

Perpetrator Information



Full Legal Name of Perpetrator: Vu Van Lau (in Vietnamese: Vũ Văn Lâu)

Country: Vietnam

Title or Position: Colonel, Director of the Police Department of Gia Lai Province

Date of Birth: 1960

Place of Birth: Thai Binh Province



Full Legal Name of Perpetrator: Pham Huu Truong (in Vietnamese: Phạm Hữu Trường)

Country: Vietnam

Title or Position: Lt. Colonel, Deputy Director of the Police Department of Gia Lai Province

Date of Birth: Unknown

Place of Birth: Unknown

Basis for IRFA sanctions: Forced conversion through harassment, multiple interrogations, torture, imprisonment, denial of medical care, and intimidation of victims who are Christians living in the Central Highlands of Vietnam, including many Montagnard (ethnic minorities living in the Central Highlands and other remote, primarily mountainous regions).

Command responsibility: Command responsibility is established in three ways.

(1) Violations have happened in a coordinated manner, targeting specific Montagnard house churches across the Gia Lai Province, including in the provincial capital, the Town of Pleiku. Such systematic and on-going persecution of Montagnard Christians emanated from the policy of 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

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(PA 90) to coordinate the implementation of policies set by the Central Highlands Steering Committee. This policy was explicitly stated in an article published on the official website of the Ministry of Public Security and the Police Department of Gia Lai Province has been repeatedly recognized for successful implementation of this policy:

"Through 10 years of growth and combatting 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 Môn Cult adherents, convinced 69 fugitives to give themselves up, made substantial progress in resolving the Hà Môn 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>

(2) The Gia Lai Province Police Department is fully aware of the many egregious violations of religious freedom through requests for investigation submitted by the victims. For example, it has received Mrs. Tran Thi Hong's denunciation letter of June 15, 2016 and follow-up letter of January 1, 2017, but has not responded to either to this date. This was in blatant violation of Vietnam's Law on Denunciation, 03/2011/QH13 effective January 7, 2012. Provisions 20 and 21 of this law require the responsible authority to respond within 60 days from the date of the denunciation letter. Similarly, this Police Department has not issued any credible findings from its investigation (if any) of the reported incidents of torture against Mrs. Hong's husband, Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh. The Police Department has not initiated any investigation into the many reported incidents of torture and death in police custody.

(3) The Gia Lai Province Police Department has been forwarded inquiries from UN mandate holders on reported human rights violations. The Police Department either denied outright any violations or presented false information in the face of clear evidence. For example, in the case of Mrs. Tran Thi Hong, who had been subjected to torture during interrogation that continued on and off for two months after her meeting with US Ambassador At Large on International Religious Freedom David Saperstein. The Vietnamese Government, with information undoubtedly provided by the Gia Lai Province Police Department, explained that her injuries were self-inflicted: "Mrs. Hong struck her head onto the taxi car and so, got injured by herself." See: <http://dvov.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/72-HRVNM2017.pdf>. In response to inquiries from UN mandate holders, the Police Department of Gia Lai Province has not initiated an investigation into the torture of Mrs. Hong, the arrest of Pastor Chinh, the death of Pastor Ksor Xiem and the acts of torture directed at Pastor A Dao among others.

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Impact of applying IRFA visa restrictions to perpetrators: The U.S. Government has repeatedly raised its concern to the Government of Vietnam at human rights dialogues and on many other occasions, but persecution against the independent house churches in Gia Lai Province continues unabated. The targeted sanctions would send a clear message that the U.S. Government takes seriously the ongoing, systematic and egregious persecution against Montagnard house churches in Gia Lai Province. In the short-term, the Police Department of Gia Lai Province may now have to think twice before committing the next act of violence against members of the Montagnard Evangelical Church of Christ (aka Evangelical Church of Christ of Vietnam) or the Dega Evangelical Church. In the longer term, the sanctions may compel the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party to rethink its policy towards Montagnard Christians in the Central Highlands.

Availability of witnesses: A dozen victims of religious persecution committed by the Police Department of Gia Lai Province have resettled to the United States and are available for interview. These victims include, among others, Mrs. Tran Thi Hong, Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh and Pastor A Ga.

For more detailed information, see the Appendices:

Appendix A – Policy of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party towards independent Montagnard house churches in the Central Highlands of Vietnam

Appendix B – Summary statistics of reported violations of religious freedom of Montagnard Christians in Gia Lai Province

Appendix C – List of incident reports submitted to UN mandate holders on gross violations of religious freedom committed by the police in Gia Lai Province

Appendix D – List of current religious prisoners of conscience among Montagnard Christians in Gia Lai Province

Appendix A –Policy of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party towards independent Montagnard house churches in the Central Highlands of Vietnam

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 Several prominent sources (including government websites associated with the Public Security Ministry and Prime Minister’s office) discussed 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 Môn cult was accomplished only recently. The Security Team of the Police Force of the Town of Kon Tum 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 combatting 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, “Dega Evangelical Church”, and established 3 projects to end FULRO elements’ operation out of the forest. The Office captured 12 Hà Môn Cult adherents, convinced 69 fugitives to give themselves up, made substantial progress in resolving the Hà Môn 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>

Material from the website of the former public security minister of Vietnam reveals the national policy of suppressing Christianity among Montagnard communities.

Police General & Public Security Minister Trần Đại Quang (b. October 12, 1956 in Quang Thiện Commune, Kim Sơn District, Ninh Bình Province - deceased in 2018 after being elected the President of Vietnam), former Chair of Central Highlands Steering Committee (2011-2016): In the capacity of the Chair of Central Highlands Steering Committee, he supervised the Central Highlands Security Bureau (PA90) in the suppression of independent house churches of ethnic

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

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minorities in the Central Highlands. His direct involvement has been widely reported in the Vietnamese official media.

Reflecting the policy set out by the Central Highlands Steering Committee, on June 14, 2013 *World Security*, an official publication of Vietnam's Public Security Ministry, published the article titled "Ha Mon Cult, a FULRO Trick" justifying the crackdown against Montagnard Christians: "...FULRO elements continued to take advantage of the Catholics' belief in the Virgin's miraculous appearances to make up the "Ha Mon Cult" in the Central Highlands to deceive citizens...incite citizens to oppose the government...to supply FULRO members hiding in the forest...". See <http://antg.cand.com.vn/Ho-so-Interpol/Dao-Ha-Mon-%E2%80%93-Tro-doi-tra-cua-bon-phan-dong-Fulro-306015/>

On January 17, 2014, General Quang presided over the Central Highlands Steering Committee conference to review the progress made in 2013 and launch programs for 2014. According to the article titled "Eradicate reactionary Fulro, and the evil cults of Ha Mon and Dega Protestantism" and published on then-Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung's website, General Quang reportedly said: "...To enable a stable development for the Central Highlands in 2014 and subsequent years, we must focus on the following measures:... strive to prevent and deter criminal activities, eradicate reactionary FULRO organizations, the evil "Hà Môn" and "Dega Protestant" sects; implement well our policies towards the people and religion, and further strengthen national solidarity." Source: Nguyen Tan Dung website, . <http://nguyentandung.org/xoa-bo-to-chuc-phan-dong-fulro-ta-dao-ha-mon-va-tin-lanh-dega.html>

On July 7, 2014, addressing the Central Highlands Security Bureau, he called on it to "...increase activities to be able to assess the situation, to detect, counter, and prevent hostile elements and FULRO's plots; to neutralize efforts in reviving reactionary organizations; and to eradicate the evil cult "Hà Môn" (translator's note: a Central Highlands sect focusing on the worship of Jesus's mother). " Source: Ministry of Public Security, 10-year anniversary of the establishment of the Central Highlands Security Bureau. See <http://cand.com.vn/Cong-an/Cuc-An-ninh-Tay-Nguyen-Ky-niem-10-nam-ngay-thanh-lap-va-don-nhan-danh-hieu-Anh-hung-Luc-luong-vu-trang-nhan-dan-266454/>

Appendix B -- Summary statistics of reported violations of religious freedom of Montagnard Christians in Gia Lai Province

Sanctions against the above perpetrators would protect an entire class of persecuted Christians: Montagnard Christians, and particularly members of the outlawed Montagnard Evangelical Church of Christ. In the 1960s American missionaries introduced Protestantism to the Montagnard population in the Central Highlands; as reason for forcing Montagnard Christians to renounce their faith, the Vietnamese government often alleges that Protestantism is an American religion.²

The persecution against Montagnard Christians is systemic and follows the policy set out in 2002 by the Communist Party’s Central Highlands Steering Committee. In 2004 the Ministry of Public Security established its Central Highlands Security Bureau (PA90) to coordinate the implementation of this policy. The following chart shows that the Police Department of Gia Lai Province has most vehemently implemented this policy compared to all other provinces in the Central Highlands. Note that the decreased number of incidents of forced renunciation/conversion of faith in 2018 and 2019 is indicative of the Police Department’s effective elimination of independent house churches.

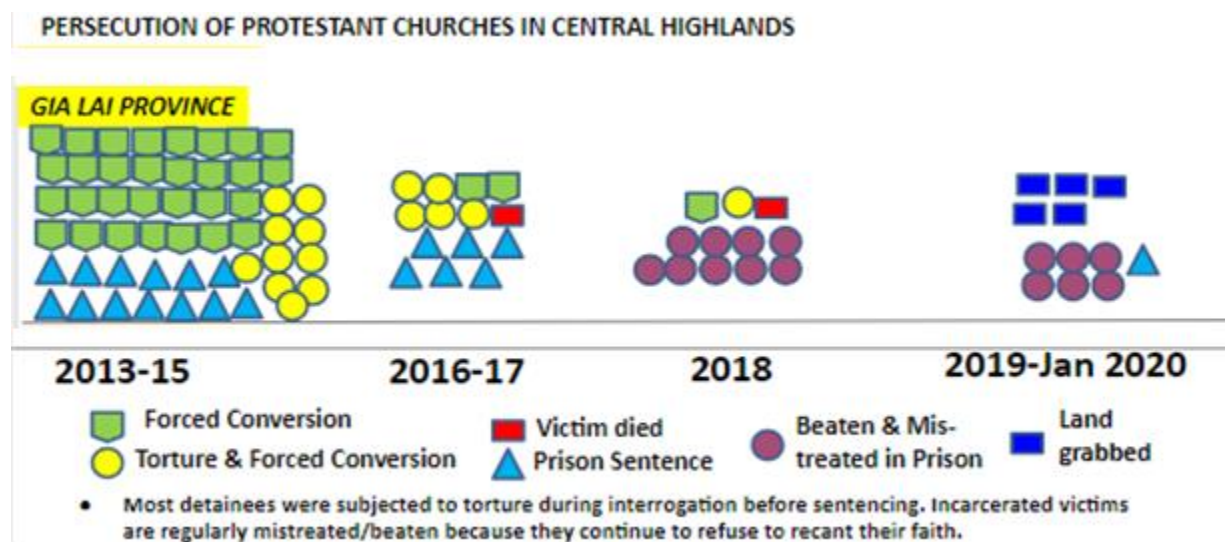


Figure 1. Religious Freedom Violation Incidents Reported by Victims (submitted to UN Special Procedures) – Note: Each symbol represents an individual being persecuted on a specific day – can be the same individual on a different day or a different individual on the same day – this characterization allows one to compare the persecution severity among different provinces.

There is a direct line of command responsibility leading from the Police Department of a province to the police organizations of districts and provincial towns/cities.

² Repression of Montagnards, Human Rights Watch, April 2002: <https://www.hrw.org/reports/2002/vietnam/viet0402-08.htm>

See below excerpts from Public Security Ministry's official site,
http://mps.gov.vn/web/guest/english_detail/-/vcmsviewcontent/bZCI/2401/0/11801:

The organizational system of the People's Public Security Forces

1. The organizational system of the People's Public Security Forces is composed of:

a/ The Public Security Ministry;

b/ Police Departments of provinces and centrally-run cities;

c/ Police organizations of rural districts, urban districts, provincial towns and provincially-run cities;

d/ Police organizations of communes, wards and townships.

2. Commune police organizations constitute a part-time armed force, playing the core role in "the entire population protects the Fatherland's security" movement and ensuring social security, order and safety at grassroots levels. They submit to the direct and comprehensive leadership of local Party Committees, the management and administration of commune People's Committees, and the professional direction and guidance of superior public security organizations.

The Law provides for the organization, operation, equipment, uniform, training, cultivation, regimes, and policies towards commune police organizations.

3. Basing oneself on the security and order requirements and within the ambit of his own tasks and powers, the Minister of Public Security shall decide on establishment of police stations and organizations as well as independent units to be disposed in necessary locations.

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Appendix C -- List of incident reports submitted to UN mandate holders on gross violations of religious freedom committed by the police in Gia Lai Province

Summary of Cases

- a. Mrs. Tran Thi Hong: On March 30, 2016 she met with the U.S. delegation led by Ambassador At Large on International Religious Freedom David Saperstein to seek intervention for her husband, Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh who was serving 11-years prison sentence, and for their Lutheran House Church. From April 14 to May 31, 2016 she was repeatedly forcibly taken to the Office of the People’s Committee of Hoa Lu Ward to be interrogated, tortured and otherwise physically abused by officers of the Gia Lai Province. They wanted her to disclose her conversation with AAL Saperstein and to sign a pre-written statement admitting to the crime of meeting with U.S. State Department officials without government approval. Despite the multiple injuries inflicted on her, she refused to comply and held a prolonged hunger strike in protest. The interrogation sessions only stopped after strong intervention by the U.S. State Department and U.N. Special Rapporteurs.

- b. Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh: Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh is an Evangelical pastor who ministered to his Christian community, composed primarily of Montagnards, in the Vietnamese Vietnam’s Central Highlands and peacefully criticized government restrictions on preaching and religious expression. Pursuant to the policy of the Central Highlands Steering Committee, the Police Department of Gia Lai Province repeatedly took him into the police station for interrogation and torture. He managed to audiotape one such torture session (dated August 19, 2006). For that the Vietnamese government sentenced him in 2011 to 11 years in prison, allegedly for undermining national solidarity. But government officials did not stop there; since his detention, Pastor Chinh had been subjected to abusive treatment and denied of his rights by prison authorities. Pastor Chinh reportedly was physically and verbally abused in prison, and from February October 2016 to March 2017 was in solitary confinement. His health steadily declined: he suffered from high blood pressure, acute nasal sinusitis, arthritis, and stomach inflammation but was denied treatment or access to medication.

- c. Pastor Ksor Xiem: At approximately 7:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve of 2015, Security Branch police officers from the police organization of Ayun Pa District (in Gia Lai Province) came to Dega Church Pastor Ksor Xiem’s house and verbally ordered him to report for investigation. Pastor Xiem was interrogated for the whole day on Dega 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 public security men got mad and asked him if he was opposing the government. Then

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they used batons and other things to beat him up in the small room where the interrogation took place. They struck the vulnerable parts of 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, Security Branch police officers interrogated Preacher Ksor Phuong of Ea Ayun Commune and warned him of dire consequences unless his Church ceases to exist immediately.

- d. Pastor A Dao: Currently incarcerated in Gia Trung Prison in Gia Lai Province, he has been tortured periodically from 2017 to the present time by the police in charge of this prison (in Vietnam, prison personnel from the warden down are part of the police force). His health has deteriorated significantly from malnutrition and the harsh treatment reserved for prisoners of conscience. The events leading to his imprisonment and torture are summarized in this section.

At approximately 7 pm on August 18, 2016, public security of Gia Lai Province arrested Pastor A Dao as he was on the way to visit members of his Montagnard Evangelical 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 Conference on Religious Freedom or Belief in Southeast Asia (Aug. 1 - 2, 2016) and the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/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 had attended training on Universal Declaration of Human Rights and religious freedom with Pastor A Dao. They accused Pastor A Dao of having violated the government's policy on national unity and having opposed the government. Pastor A Dao was detained incommunicado since August 18, 2016. The government then launched a crackdown involving approximately 80 individuals from several branches of the government of Gia Lai and Kon Tum Provinces, rapid response police (about 50 officers), PA88 Branch (anti-reactionary, anti-terrorist unit) of the police organizations, traffic police, plainclothes officers, uniformed Security Branch 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 Security Branch police officers of Gia Lai and Kon Tum Provinces (in uniform). They split into three groups to search three different houses in K'Ram Village, Gia Xieng Village, and Khuk Kloong Village. At an interrogation session in late December 2016 of Ms. Y Bech, resident of K'Ram Village, Mr. Truong, a member of the Central Highlands Security Bureau (which reports directly to the Ministry of Public Security and is headquartered in Gia Lai Province), ordered her to renounce the Montagnard Evangelical Church of Christ and convert to a government-established denomination. He threatened her that resistance would land her in detention like Pastor

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A Dao. An audio recording of this interrogation has been obtained by BPSOS. On April 28, the People's Court of Gia Lai Province sentenced Pastor A Dao to 5 years of imprisonment for aiding Montagnards to illegally escape from Vietnam, a charge he denied. During a brief meeting with his wife and some fellow Montagnards just prior to the trial, Pastor A Dao revealed that he was repeatedly tortured as he refused to admit to crimes he did not commit. These witnesses reported seeing bruises on his face and neck.

- e. Mr. Rmah Klum: Born in 1964, he 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.
- f. Messrs. Kpuih Khuong, Rmah Khil and Rmah Bloanh: On November 26, 2013, the Degar Evangelical 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 Dega 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 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.
- g. Torture and arbitrary arrest: In August 2015, four adherents of Montagnard Evangelical Church of Christ in Kon Tum 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.
- h. Forced recantation of faith using torture: 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, Security Branch police officers from

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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.

- i. Forced recantation of faith: Police units of Ia To, Ia Chia, and Ia Duk Communes, Ia Grai District, and Gia Lai Province persecuted Dega 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.
- j. Torture to force recantation of faith and eventual imprisonment of victim: 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 Dega Church adherents. Rmah Prai retorted that as Christians, they had to celebrate Christmas. Officer Hải handcuffed him and the officers tortured him with electric batons and regular batons. 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.
- k. Forced recantation of faith: The police of Chư Puh District and Êa Lê Commune interrogated and threatened to imprison adherents of the Good News Mission Church in Puối Lốp Village and Êa Bia Village which are within Êa Lê Commune, Chư Puh District, Gia Lai Province, in December 2019: victims: Rmah Beo DOB: 1987; Võ Thị Thái DOB:

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1966; Rmah Kit, DOB: 1972; Siu Chet DOB: 1984; Rmah H’Hoàng DOB: 1996; Trần Văn Quảng DOB: 1969.

Appendix D – List of current religious prisoners of conscience among Montagnard Christians in Gia Lai Province

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Mr. Rah Lan Blom, b. 1976 of Jrai ethnicity, Gia Lai Province. 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.
5. Mr. Rah Lan Mlih, b. 1966 of Jrai ethnicity, Gia Lai Province. 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.
6. Mr. Rmah Hlach, b. 1968 of Jrai ethnicity, Gia Lai Province. 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.
7. 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.
8. Mr. Siu Ben (Ama Yon) of Jrai ethnicity, Gia Lai Province. 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.

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9. 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 08/27/2004 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.
10. Siu Brom, b. 1967 of Jrai ethnicity, Gia Lai Province. 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.
11. Mr. Siu Hlom, b. 1967 of Jrai ethnicity, Gia Lai Province. 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.
12. Mr. Siu Thái, b. 1978 of Jrai ethnicity, Gia Lai Province. 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.
13. Mr. Thin: b. 1979. Residence: Kret Krot Hamlet, H'ra Commune, Mang Yang District, Gia Lai Province. On 04/26/2016 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.
14. 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 07/30/2015, sentenced to 7 years in prison pursuant to Article 87, and is currently in Dak Trung Prison, M'Drak District, Dak Lak Province.
15. 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.
16. 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.

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17. Mr. Ksor Ruk: b. 1975. Residence: Toát Village, Ia Rươ̄m Commune, Krông Pa District, Gia Lai Province. In 2007 Ksor Ruk was sentenced to 6 years in prison for “undermining national solidarity” (actually for his religious activities), released early in 2011, and resumed hosting worship sessions at his house. This led to his arrest in 2018 and detention at the T20 detention center in Gia Lai. On March 15, 2019, the People’s Lower Court of Gia Lai sentenced him to 10 years in prison for continuing to maintain the “Degar Evangelical Church” in the Lê Bắc region of Krông Pa District (charge: “undermining national solidarity”). They accused Ksor Ruk of luring several others into electing the deacons, assistant deacons, secretary, treasurer, etc. in 9 villages with the agenda of convening former Degar Evangelical Church adherents and laying the groundwork for an eventual uprising to form a Degar State.