

Torture and police beating in Vietnam: Prevalent and tolerated by the regime

Death in Police Custody

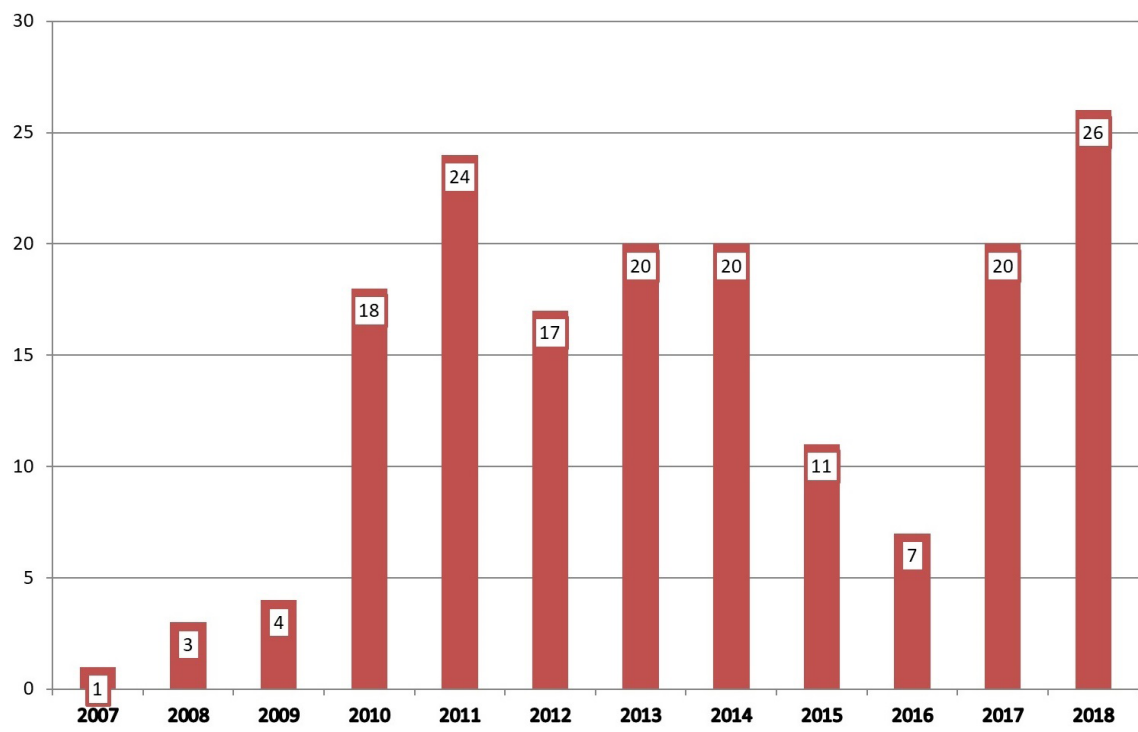
We have documented from different sources a total of 139 incidents of death during police custody. In most cases, pursuant to internal investigation, the police concluded that the victims had committed suicide. Family members who contested such conclusion are often targeted for reprisal.

The case of Nguyen Huu Tan

A Hoa Hao Buddhist follower who was arbitrarily was detained at the Temporary Detention Center of Vinh Long Provincial Police Department (May 3, 2017). Less than 10 hours later, the police notified the victim's family that he had committed suicide, allegedly with a paper cutter.



Total Fatalities in Police Custody



The case of Mrs. Tran Thi Hong

Mrs. Tran Thi Hong, wife of Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh, was taken to the local police station repeatedly for over two months after her meeting with a high-level delegation of US State Department officials. She was often tortured at the police station.

On June 15, 2016 she denounced those who took part in the torture, identifying them by name and requesting government investigation. So far the government has not taken any action against the perpetrators. Instead, the Government of Vietnam explained, in its response to a query by several UN Special Rapporteurs, that she had injured herself.



Mrs. Hong was carried into her home by her neighbours after the beating

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Amend domestic laws to comply with UNCAT, including national security provisions in the Penal Code that criminalize peaceful exercise of internationally protected human rights.
- Strictly prohibit the practice of duress and disallow “confessions” extracted by the use of torture in all trials and legal proceedings.
- Promptly, thoroughly, and impartially investigate all cases of injury and death in police custody, including forensic examinations by independent medical professionals and ensure that all persons found guilty of committing acts of torture are subjected to criminal prosecution, and not only disciplinary measures.
- Ensure that victims of such abuses are appropriately rehabilitated and compensated.
- Establish an independent mechanism enabling victims and their relatives the opportunity to lodge complaints without fear of reprisal and exercise oversight over the police and other relevant authorities so that there is no institutional or hierarchical connection between the investigators and the alleged perpetrators.

By Michelle Nguyen, VN-CAT - endtorturevn.org