



# NGUYEN BAC TRUYEN

**Human Rights Activist - VIET NAM**  
**Two-time prisoner of conscience**

Prominent religious freedom advocate sentenced to 11 years imprisonment and 3 years probation

Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen is a peaceful human rights defender and the recipient of the 2011 Hellman Hammett Award of Human Rights Watch. He was arbitrary arrested in 2006 and sentenced to 3.5-year in prison and 2 years of house arrest due to his pro-democracy activism. Since his release from the first prison term, Mr. Truyen focused much of his efforts on defending and promoting religious freedom. He often served as the liaison between human rights activists, civil society organizations, and persecuted religious groups with diplomatic missions and international human rights organizations. On July 30 2017, he was abducted on the street and on April 5 2018 was sentenced to 11 years imprisonment and 3 years probation on charge of "carrying out activities aiming to overthrow the government"

Peaceful human rights activist convicted of "subversion" and imprisoned at a remote and treacherous location.



- Independent Hoa Hao Buddhist, human rights advocate, pro-bono legal scholar, two-time prisoner of conscience.
- July 30, 2017— Nguyen Bac Truyen was abducted on the street and held incommunicado for several months.
- April 5, 2018 – In a one-day trial, closed to the public, he was sentenced to 11 years imprisonment and 3 years probation.
- June 4, 2018 —The Appeal Court upheld his sentence.

Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen is a Hoa Hao Buddhist, who has been imprisoned twice for his peaceful advocacy for religious freedom and basic human rights. After his release from prison in 2010, Truyen took a leading role of the Vietnamese Political and Religious Prisoners Friendship Association, a mutual assistance association that provides poverty-stricken prisoners of conscience and their families with prison visitation, medical checkups, legal consultation, and scholarships for their children who otherwise cannot afford to go to school. For this work, Truyen was selected by Human Rights Watch as the recipient of the 2011 Hellman-Hammett Award.

He has documented several human rights violations committed against Hoa Hao Buddhists and other persecuted religious communities for submissions to the UN Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FORB) and on Torture (CAT).

As a legal scholar, he also provided pro-bono legal assistance and training on basic human and civil rights to families of political prisoners, victims of illegal land appropriation, Catholics, Hoa Hao Buddhists, Hmong and Montagnard Christians, and Cao Dai followers .

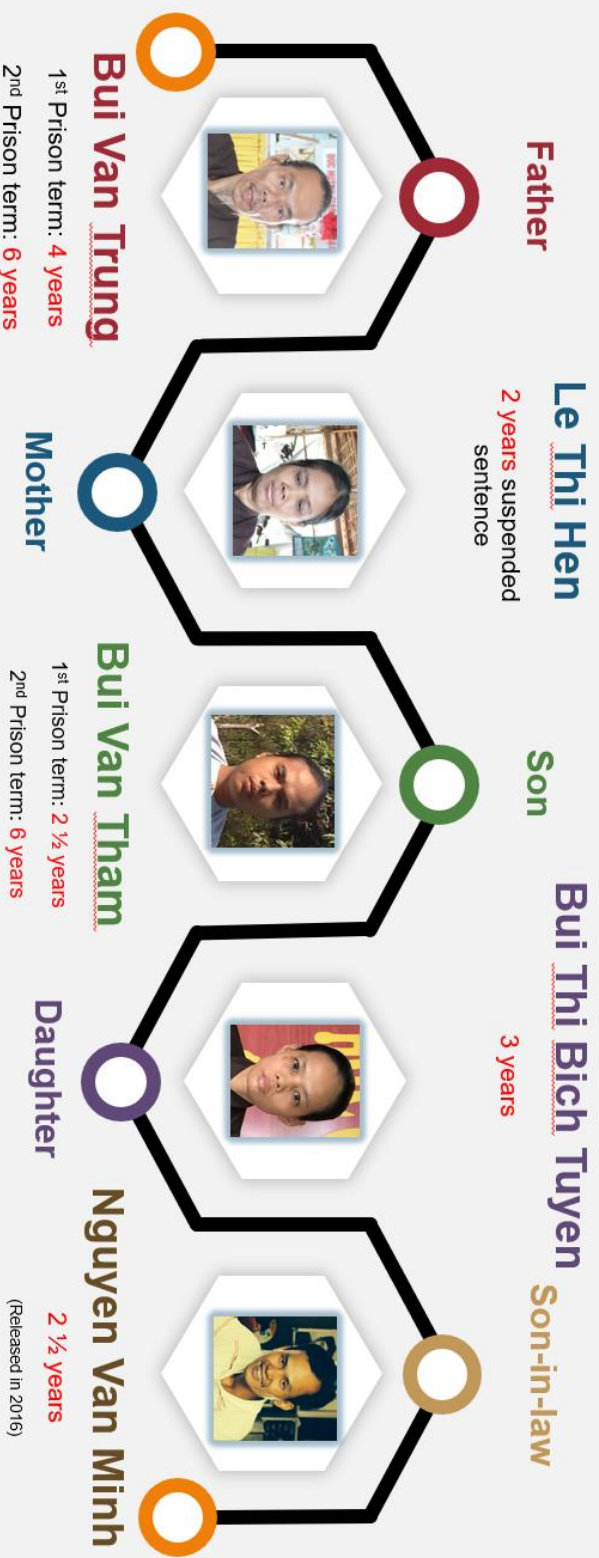
Truyen was one of the original members of Brotherhood for Democracy, an internet-based pro-democracy civil society organization formed in April 2013 whose objective is to advocate peacefully for human rights and democracy in Vietnam, but he announced his withdrawal from the organization soon thereafter, having decided to focus exclusively on assisting independent religious groups and on his role as the coordinator of the assistance program for war invalids operated by the Catholic Redemptorist Bureau for Justice and Peace. With a yearly budget of over 800,000 USD the program has helped more than 5,000 former soldiers of the Republic of South Vietnam.

Mr. Nguyen Bac Truyen is a human rights defender who peacefully exercised his basic civil and human rights and advocated for the rights of others, yet he was frequently subjected to fierce persecution, brutal assaults, and is currently serving an 11-year prison term a thousand miles away from his family.

- Please send letters to Truyen at: An Diem Prison, Dai Hung commune, Dai Loc district, Quang Nam province, Vietnam. Or call: +84 (0235) 377 4502.
- Please advocate for Nguyen Bac Truyen in your capacity and raise his case in discussions with the Vietnamese government officials, or write to:
  - \* Mr. To Lam, Minister of Public Security, 44 Yet Kieu Street, Hoan Kiem district, Hanoi;
  - \* Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister's Office, Hanoi;
  - \* President Nguyen Phu Trong, 1A Hung Vuong Street, Ba Dinh district, Hanoi

# One Hoa Hao Buddhist family: 24 years imprisonment + 2 years suspended sentence

Charged with: Article 245 (causing public disorder) and 257 (resisting persons in the performance of their official duties")



(Mr. **Bui Van Trung** is the patriarch of a family whose 5 members sentenced to a total of 24 years imprisonment and 2 years suspended sentence for refusing to dissolve the Prayer Hall he established at home. Mr. **Trung** and his son, Mr. **Bui Van Tham**, are currently behind bars for the second time.)