



Statelessness as form of punishment against H'Mong and Montagnard Christians in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Full report: <http://dvov.org/montagnard-protestants/>

For the past 20 years, many provincial governments have excluded H'Mong and Montagnard Christians from the most basic rights otherwise available to citizens as punishment for not renouncing their Christian faith. Evicted from their villages, they have been denied household registration and citizenship ID cards.

- Married couples are not issued marriage certificates.
- Children are denied birth certificates and are not admitted into school.
- Adults cannot get employment, apply for a business license, open a bank account, or even use the public library.
- Families do not have access to public benefits, social welfare, public health care...

In brief, they are not treated as citizens in their own country. They have become “stateless.”

The Government of Vietnam should:

- 1. Issue birth certificates to all children bearing both parents' names, and facilitate their full access to education and all benefits programs;**
- 2. Issue citizenship ID to all individuals without it, and household registration to all families without it;**
- 3. Issue marriage certificates, backdating to the actual wedding date;**
- 4. Ensure that local and provincial governments stop their policies of forcing Hmong and Montagnard Christians to renounce their faith, and of using denial of citizenship ID and household registration as punitive measures against those who defend their faith.**