers, axes, and knives. Later, officers from the commune office took Messrs. Kpuih Khuong, Rmah Khil and Rmah Bloanh to their station for an interrogation during which they forced the victims to sign a paper declaring their intent of leaving the Degar Church. As these three church leaders continued to resist forced renouncement of faith, the police arrested them, falsely accusing them of belonging to the FULRO. On September 30, the People's Court of Gia Lai Province charged them of undermining the government's solidarity policy. They were sentenced to 11 years, 9 years, and 8 years of imprisonment, respectively.

Case 3 -- Forcing victims to stop religious activities and imprisonment of a victim

Report PROTBaptist Inci_Eng Kontum 2015-09-25EventsFeb6-Aug26

Summary: On March 11, 2015 Preacher A Dân (aka A Punh) of the Southern Baptist Church in Kontum led 11 church members from Kontum Province to a religious training program in Ho Chi Minh City. They just reached nearby Daklak Province when Daklak police stopped them, searched and confiscated their cash and Bibles. Police brought them back to Kontum Province and delivered them to police in that province. A Dân refused to sign a forced confession -- that they were trying to leave the country illegally. The other victims signed under pressure. Police released the others while detaining A Dân. The Kontum People's Court sentenced him to 24 months of imprisonment under the trumped up charge.

**Case 4 -- Unlawful arrest and continuing detention of a pastor
Report PROTChrist Inci_Eng 2016-09-17 EventsAug18-Aug20**

See also Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Beliefs – 10/31/2016 communication with government of Vietnam

<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=22835>

Summary: On Apr 12, 2016, police interrogated two adherents of the Evangelical Church of Christ, A Trung and Pastor A Đảo, on their meeting with the ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom from the U.S. On June 15, 2016, when Pastor A Dao led a prayer session at his home, the government disrupted the prayer session several times while it was ongoing and arrested adherents after they left the session. Officers questioned those who were arrested on their religious activities.

At approximately 7 pm on August 18, 2016: Police stopped and arrested Pastor A Dao who was on the way to visit members of the Church of Christ in Chu Se District, Gia Lai Province. They confiscated his mobile phone and checked the contents of the phone, which included the photos taken on his trip to attend the ASEAN Conference on Religious Freedom (Aug. 1 - 2, 2016) and ASEAN Civil Society Conference and ASEAN People's Forum (Aug. 3 - 5, 2016), both held in Dili, East Timor. They checked all of the email addresses stored in the phone and other documents regarding religious freedom and human rights. They obtained the email addresses of the Church of Christ adherents who also attended the class on Universal Declaration of Human Rights and religious freedom with Pastor A Dao. Then they told Pastor A Dao that he had violated the government's policy on national unity and that he wanted to oppose the government. Therefore, they have been detaining him since August 18, 2016. His family is very anxious to learn about his condition, as police does not allow contact with the pastor.

At approximately 3 p.m. on August 20, 2016, the government launched a crackdown involving approximately 80 individuals from several branches of the government of Gia Lai and Kontum Provinces, rapid response police (about 50 officers), PA88 Branch (anti-reactionary, anti-terrorist unit) of police, traffic police, plainclothes officers, uniformed police officers of Sa Thay District and Ro Koi Commune, local government officials at the village and commune levels, the secretary of the commune's Communist Party, border guards from Troop No. 707, militiamen, and a number of high ranking police officers of Gia Lai and Kontum Provinces (in uniform). They split into three groups to search three different houses -- one in Kram Village, one in Gia Xieng Village, and one in Khuk Kloong Village. They did not inform the victims in advance of the search. They justified the search by accusing the victims of trying to undermine national unity. The incidents occurred as follows:

1. About 25-30 individuals searched the house of Pastor A Dao in Gia Xieng Village. They confiscated a desktop computer, a laptop, and materials concerning freedom of religion and human rights; they also demanded the family's property ownership cards of the family's cropland and house. Pastor A Dao's wife refused to comply.
2. About 25 individuals searched the house of Ms. Y Bech in Kram Village; they confiscated a laptop, a memory stick, her business cards used at the conferences in East Timor,

theology books that she used when studying at Bible School, and materials concerning freedom of religion and human rights.

3. About 35-40 individuals searched the house of Deacon A Hlum in Khuk Kloong Village. When church members saw the ongoing search, some of them came to the house to pray. Government forces chased them away and prohibited them from coming into the house during the search. Government personnel confiscated a desktop computer, 2 mobile phones, materials on freedom of religion and human rights, a draft report on government persecution of the Church of Christ, theological books, a USB memory stick with stored photos, and all the notebooks.

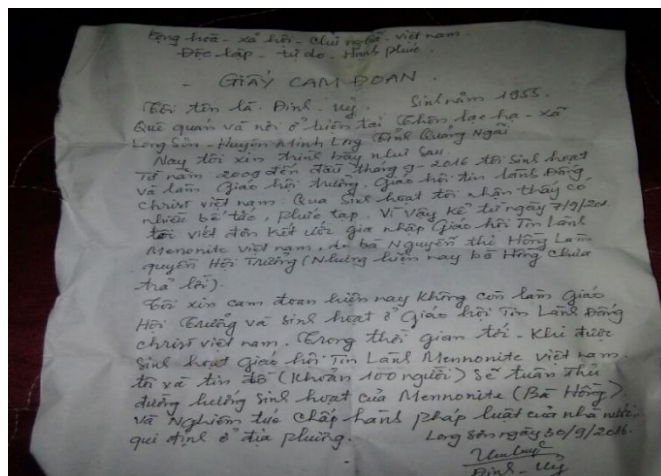
On August 20, 2016, after officers searched Pastor A Dao's home during the day, Pastor A Dao's family discovered in the evening that they had lost 50 chickens and 3 swines, including 2 pregnant ones and a younger one.

A recording of an interrogation session in late December 2016 of Ms. Y Bech by a provincial police officer working for the Central Highlands Security Bureau (this bureau reports to the Ministry of Police) proves that the government has been trying to force church adherents to convert to government-established denominations, using imprisonment as a threat. An audio file accompanying this report contains the voice recording.

Case 5 -- Forcing Pastor Đinh Uy to sign a statement of commitment to recant his faith, disband his house church and join a government-approved Church

Communication from Pastor A Ga, Head of Montagnard Evangelical Church of Christ

Summary: On September 30, 2016, police interrogators forced Pastor Đinh Uy, the head of Evangelical Church of Christ in Quang Ngai Province (affiliated with the Montagnard Evangelical Church of Christ), to sign a statement of commitment to leave that church; this document was prepared by the police. The police in the Central Highlands then used the forced conversion document to intimidate Central Highlands adherents into abandoning their faith.



English Translation of the above document

Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Independence – Liberty – Happiness

COMMITMENT STATEMENT

I, Dinh Uy, born in 1955, current residence and place of origin: Lac Ha Hamlet, Long Son Commune, Minh Long District, Quang Ngai Province

Hereby declare the following:

From 2009 until early September 2016 I engaged in religious activities as the Head of the Evangelical Church of Christ of Vietnam. The activities revealed the complexity and unresolvable nature of several issues. Therefore on September 7, 2016, I applied to join the Mennonite Church of Vietnam whose acting Head is Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hong (she has not responded).

I commit to cease my activities in the Evangelical Church of Christ of Vietnam and my work as the Head of this Church. When the Mennonite Church of Vietnam allows me to join, I and approximately 100 Evangelical Church of Christ members will follow the principles of operation of the Mennonite Church (under Mrs. Hong) and obey Vietnamese law pertinent to my local region.

Long Son, September 30, 2016

Signature of Dinh Uy

Case 6 -- Torture leading to death

Report PROTDegar Inci_Eng KsorXiem 2016-06-20EventsSep13-Jan25

Summary: At approximately 7:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve of 2015, police officers from the Ayun Pa District Police Division came to Degar Church Pastor Ksor Xiem's house and verbally ordered him to report for investigation. Pastor Xiem was interrogated for the whole day on Degar Church activities in his village. The primary objective of his interrogators was forcing him to recant his faith. They said: "The government does not recognize this Protestant denomination because it is linked to FULRO, an organization led by expatriates who aim to undermine national unity". Pastor Xiem replied: "This is my religious belief which I cannot give up. Further, we have done nothing wrong; our activities consist solely of worshipping God and discussing the Bible with villagers". Upon hearing his refusal to recant his faith, the policemen got mad and asked him if he was opposing the government. Then they used batons and other things to beat him up in the small room where the interrogation took place. They struck the vulnerable parts on his body such as his ribs, chest, and abdomen. They also slapped his face and pounded his head. They beat him until he passed out. As a result, his breathing was painful and his internal injuries seriously weakened him. They released him after he regained consciousness. He felt pain everywhere and was very sick after the interrogation. His family could not afford the cost of medical treatment. He passed away on January 14, 2016. On January 25, 2016, policemen interrogated Preacher Ksor Phuong of Ea Ayun Commune and warned him of dire consequences unless his Church ceases to exist immediately.

Case 7 -- Torture leading to death

Report 20170116_HDOK_YP_rs_sw_EN, prepared by surviving son:

Summary: Y Ku Knul, a Protestant, was born in 1969. He lived with his wife and 3 children in Section 14, Cluster 2, M'Duk Hamlet, Ea Tam Ward, Daklak Province, Town of Buon Ma Thuot. Due to his family's precarious financial situation, the couple's children had to find work far from home, year round, so that each can save money to send home to their parents. The children can only come home during the Lunar New Year for a family reunion. Every time policemen noticed that they were not home, they got suspicious and treated the family members on site cruelly and inhumanely. Occasionally, provincial police came to the house. Recently, many of them came to harass and pressure Y Ku Knul and his wife. Sometimes, they received many phone calls from the provincial policemen. The ward and village policemen often called during the couple's work hours. If they didn't answer the phone in a timely manner, the police officers would curse, threaten, and even come to the victim's work location to investigate.

Y Ku Knul often worked the land by himself in places where no one else was around. Police officers took advantage, tortured him to death, and made it look like he hung himself to deflect blame. The day before, the police had come to tell him to deliver his son Y Phic Hđok (Y Phic Hđok was preaching in Cambodia) to them. The couple did not own smartphones that they could use to contact the son. Police officers thought that Y Ku Knul did not want to cooperate.

December 27, 2016: Usually the wife cooked a meal and brought it to him where he worked. On that day, undercover police officers trailed her as usual. When she arrived at his work location, he was not there. She looked for him in the neighborhood of his work location and called her relatives to enlist their help in locating him.

On December 29, 2016, at approximately 12:30 noon, she found her husband who hung from a tree in a deserted place. She was shocked because he was a cheerful and easygoing man. Knowing him well, she could not figure out why he would have committed suicide. When police arrived and examined the corpse, they saw that his internal organs were damaged and traces of electric batons used on his body. They took the damaged body parts away to hide the evidence. They did not give the family their report from examining the corpse. When his relatives brought him home, many plainclothes police officers came. They did not allow people to come close to take pictures.

Case 8 -- Forced recantation of faith

Report PROTChrist Daklak Inci_Eng 2014-04-08 EventJan12

Summary: On January 12, 2014, in the morning five police officers raided the homes in Ea Su Village, Ea Phe Commune, Krong Pac District, Dak Lak Province of Pastor Y Noen Ayun and his younger brother Missionary Y Jon Ayun when they were conducting a prayer service. The house church members who had been praying with them dispersed as the police officers took the two victims to their station for a week of torture. Police officers threatened them with prison terms and forced them to sign an agreement to recant their faith. The two had to sign it under duress because the torture caused too much pain. On August 10-11, 2013, police officers came to the two men's homes early in the morning and took them to their station where they tortured the two men for two days because they steadfastly refused to abandon their faith. On November 13, 2013, police of Dak Lak Province came to their homes and

transported them to the police station. There they were kept in separate rooms and subjected to torture for three straight days because they refused to renounce their faith.

Case 9 -- Forced recantation of faith

Report PROTChrist Inci_Eng 2015-09-28 EventsAug-Sep

See also Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Beliefs – 10/31/2016 communication with government of Vietnam

<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=22835>

Summary: On August 27, 2015, officers from the police organizations of the commune and district, as well as those from the province came to arrest Pastor Y Noen Ayun, and took him to the police station.

The officers forced Pastor Y Noen Ayun to admit that the Church of Christ is a FULRO creation, ordered him to leave the Church, stop all his religious activities and group worships. They warned that If he continued to operate under this denomination, the government would arrest and put all members of the denomination in jail. They said that he should follow the already approved Evangelical Church of Vietnam, but Pastor Y Noen Ayun refused. While they were working with Pastor Y Noen Ayun at the district's police office, the commune's police officers went to the houses of Pastor Ayun's relatives to tell them to sign a report that the government prepared in advance. Then, the younger brother of Pastor Y Noen Ayun, named Y Jon Ayun (missionary, deputy in charge of the Church) took the report, glanced through it. When Y Jon Ayun saw some statements in the report indicating that Pastor Y Noen Ayun had established a Protestant organization associated with FULRO, all the family members refused to sign the report. Police kept Pastor Y Noen Ayun at their station until 7 pm on August 27, 2015.

Case 10 -- Torture and arbitrary arrest

Report PROTChrist Inci_Eng GiaLai 2015-08-19 EventsAug2-Aug4

See also Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Beliefs – 10/31/2016 communication with government of Vietnam

<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=22835>

Summary: Four adherents of Montagnard Evangelical Church of Christ in Kontum Province went to Gia Lai Province to study the Bible with local adherents. Border guards arrested them and their hosts, took them to the police stations where police officers and border guards beat them up and tortured them with electric batons while detaining them during 3 days. The torturers confiscated the victims' cash and cell phones.

Case 11 -- Torture and forced conversion

Report PROTChrist Inci_Eng 2015-09-28 EventsAug-Sep

Summary: On September 9, 2015, Êa Phê commune police officers, as well as Krong Pắc District and Đắk Lắk Province officers came into the house and arrested Missionary Y Jon Ayun. At that time Y Jon Ayun said: I haven't committed any crimes, so why are you arresting me, furthermore there was no warrant. He refused to go. The officers became very angry and started beating and kicking him. When he fell down, they handcuffed him, and then put him in

their vehicle and drove him to the Krong Păc District police station for questioning, where he was forced to recant his faith, and forbidden from making telephone contact with pastors in the country, and especially with those who live abroad.

On September 14, 2015, police released Pastor Y Noen Ayun and Missionary Y Jon Ayun. The two victims revealed to their family that police ordered them to leave their current Church and stop all contacts with Church of Christ pastors and adherents as well as foreign press such as Radio Free Asia, otherwise they would be dealt with much more harshly through imprisonment.

Case 12 -- Arbitrary detention leading to imprisonment

Report PROTBaptist Inci_Eng Kontum 2015-09-25EventsFeb6-Aug26

Summary: On March 13, 2015, when adherents of the Baptist Church in Sa Thay District, Kontum Province started on their trip to Ho Chi Minh City for religious studies, police in Daklak Province arrested and delivered them to police in Kontum Province for interrogation. They sent one of the adherents to prison under a false charge because he refused to admit guilt while the other victims yielded to police pressure and confessed to the false charge.

Case 13 -- Forced recantation of faith using torture

Report PROTMennon Inci_Eng GiaLai 2015-12-03EventsJan-Sep25

Summary: On April 21, 2014, a number of police organizations and local government entities joined forces, including police from the commune and district, and the head of the Internal Affairs group of Krong Pa District. They forced Kpa Y Tran of Phu Can Commune to sign a prepared report with a statement about committing to leave the Mennonite Church. However, he refused to sign. They warned that if he continued to disobey, they would suppress the victim's Church in towns and other localities.

On Aug 26 and 27, 2015, policemen from Krong Pa District and Phu Can Commune, Gia Lai Province, took 2 adherents of the Gia Lai Mennonite Church who live in the commune to the commune government building where they interrogated and beat the victims. One of the victims was detained for 3 days and tortured multiple times. Then on Sep 25, 2015, police from Krong Pa District and Phu Can Commune took another adherent who lives in the commune to the commune government building where they interrogated and threatened him with consequences unless he stopped his religious activities.

Case 14 -- Forced recantation of faith

Report PROTDegar Inci_Eng KpuihNghin 2016-03-24EventstoJan6

Summary: In 2014-2016, government forces of Chu Se District, Gia Lai Province monitor suspected adherents of the Degar Evangelical Church to stamp out any attempt at practicing their religion, request them to meet for interrogation about religious activities, and demand victims to recant their faith while threatening them with harsh measures in case of non-compliance.

Case 15 -- Forced recantation of faith

Report PROTDegar Inci_Eng PuihHih 2016-11-30EventsSep11-Sep22

Summary: Police units of Ia To, Ia Chia, and Ia Duk Communes, Ia Grai District, and Gia Lai Province persecuted Degar Evangelical Church followers in Ia Grai District. The persecution of

this Church has been ongoing from 2006. Government forces monitor suspected Church adherents to stamp out any attempt at practicing their religion, request them to meet for interrogation about religious activities, accuse them of plotting illegal escapes from Vietnam or receiving instructions from overseas anti-government groups aimed at continuing their religious activities which the government forbade. In some cases, the government sent adherents to prison under trumped up charges (e.g., 6 years for Puih Hih prior to 2015) Puih Hih fled in November 2015 after receiving a tip about an upcoming police visit, fearing the worst. In June 2016 he went to Thailand after spending 7 months in hiding. Police raided his home because his family worshipped at home. In September 2016, police interrogated 2 Church adherents, accusing them of communicating with Puih Hih, and threatened them with harsh measures unless they recant their faith.

Case 16 -- Torture to force recantation of faith and eventual imprisonment of victim
Report PROTDegar Inci_Eng RmahPrai 2016-03-31EventsMay10-Dec14

Summary: On May 10, 2014, Officers Hiếu and Hùng from Chu Puh District Police interrogated Rmah Prai and ordered him to recant his faith because the government accused his Church of being a front for FULRO. When Rmah Prai refused to comply, Hùng punched him in the face and they detained him overnight without food or water. On Dec 14, 2014, Officer Hiếu and an officer from the Gia Lai Police Department, Officer Hải, went to Rmah Prai's home while he and other adherents met to discuss a plan to celebrate Christmas. The officers said that the government had not approved any Christmas celebration with respect to Degar Church adherents. Rmah Prai retorted that as Christians, they had to celebrate Christmas. Officer Hải handcuffed him and the officers tortured him with electric baton and regular baton. Then they forced him to sign a commitment statement to indicate that he will recant his faith. On April 19, 2014, police again ordered him to join an approved Church, or else he would go to prison. In July 2015, police and militia raided his home where church members were worshipping and detained him for not honoring his commitment to recant his faith. On December 2015, the "mobile" court of Gia Lai convened in a nearby village and sentenced him to 6 years of imprisonment.

Case 17 -- Forced recantation of faith

Report PROTChrist Inci_Eng-2016-04-12EventsMar12-Apr7

Report PROTChrist Inci_Eng 2016-07-08EventsMar30-Jun2016

Report PROTChrist Inci_Eng 2016-10-20 EventsJun17-Jul21

See also communications with the government of Vietnam from the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief

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<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=22835>

-8/31/2018

<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=23980>

Summary: During the first 6 months of 2016, police officers from the PA88 Branch and officers from the district office and commune office have been suppressing freedom of religion of the

Church of Christ in Hamlets Puan B and Tara, in Ea Phe Commune, Krong Pac District, Daklak Province. Police of Krong Pa District in Gia Lai Province has been suppressing adherents of the same Church in Chur Gam Hamlet, Chur Gam Commune, Krong Pa District, Gia Lai Province. Police interrogated and harassed church members in Ea Khit Village (in Ea Bhok Commune, Cu Kuin District, Daklak Province); Ea Yong Commune and Hoa Dong Commune of Krong Pac District, Daklak Province. Officers imposed travel restrictions on a church member. Authorities threatened and compelled adherents to recant their faith. Interrogators told victims that the State (central government) has not approved their Church. Police officers in Daklak Province interrogated Pastor Ksor Sun and forced him to recant his faith.

Case 18 – Forced recantation of faith

Report PROTChrist Inci_Eng 2016-11-28 EventsOct-MidNov

Summary: The government forced members of the Montagnard Evangelical Church of Christ in Kontum and Gia Lai provinces to recant their faith, and prevented them from contacting other Christians in Vietnam and other countries. Vietnamese government personnel ordered victims to join a denomination that the government has approved.

Case 19 – Forced recantation of faith

Report PROTChrist Inci_Eng 2017-01-20 EventsNov16-22

Summary: The police in the 3 Vietnamese provinces of Daklak, Kontum, and Gia Lai, continued to persecute, in a coordinated manner, members of the Evangelical Church of Christ in Ro Koi Commune in Kontum Province and the hamlets Jung and Tara in Daklak Province. Victims belong to ethnic minorities living in the Central Highlands. Persecution includes unreasonable interrogations focusing on religious activities and personal beliefs, followed by intimidation aimed at preventing victims' contacts with other Church adherents in Vietnam and other countries, or with international government/NGO personnel whose interests lie in human rights and religious freedom. Vietnamese government personnel used intimidation techniques such as threat of imprisonment, to force them to recant their faith and join another denomination that the government has approved. On Nov 16, 2016, they interrogated Y Bech (K'Ram Village), A Xa (Kluk Kloong Village), A Doan (K'Ram Village), and A Hluhi (Kluk Kloong Village), all in Sa Thay District. On Nov 17, they interrogated Y Glen, Tara Hamlet resident (in Krong Pac District). On Nov 22, they interrogated Ksor Sun, Jung Hamlet resident (in Krong Pac District).

Case 20 – Forced recantation of faith

Report PROTChrist Inci_Eng 2017-01-20 EventsNov28-Dec16

Summary: Police officers at local, provincial and regional levels forced members of the Montagnard Evangelical Church of Christ in Daklak Province's Krong Pac District and Kontum Province's Sa Thay District to recant their faith. This occurred on November 28 and December 3-16, 2016.

Case 21-Forced recantation of faith

Report PROTDegar Inci_En KsorYBlia 2017-05-11PhuYenMar13-Feb14

Summary: The police in Pung B Hamlet and Ea Lăm Commune (Sông Hinh District, Phu Yen Province) continued its persecution against the Degar Evangelical Church. At approximately 8:00 a.m. on Feb 14, 2017, the chief of the commune police requested Ms. Nay H Oanh to

come for a meeting in which the policeman said that they forbade her from remaining in the Degar Evangelical Church and threatened her with imprisonment unless she complies, as they had imprisoned her father. Her family is very worried because policemen from their organizations in the commune, district, and Phu Yen Province frequently came to their house to interrogate Bli's wife and children and compel them to renounce their faith.

Case 22-Forced Recantation of Faith

Case from CAPThailand, Bangkok

The Chu Se District and Chu Se Town police in Gia Lai Province continued to interrogate and force Evangelical Church of Christ adherents to recant their faith, e.g, victim Ms. Rah Lan H'Luen on June 22, 2017.

Case 23-Forced Recantation of Faith

Report PROTChrist_inci-En_Hlue2017-08-15_EventsJun-Jul2017

On July 11, 2017, Town of Chu Se police, Chu Se District police, Gia Lai Province police, and Daklak Province police interrogated Rah Lan Sam and ordered him to leave the Church of Christ or else face prison and other punishments.

Case 24-Forced Recantation of Faith

Report PROTChrist KsorSun YNguyet-incin_En eventsJan-Mar2018

On January 24, 2018, police officers working for the police organizations of Hoa Thang Commune, Town of Buon Ma Thuot, and Daklak Province interrogated Y Nguyet Buon Krong of KoMeo Hamlet, Hoa Thang Commune and ordered him to leave the Church of Christ.

Case 25-Forced Recantation of Faith, with Torture

Report PROTGospelMission_En CuKuinDistr-Apr-May2018

On October 5, 2017 and subsequent days, Ea Bhok Commune police and Cu Kuin District police (DakLak Province) detained Y Than Buon Dap during 3 days and 2 nights and used mental and physical torture to force him to recant his Gospel Missionary Church denomination. This group of police officers kept Y Bhuar Buon Dap for an entire day on April 27, 2018 to threaten and force him to recant his church. On May 10, 2018, a number of police officers from this group interrogated and threatened Y Cieu Bkrong to force him to leave his church.

Case 26-Forced Recantation of Faith

Report PROTChrist inci_En 2017-07-22 DiepTDay Events May-Jun2017

On June 13, 2017, Tra Cu District Police and the PA88 Branch of the police of Tra Vinh Province ordered Ms. Diệp Thị Đây (of Kim Son Commune in Tra Cu District) to leave her Evangelical Church of Christ.

Case 27-Forced Recantation of Faith

Report PROTChrist inci_En 2017-05-31 YNuenAyun Events Apr5-May23

In April 2017, DakLak Province police interrogated and threatened Y Nuen Ayun with reprisals if he does not leave the Evangelical Church of Christ.

Case 28-Forced Recantation of Faith

Report PROTChrist inci_En 2017-07-17 YQBDap Events May-Jun2017

On June 28, 2017, Krong Pak District police and Dak Lak Province police interrogated Y Quynh Buon Dap of Ea Yong A Hamlet, Ea Yong Commune, Krong Pak District and ordered him to leave the Evangelical Church of Christ.

Case 29-Forced Recantation of Faith

Report PROTChrist inci_En 2017-07-17 YQBDap Events May-Jun2017

On June 28, 2017, Krong Pak District police and Dak Lak Province police interrogated Y Nuen Ayun of Puan B Hamlet, Ea Phe Commune, Krong Pak District and ordered him to leave the Evangelical Church of Christ.

Case 30-Forced Recantation of Faith with Torture

Report PROTGospelMiss_En-BuonHo-KrongNa_ Apr-May2018

On April 10, 2018, Buon Ho Town police and Ea Drong Commune police (in Dak Lak Province) tortured to force Y Min Ksor and Y Pum Bya (both from Ea Drong Commune) to leave the Gospel Missionary Church and join the Evangelical Church of Vietnam (Southern Region), a government-approved one. On May 5, 2018, Ea Poc Commune police (in Buon Ho Town, Daklak Province) tortured Y Khen Nie at the commune's police station to force him to leave the Gospel Missionary Church and join the Evangelical Church of Vietnam (Southern Region). On May 7, 2018, Ea Poc Commune police and Cu Mgar District police (in Buon Ho Town) interrogated and forced Y Khit Buon Dap to leave the Gospel Missionary Church.

Case 31-Forced Recantation of Faith

PROTChrist-Inci_En-YQuynh-YKuo-Events Apr2018

On April 18, 2018, the police of the Town of Buon Ma Thuot in Daklak Province ordered Y Kuo Bya of Kơ MLeo Hamlet, Hoa Thang Commune, Town of Buon Ma Thuot to stop his religious activities because the government disapproves of the Evangelical Church of Christ. On April 27, 2018, DakLak Province police and Krong Pak District police interrogated and ordered Y Quynh Buon Dap of Ea Yong A Hamlet, Ea Yong Commune, Krong Pak District to leave the Church of Christ.

Case 32-Forced Recantation of Faith

PROTChrist_YNguyet_En_Event Aug26-30 2018

On August 26, 2018, employees of the governments Klo Meo Village and Hoa Thang Commune, including police officers and civilian employees, entered the house of Y Nguyet Buon Krong who was hosting a group of 30 Church of Christ adherents who had come to pray and worship Jesus. The government group ordered all those present to leave the Church of Christ. On August 30, 2018, Daklak Province police interrogated Y Klo Bya of Kơ MLeo Village, Hoa Thang Commune, Town of Buon Ma Thuot, and ordered him to leave the Church of Christ.

Case 33-Public Denunciation of Unregistered Church Adherent

PROTChrist_YNuen-YJon-KsorSun_En 2018Oct3&4

In October 2018 Pastor Ksor Sun of the Evangelical Church of Christ was subjected to a public denunciation by villagers whom the police had coached for this task. A number of government officials also chimed in during the event whose public shaming approach was intended to punish the victim for his association with this church.

Case 34-Forced Recantation of Faith

PROTChrist_YNguyet_En_Event Aug26-30 2018

In late August 2018 Y Kươ Byă from Kơ MLeo Village, Hòa Thắng Commune, Town of Buôn Ma Thuột, was interrogated by the police and told that he must leave the Evangelical Church of Christ to join the State-sanctioned Evangelical Church of Vietnam/Southern Region.

Case 35-Denied Christmas Celebration to 500 Christians.

PROTChrist_YKhBdap&YtlupADrong_En Events2018Dec22to24

On December 25, 2018 a group of 50 or more government employees (from the governments of the commune, district, and province, including police officers) stopped 500 adherents who had come from several villages from celebrating Christmas and took pictures of the victims. The incident took place in Ea Khit Village, Ea Bhôk Commune, Cư Kuin District, Daklak Province.

Case 36-Forced Conversion of a Couple and Detention Leading to Death of Montagnard Pastor Upon Release

PROTChrist_PROTDegar_KsorkKla-killed_En Events2018Sep-Nov

Daklak Province:

Police interrogators threatened to impose a fine on a couple in Hoa Dong Commune, Krong Pac District: “The Church of Christ is not approved and you must leave it to join either the Evangelical Church of Vietnam/(Southern Region or the Nam Phương Baptist Church”.

Four government officials came to another Church of Christ adherent’s house in the Town of Buon Ma Thuot to inspect religious activities and stop a private worship session attended by 21 adults and 3 children. The government representatives forbade the group from engaging in any future group worship.

Gia Lai Province (Nú Village, Ia Siêm Commune, Krông Pa District):

On October 28 approximately 20 police officers from Krông Pa District police, with police dogs, broke through the gate of the fence around the house of Pastor Ksor Kla at about 3 a.m., entered the house, searched it, and arrested Ksor Kla (Degar Evangelical Church). They seized his Bibles and documents, including the police interrogation requests that he had received in the past and his prison release papers. Charging him with “spreading Degar Protestantism among villagers”, they put manacles on him and took him to their police station.

After interrogating him for a few days, they released him. He told his wife that after eating some food in the police station he felt abdominal pain and he could not move his limbs because of paralysis. The police officers administered some medicine to him and then drove him home. He became sicker by the hour. On November 2, 2018 he was taken to a hospital where he died on November 5, 2018.

**Case 37-Harassment and Demolition of Crops and House of Independent Christians
Report PROTChrist Demol House Y Duong Krong'sstatement-VN**

In July 2015 the police destroyed crops grown by a Church of Christ family in Cu Bao Commune, Town of Buon Ho, Daklak Province. On April 27, 2016, 10-12 police officers came unannounced to the house of a relative of the family, Mrs. H’Kiem Krong, and immediately demolished it. They cut the corrugated metal roof into small pieces and took down all the boards used for the walls.

Case 38-Forced Recantation of Faith and Ban on Christmas Celebration

Report PROTChrist ForcedRecan & XmasForbid 20180807_Rah_LS_En-statements

On July 11, 2017 a police officer of the Town of Chu Se (Gia Lai Province) ordered a Church of Christ adherent to sign a pledge to leave his Church because the government does not recognize this church. In early December 2017 the police interrogated the victim again and this time forbade him and other adherents from celebrating Christmas.

Appendix A: Other Religious Prisoners from the Central Highlands

Figure 1 includes only those sentenced in 2013 or later. Below are known cases of Montagnard Christians who are currently in prison or have been released after serving their sentences.

1. Mr. A Byo: b. 1967. Residence: Bon Ol Btung Hamlet, Quang Tin Commune, Dak R'lap District, Dak Nong Province. An evangelical pastor who had defended his community's freedom of assembly and freedom of religion over several years, he was arrested on 12/10/2012. After detaining him without a trial until 08/13/2014, they tried him and sentenced him to 4 years in prison pursuant to Article 87. He was incarcerated in Gia Trung Prison, Gia Lai Province.
2. Mr. A Chi: b. 1964. Residence: Kret Krot Hamlet, H'ra Commune, Mang Yang District, Gia Lai Province. A Chi is a Protestant deacon and lead of the Youth Ministry. The local government prevented him from performing his duties, citing the reason that preaching is forbidden in his village. He protested and refused to comply. As a result, he was summoned to the local police office several times and ultimately was sentenced to 8 years in prison. He was arrested on 10/18/2009 and is currently on a 3-year probation after serving his sentence in An Phuoc Prison in Binh Duong Province.
3. Mr. A Dân (aka Apunh), preacher of the Southern Baptist Church in Kontum on March 11, 2015 led 11 church members from Kontum Province to a religious training program in Ho Chi Minh City. They just reached nearby Daklak Province when Daklak police stopped them, searched and confiscated their cash and Bibles. Police brought them back to Kontum Province and delivered them to police in that province. A Dân refused to sign a forced confession -- that they were trying to leave the country illegally. The other victims signed under pressure. Police released the others while detaining A Dân. The Kontum People's Court sentenced him to 24 months of imprisonment under the trumped up charge.
4. Mr. A Dao: b. 1981. Residence: Gia Xieng Village, Ro Koi Commune, Sa Thay District, Kontum Province. A pastor of the Montagnard Evangelical Church of Christ, he advocated for religious freedom for his fellow church members in the Central Highlands and elsewhere. In August 2016 he attended a recent conference on Freedom of Religion in SE Asia and the ASEAN Civil Society Conference and ASEAN People's Forum. On 04/28/2017 he was sentenced to 5 years in prison for "helping individuals to escape abroad illegally", a charge he denied. He is incarcerated at Gia Trung Detention Center, Gia Lai Province.

5. Mr. A Gyun: b. 1980. Residence: Kret Krot Hamlet, Hra Commune, Mang Yang District, Gia Lai Province. A devout Christian, he engaged in religious activities and participated in a demonstration to protest government suppression that led to a “mobile” court (installed in his village) sentencing him to 5 years in prison on 04/26/2016 pursuant to Article 87, undermining national unity. Four other Montagnard Christians were also arrested and sentenced to long prison terms.
6. Mr. A Quyn: b. 1973. Residence: Ha-mong Katu Hamlet, Ha-mong Commune, Dak Ha District, Kontum Province. He practiced his evangelical faith without government approval. He has been arrested and brought to the local police station for interrogation. The local authorities disrupted group worship sessions involving church members, prohibited future group worships, harassed his family, and brutally tortured him. Arrested on 11-18-2013, he was sentenced to 9 years and 6 months in prison pursuant to Article 87. He is currently in Nam Ha Prison in Ha Nam Province.
7. Mr. A Tach (Ba Hloi): b. 1959. Residence: Kon Hram Hamlet, Dak Tre Commune, Kon Ray District, Kontum Province. A Catholic preacher, he and many Christians in his village (where he was preaching) protested against the local government for its intervention in the Church’s affairs. Fearing this would get out of control, the local government arrested Mr. A Tach on 10/11/2012 and sentenced him to 11 years in prison, followed by 3 years of probation. He is currently incarcerated at Team 23, Subdivision 1 of Prison #5, Thanh Hoa Province.
8. Mr. A Tik: b. 1952. Residence: Kon H’ram Hamlet, Dak To’re Commune, Kon Ray District, Kontum Province. He was arrested and then on 04/26/2016 sentenced to 8 years in prison and 3 years of probation in a case involving 4 other Montagnard Christians. He was accused of undermining national unity under Article 87.
9. Mr. A Yum (Balk): b. 1940. Residence: Hamlet 5, Dak Tre Commune, Kon Ray District, Kontum Province. As a member of the Ba Na ethnic minority group, he had been advocating for religious freedom in the face of government suppression. As a result, he was arrested on 01/06/2012 and sentenced to 8 years in prison pursuant to Article 87.
10. Mr. Amlinh: b. 1943. Residence: Tuoh Klah Hamlet, Glar Commune, Dak Doa District, Gia Lai Province. He joined other Christians in protesting against the local government’s suppression of religious freedom. He was arrested in 2008, sentenced to 8 years in prison, followed by a 3-year probationary period, and incarcerated in Prison #5, Town of Thong Nhat, Yen Dinh District, Thanh Hoa Province. As a result of being tortured in prison, he suffers from several ailments. Although he has returned home in March 2016, the probation from traveling outside of his immediate community has prevented him from seeking medical treatment outside of his community.
11. Mr. Buyk: b. 1952. Residence: Kret Krot Hamlet, Hra Commune, Mang Yang District, Gia Lai Province. As an evangelist of the Kret Krot Evangelical Church, he had been defending his Church’s right to freedom of religion. He was requested to go to the local police station for interrogation. There, his interrogators beat him and issued an order forbidding him to engage in religious activities. Arrested on 02/03/2013, he was sentenced to 8 years in prison and incarcerated in Xuan Phuoc Prison, Phu Yen Province.

12. Mr. Dieu Bre: b. 1969. Residence: Quang Tin Hamlet, Dak R'lap District, Dak Nong Province. An evangelist of an evangelical church not recognized by the government, he was arrested on 08/14/2013 and sentenced to 4 years and 6 months in prison for his religious activities. He was incarcerated in Xuan Phuoc Prison, Dong Xuan District, Phu Yen Province.
13. Mr. Dieu Dong: b. 1966. Residence: Bon Blutung Hamlet, Quang Tin Commune, Dak R'lap District, Dak Nong Province. He is a pastor who belongs to an evangelical Church that is not recognized by the local government. Pastor Dieu Dong and his evangelists had been harassed by the local government and police forces that aimed to prevent them from worshipping. He was arrested on 10-12-2013 when he and the Church protested against the local government to demand religious freedom. He was sentenced to 4 years in prison and 3 years of probation. He served his sentence in Xuan Phuoc Prison, Dong Xuan District, Phu Yen Province.
14. Mr. Dieu X-Ri: b. 1962. Residence: Dak Ngo Hamlet, Tuy Duc District, Dak Nong Province. A deacon of an evangelical church not recognized by the government, he was sentenced to 2 years in prison and 3 years of probation for his religious activities. He was incarcerated in Xuan Phuoc Prison, Dong Xuan District, Phu Yen Province.
15. Mr. Dinh Ngo: b. 1987. Residence: Kung Kon Hamlet, An Thanh Commune, Dak Po District, Gia Lai Province. An evangelical pastor since 2011, he joined other members of his ethnic group in a demonstration in Dak Po District to protest against the local government's suppression of religious freedom. Arrested on 04/26/2013, he was sentenced to 7 years and 6 months in prison, and incarcerated in Section #2 of An Phuoc Prison, Binh Duong Province.
16. Mr. Dinh Ku: b. 1972. Residence: Kuk Kon Hamlet, An Thanh Commune, Dak Po District, Gia Lai Province. A devout Catholic, he stood up and protested against the Gia Lai authorities' policy of suppressing religious freedom. As a result, he was arrested on 04/26/2016 and sentenced to 7 years in prison pursuant to Article 87, undermining national unity, in a case involving 4 other Montagnard Christians. He is currently incarcerated in Prison #5, Yen Dinh District, Thanh Hoa Province.
17. Mr. Kpa Binh: b. 1976. Residence: Plei Pang Hamlet, Ea Glai Commune, Chu Se District, Gia Lai Province. An evangelical pastor, he was arrested in 2009 for participating in a demonstration demanding religious freedom because the government had been preventing him from carrying out his pastoral duties. He was sentenced to 9 years in prison pursuant to Article 87.
18. Mr. Kpa Sinh, b. 1959 of JRai ethnicity. For demanding religious freedom he was sentenced on April 5, 2011 to 8 years in prison and 3 years of probation for "undermining the national unity policy" (article 87 of the Penal Code). He is currently incarcerated in Gia Lai Province.
19. Mr. Ksor Y Dú, born 1963; Ethnicity Ede; sentenced on 15/11/2010 to 6 years in prison and 3 years of probation for "undermining the unity policy" (article 87 of the Penal Code); detained in Phu Yên. He is still on probation and may not travel outside of his village.

20. Mr. Nhi ((Bă Tiêm): b. 1958. Residence: Tuoh Klah Hamlet, Glar Commune, Dak Doa District, Gia Lai Province. He joined other Christians in protesting against the local government's suppression of religious freedom. He also joined a Montagnard association based in the U.S. He was arrested on 12/22/2008, sentenced to 10 years in prison, and incarcerated in Prison #5, Town of Thong Nhat, Yen Dinh District, Thanh Hoa Province.

21. Mr. Noh, b. 1959, a member of a Montagnard association based in the USA. For demanding religious and indigenous rights, he was sentenced on 9/4/2009 to 12 years in prison for "undermining the national unity policy" (article 87 of the Penal Code); currently incarcerated in Gia Lai.

22. Mr. Nuh (Ba Num): b. 1959. Residence: Glar village, Dak Doa District, Gia Lai Province. In 2001, he joined the other Ba Na members of this church to protest the government's disregard for religious freedom. In reprisal, the police beat the demonstrators brutally. A number of them were injured or even died, and many were arrested. His religious activities resulted in his arrest in 2004. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison. He served his sentence in Prison #3, Phu Xuan 4, Co Lung Commune, Phu Luong District, Thai Nguyen Province.

23. Mr. Rah Lan Blom, b. 1976 of Jrai ethnicity. For demanding religious and indigenous rights, he was sentenced on 04/05/2011 to 9 years in prison and 3 years of probation for "undermining the national unity policy" (article 87 of the Penal Code); incarcerated in Gia Lai.

24. Mr. Rah Lan Mlih, b. 1966 of Jrai ethnicity. For demanding religious and indigenous rights, he was sentenced on 04/05/2011 to 9 years in prison and 3 years of probation for "undermining the national unity policy" (article 87 of the Penal Code); incarcerated in Gia Lai.

25. Mr. Rmah Hlach, b. 1968 of Jrai ethnicity. For demanding religious and indigenous rights, he was sentenced on 01/14/2010 to 12 years in prison and 3 years of probation for "undermining the national unity policy" (article 87 of the Penal Code); incarcerated in Gia Lai.

26. Mrs. Rmah Hruth, a Jrai woman. Residence: Nang Hra Village, Ia Hla Commune, Cu Puh District, Gia lai Province. She was arrested in March 2014 and sentenced 5 years in iprison. Rmah H Ruth is a religious activist in Gia lai who conducted religious activities for her fellow Montagnard Christians. She is currently imprisoned in T20 - Gia Trung Prison, Gia Lai Province.

27. Mr. Rmah Hueh, b. 1964 of Jrai ethnicity. Residence: Plei Sing village, Ia Bar commune, Phu Thien district, Gia Lai province. Arrested in 2001, he was sentenced to 14 years in prison for undermining the state policy. Protestant Christian of the Plei Sing village house, he was participating in a protest that took place in Gia Lai province in 2001 demanding for freedom of religious and human rights equality treatment. Released in 2015, his health is very bad due to the torture in prison that caused him to become insane.

28. Mr. Rmah Klum: b. 1964. Residence: Lop Village, Ya Le Commune, Chu Puh District, Gia Lai Province (see Case 1 near the beginning of this document).

29. Mr. Rmah Pro: b. 1964. Residence: La Kbel Hamlet, Duc CoDistrict, Gia Lai Province. He participated in a demonstration demanding religious freedom in 2004. He had been advocating for religious freedom until he was arrested and charged with undermining national

solidarity in 2009. He is currently serving his sentence in Phu Son 4 Prison, National Security Section, Section 3, Co Lung Village, Phu Luong District, Thai Nguyen Province

30. Mr. Runh: b. 1979. Residence: Kret Krot Hamlet, Hra Commune, Mang Yang District, Gia Lai Province. An influential pastor among the Ba Na ethnic community associated with the Kret Krot Evangelical Church, he had been defending his Church's right to freedom of religion. He was requested to go to the local police station for interrogation. There, his interrogators beat him and issued an order forbidding him to engage in religious activities. Arrested on 04/23/2012, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison, followed by a 3-year probationary period. He is currently in Prison #5, Town of Thong Nhat, Yen Dinh District, Thanh Hoa Province.

31. Mr. Ro Lan Ju (Ama Suit) of Jrai ethnicity. For demanding religious and indigenous rights, he was sentenced on 07/21/2009 to 9 years in prison for "undermining the national unity policy" (article 87 of the Penal Code); incarcerated in Gia Lai.

32. Mr. Ro Mah Klit, b. 1946 of Jrai ethnicity. For demanding religious and indigenous rights, he was sentenced on 04/05/2011 to 8 years in prison and 3 years of probation for "undermining the national unity policy" (article 87 of the Penal Code); incarcerated in Gia Lai.

33. Mr. Rmah Pôl, b. 1953 of Jrai ethnicity. For demanding religious and indigenous rights, he was sentenced on 03/27/2009 to 7 years in prison and 3 years of probation for "undermining the national unity policy" (article 87 of the Penal Code); incarcerated in Gia Lai.

34. Mr. Siu Ben (Ama Yon) of Jrai ethnicity. For demanding religious and indigenous rights, he was sentenced on July 21, 2009 to 12 years in prison for "undermining the national unity policy" (article 87 of the Penal Code); incarcerated in Gia Lai.

35. Mr. Siu Bler: b. 1962. Residence: Amoi Hamlet, Tapet Commune, Dak Doa District, Gia Lai Province. An influential pastor among the Ba Na ethnic community associated with the Amoi Evangelical Church, he had been defending his Church's right to freedom of religion. After years of government harassment, his community staged a protest in 2001. After the government cracked down, they sentenced him to 2 years in Gia Trung Prison in Gia Lai, followed by a 2-year probationary period. His subsequent opposition to government interference led to his arrest on 8-27-2004 and he was sentenced to 17 years in prison, followed by a 3-year probationary period. He was tortured brutally in prison until half of his body became paralyzed. He is currently in Nam Ha Prison in Ha Nam Province.

36. Siu Brom, b. 1967 of Jrai ethnicity. For demanding religious and indigenous rights, he was sentenced on 04/05/2011 to 10 years in prison and 3 years of probation for "undermining the national unity policy" (article 87 of the Penal Code); incarcerated in Gia Lai.

37. Mr. Siu Hlom, b. 1967 of Jrai ethnicity. For refusing to renounce his Christian faith, he was sentenced on 04/05/2011 to 12 years in prison and 3 years of probation for "undermining the national unity policy" (article 87 of the Penal Code); incarcerated in Gia Lai.

38. Siu Jă (Ama Hyen) of Jrai ethnicity. For demanding religious and indigenous rights, he was sentenced on 07/21/2009 to 7 years in prison for "undermining the national unity policy" (article 87 of the Penal Code); incarcerated in Gia Lai.

39. Mr. Siu Koch, b. 1985 of Jrai ethnicity. For demanding religious and indigenous rights, he was sentenced on 1/14/2010 to 9 years in prison and 3 years of probation for “undermining the national unity policy” (article 87 of the Penal Code); incarcerated in Gia Lai.

40. Mr. Siu Nheo: b. 1955. Residence: Plei Do Hamlet, ChuA Commune, Pleiku District, Gia Lai Province. An evangelical pastor within the Ba Na ethnic minority group, he and others participated in a demonstration demanding religious freedom in 2004. He had been advocating for religious freedom in the face of government suppression. He spoke out against the government’s suppression in defense of the evangelists and their Church. As a result, he was arrested in 2009 and sentenced to 10 years in prison. Ever since his imprisonment, his wife and children have been victims of injustice and lack even basic necessities.

41. Mr. Siu Thái, b. 1978 of Jrai ethnicity. For demanding religious and indigenous rights, he was sentenced on 12/19/2011 to 10 years in prison for “undermining the national unity policy” (article 87 of the Penal Code); incarcerated in Gia Lai.

42. Mr. Siu Wiu: b. 1977. Residence: Plei Rbai BHamlet, Ia Piar Commune, Phú Thien District, Gia Lai Province. As a member of the Jarai ethnic minority group, and Protestant, he had been advocating for religious freedom in the face of government suppression. As a result, he was arrested in 2009 and sentenced to 8 years in prison.

43. Mr. Thin: b. 1979. Residence: Kret Krot Hamlet, H’ra Commune, Mang Yang District, Gia Lai Province. On 04-26-16 he was sentenced along with 4 other Montagnard Christians to 6 years in prison followed with 3 years of probation for undermining national unity (Article 87). He is being held in Phu Yen Prison.

44. Y Adam Mlo is a 21-year old EDE man in Buon Ho Town, Dak lak Province. He participated in a 2002 protest demanding land restitution. He was arrested on 25-12-2002 and sentenced to 8 years. After suffering much torture, he died in Ha Nam Prison.

45. Mr. Y Ben Nie: b. 1971. Residence: Tang 3 Hamlet, Ea Kao District, Buon Me Thuot Province. An evangelical pastor, he was imprisoned for participating in a demonstration demanding religious freedom. He was arrested in 2004 and sentenced to 13 years in prison pursuant to Article 87, undermining national solidarity. He is currently serving his sentence in Phu Son 4 Prison, National Security Section, Division 3, Co Lung Village, Phu Luong District, Thai Nguyen Province.

46. Mr. Y Blao Kpor: b. 1964. Residence: Cour B Hamlet, Ea Ana District, Daklak Province. He was a member of Cour B Church’s executive committee. In 2001, members of this church started to protest the government’s disregard for religious freedom and seizure of their land. He was arrested in 2001, 2004 (detained until 2007), and 2008 (on August 11). Upon being arrested the third time, he was sentenced to 8 years in prison, followed by 5 years of probation pursuant to Article 87. He is in Prison #1 in Thanh Hoa Province. Long detention, torture in prison, and deprivations have taken a heavy toll on his health.

47. Y Drim Nie, b. 1972. Residence: Buon Tah Village, Ea Drong Commune, Cu Mgar District, Dak lak province. Y Drin Nie is a Protestant missionary; he was arrested in December 2012

because he preached the gospel in his village. He was sentenced to 8 years in prison. He is currently imprisoned in Binh Duong Province.

48. Mr. Y Hriam Kpa: b. 1976. Residence: Druh Hamlet, Ea Nam Commune, Ea Hleo District, Gia Lai Province. The evangelical leader of a Christian House Church in Druh Hamlet that the local government has been suppressing, he was pressured into dissolving the Church. He refused and protested against this policy. He was arrested on July 30, 2015, sentenced to 7 years in prison pursuant to Article 87, and is currently in Dak Trung Prison, M'Drak District, Daklak Province.

49. Mr. Y Lao Mlo: b. 1987. Residence: Drao Hamlet, Daklak Province. A member of a Christian Church in Drao Hamlet that the local government has been suppressing, he protested against this policy. He was arrested on July 15, 2015, sentenced to 8 years in prison pursuant to Article 87, and is currently in Dak Trung Prison, M'Drak District, Daklak Province.

50. Mr. Y Lieng Kpa: b. 1974. Residence: Sec Hamlet, Dien Yang Commune, Ea Hleo District, Gia Lai Province. The chief deacon of a Christian Church in Sec Hamlet that the local government has been suppressing, he protested against this policy. He was arrested in August 2008, sentenced to 8 years in prison pursuant to Article 87, and served his sentence in Dak Trung Prison, M'Drak District, Daklak Province.

51. Mr. Y Muk Nie: b. 1968. Residence: Sup A Hamlet. Town of Ea Suop, Daklak Province. An evangelical pastor, he resisted the provincial government's persistent harassment and arrests of his fellow church members to deny them their religious freedom. In 2001 he participated in protests that took place in the Central Highlands where members of several churches have been consistently demanding respect for religious freedom and property rights in the face of the government's policy of religious suppression and seizure of private property. After being arrested on 03/27/2001, he was sentenced to 5 years in prison and incarcerated in Ha Nam Prison. After being arrested again on 08/03/2011, he was sentenced to 8 years in prison and was first incarcerated in An Phuoc Prison (Binh Duong Province). He is currently in Xuan Phuoc Prison in Phu Yen Province.

52. Y Ngenh (Ama Dem), b. 1974 of Ede ethnicity. For demanding religious and indigenous rights, he was sentenced on 6/8/2010 to 6 years in prison and 3 years of probation for "undermining the national unity policy" (Article 87 of the Penal Code) and "organizing and/or coercing other persons to flee abroad or to stay abroad illegally" (Article 275 of the Penal Code); incarcerated in Dak Nong.

53. Mr. Y Ngun Knul: b. 1968. Residence: K'Rang Hamlet, Bang Commune, Krong Ana District, Daklak Province. An evangelical pastor who preached to people in his community, he was arrested on 4-29-2004, sentenced to 18 years in prison pursuant to Article 87, and is currently in Prison #6, Nghe An Province.

54. Mr. Y Ping: b. 1967. Residence: A Luk Hamlet, K'Yang Commune, Dak Doa District, Gia Lai Province. In 2005 he joined other Ba Na ethnic people in demonstrating against the local government's suppression of religious freedom and seizure of private land. He was arrested, charged pursuant to Article 87, and incarcerated for 6 months in Gia Trung Prison. After they released him, he resumed preaching. The local government actively attempted to stop his

religious activities. He was arrested on 9-3-2007 and sentenced to 9 years in prison, followed by a 3-year probation period, pursuant to Article 87. He served his sentence in Prison #5, Town of Thong Nhat, Yen Dinh District, Thanh Hoa Province. He was released in June 2016. He is currently serving his 3-year probation in his community.

55. Mr. Y Phom Koh: b. 1965. Residence: Doh Hamlet, Eatar Commune, Cu Mgar District, Daklak Province. He was a deacon and a leader of a youth group in his church. During his time as youth group leader, the local government objected to his concurrently assuming the deacon position. Police arrested him and tortured him during interrogation at the police station, alleging that he attempted to undermine national solidarity. He was sentenced to 8 years in prison pursuant to Article 87. He is in Gia Trung Prison, Ward 5, Section 5, Gia Lai Province.

56. Mr. Y Roh, b. 1968 of Bahnar ethnicity. Residence: Plei Kon Brung Village, Yun Commune, Mang Yang District, Gia Lai Province. His date of arrest is unknown, but he was sentenced to 10 years in prison after participating in a protest to demand religious freedom. He is currently imprisoned in Thanh Hoa Prison.

57. Mr. Y Ty Ksor, b. 1989. Residence: Buon Toat Village, Ea Xiem Commune, Krong Pa District, Gia lai Province. He participated in a protest to demand religious freedom in 2006. He was arrested and sentenced to 14 years in prison. He is currently imprisoned in Ha Nam Prison.

58. Mr. Y Yem Hwing: b. 1972. San A Hamlet, Ea Tul Commune, Cu Mgar District, Daklak Province. A chief deacon of a church in San A Hamlet, he has been very influential in his church and his ethnic community. The local government arrested him on 10/29/2012 to deprive the community of his leadership in the hope of eventually dissolving the Church. He is serving an 8-year prison sentence.

59. Mr. Y Yich: b. 1960. Residence: A Lut Hamlet, K Yang Commune, Đắk Đoa District, Gia Lai Province. An evangelical pastor, he was arrested on 12-18-2006 for “plotting against the government”. After serving 4 years in Xuan Phuoc Prison, he was discharged on 9/18/2011 and was put under probation for 3 years. He resumed proselytizing to his Ba Na ethnic community and was arrested on 5/13/2013. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison. As a result of being beaten and tortured in prison, his health has been deteriorating. Not only they deny him medical treatment for high blood pressure, rheumatism, and stomach inflammation, they have not allowed his family to supply him with medication. He is currently in Section #2 of An Phuoc Prison, Binh Duong Province.

60. Mr. Yoh (Bă Nar), b. 1962. For demanding religious and indigenous rights, he was sentenced on 8/9/2009 to 8 years in prison for “undermining the national unity policy” (article 87 of the Penal Code); he was incarcerated in Gia Lai

61. Mr. Yuh: b. 1962. Residence: Dor 1 Hamlet, Glar Commune, Dak Doa District, Gia Lai Province. He joined other Christians in protesting against the local government’s suppression of religious freedom. He was arrested on 04/04/2009, sentenced to 8 years in prison, followed by a 3-year probationary period, and incarcerated in Prison #5, Town of Thong Nhat, Yen Dinh District, Thanh Hoa Province.