

May 9, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals in the United States, Vietnam and other parts of the world, are writing to request that you, on the occasion of the upcoming United States–ASEAN Summit, directly raise concerns with the Prime Minister of Vietnam about his government’s antagonistic policies toward religions that do not submit to government control. Of particular concern is the intensifying state-directed and state-supported propaganda that promotes hate speech and incites violence against religious and lay leaders with real and deeply disturbing consequences.

Organized mobs known as “Red Flag Associations” have taken to the social media to slander Catholic priests, calling them “black crows,” “traitors,” “canine priests”, “Catholic Moose”, “candle traders”, and “devilish extremists,” among other epithets. Red Flag members have characterized respected monks of the Unified Buddhist Church’s Sangha as “bad forces” who “distorted the nature of religious freedom in Vietnam.” Red Flag members in Dak Lak Province called on the government to “eliminate the Montagnard Evangelical Church of Christ from the life of villagers.”

Pursuant to its review of Vietnam’s implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 2019, the UN Human Rights Committee explicitly singled out the Red Flag Associations as a source of incitement to hatred and violence:

*“[The Committee] is disturbed by reports that non-State actors, such as the “red flag associations” attack Catholic communities, and are involved in propaganda activities that promote and incite religious discrimination, violence and hate speech (arts. 2, 18–20 and 26).*

So far, Red Flag members have enjoyed complete impunity. Their messages promoting hatred and violence have rapidly multiplied throughout Vietnam’s society. Human rights organizations have documented some one hundred messages on Facebook and Google targeting religious and lay leaders of Montagnard Christian house churches over the past twelve months alone.

Certain government units also incited hatred against ethno-religious minorities. The Department of Public Security of Gia Lai Province characterizes Montagnards who have converted to Catholicism due to their belief in the apparition of the Virgin Mary near Ha Mon Village in the Central Highlands as the “Ha Mon cult” and in December 2020 declared its “having completed extermination of the Ha Mon heresy.” On February 9, 2021, the government of Vinh Quang Hamlet, Bao Lam District, Cao Bang Province broadcast on the PA system of the Na Tong Market characterizing followers of Duong Van Minh Religion, a variant sect of the Christian

belief, as “swindlers” who “spread arguments that are delusional, nonsensical causing confusion among the public...”

Probably not by coincidence, there has been increasing physical violence directed specifically at religious and lay leaders who were targets of hate speech. In January of this year, mobs twice attacked followers of the Cao Dai religion during prayer services in their private homes in Tay Ninh Province. On August 11 and 12, 2020, a mob intruded in Thien An Abbey in Hue City and attacked priests and monks during their prayer service. On January 29, Catholic priest Tran Ngoc Thanh died of injuries after being hacked with a machete while hearing confession at his church in Kontum Province. Last year another Catholic priest in the same province was stabbed in his stomach by a stranger and had to be hospitalized. On February 20, two government officials barged into a Catholic Church in Hoa Binh Province and threateningly disrupted the Mass that was being officiated by the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Ha Noi. A few days before that incident, a Hmong couple and their parents in Lai Chau Province were attacked by a mob that insulted them for being Christians.

These are but a few examples of religious and lay leaders of various religions facing violence and threats to their personal safety due to the government’s complicity in hate messages and non-compliance with Article 20, paragraph 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which states that “any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law.”

In light of this worrying trend, we ask that you communicate directly to Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh of Vietnam and urge his government to comply fully with both Article 18 of the ICCPR, which guarantees the right to religious freedom or belief, as well as with the requirement of Article 20 that incitement to violence be prohibited by law. Additionally, we ask that you instruct the Department of State to:

- (1) Maintain a database of reported incidents of hate speech and ask the Vietnamese government for both an explanation and a resolution of each incident;
- (2) Identify and assess the impacts of hate speech on religious communities that are targeted by the government of Vietnam;
- (3) Press social media providers such as Facebook and Google to take down the hate messages compiled in the database;
- (4) Work with the UN Human Rights Committee to monitor Vietnam’s compliance with Article 18 and Article 20 of the ICCPR;
- (5) Include hate speech as part of the Department’s annual reports on human rights and international religious freedom as well as its Country of Particular Concern designation decision.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and for your Administration's attention to these important matters.

Respectfully,



Nguyen Dinh Thang, PhD  
CEO & President  
Boat People SOS (BPSOS)

CC:

The Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary of State

The Honorable Rashad Hussain, Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom

The Honorable Lisa Peterson, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor

The Honorable Daniel Kritenbrink, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs

The Honorable Marc Knapper, U.S. Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

## **Organizations:**

1. Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam (AFJV)
2. Against Religious Oppression, Thailand
3. Anglican Persecuted Church Network
4. ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights
5. Asia Centre
6. Assembly For Democracy In Viet Nam, USA
7. Association for the Advancement of Freedom of Religion or Belief in Vietnam (AAFORB-VN)
8. Boat People SOS (BPSOS), USA
9. Buddhist Solidarity Association

10. Bui Tre Evangelical Church of Dak Nong, Vietnam, Thailand
11. Build Human Rights for Montagnards (BHRM), USA
12. Campaign to Abolish Modern-day Slavery in Asia (CAMSA)
13. Campaign to Abolish Torture in Vietnam (CAT-VN)
14. Cao Dai Tay Ninh Temples of Texas, USA
15. Central Highlands Evangelical Church of Cue Village, Vietnam
16. Central Highlands Evangelical Church of Ea Khit Village, Vietnam
17. Central Highlands Presbyterian Church of Tara Puôr Village, Vietnam
18. Christian Freedom International, USA
19. CSW, UK
20. Church of Scientology National Affairs Office
21. Clarity & Decency
22. Committee for Religious Freedom in Vietnam, USA
23. Cồn Dầu Parishioners Association
24. Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, France
25. Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, USA
26. Engaging Buddhist Group of Australia, Australia
27. Evangelical Church of Christ of the Central Highlands, USA
28. Evangelical Degar Church of the Central Highlands, Vietnam
29. Friends of the Imperial Hue City, USA
30. Genocide Watch, USA
31. Global Movement for Myanmar Democracy, USA
32. Great Truth, USA

33. Headquarters, Association of Lay Buddhist Practitioners of Vietnam, USA
34. Hmong United For Justice, USA
35. House Church of Kmrõng B Village of Buôn Ma Thuột City, Vietnam
36. Independent Central Highlands House Church of Akõ Êmông Village, Vietnam
37. International Christian Concern, USA
38. International Organisation To Preserve Human Rights, U.K.
39. Jubilee Campaign, USA
40. Katartismos Global
41. Law and Liberty International
42. Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
43. New Wineskins Missionary Network, USA
44. Nguyen Van Ly Foundation, USA
45. One Bread - A Homeless Ministry, San Antonio, TX, USA
46. Parity, USA
47. Progressive Voice, Myanmar
48. REDEEM!
49. Save the Persecuted Christians
50. Stichting Vietnam Human Rights Foundation, Netherlands
51. The Junior Sacerdotal Council of the Third Amnesty of God of the Tay Ninh Holy See, USA
52. Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union (UCSJ), USA
53. United Council of Vietnamese of Homeland and Overseas, USA
54. Viet2000 Foundation, USA
55. Vietnam Coalition Against Torture (VN-CAT)

56. Vietnamese American Association of North Texas, USA

57. Vietnamese Women for Human Rights

**INDIVIDUALS:**

1. Pastor A Ga, Co-founder  
Build Human Rights for Vietnam (BHRM), USA
2. Amy Nguyen, President  
Vietnamese American Community of Charlotte, NC, USA
3. Anh Tran, President  
Viet2000 Foundation, USA
4. Pastor Chao A Chinh  
Vietnamese Hmong Community, Thailand
5. Friar Chinh Nguyen  
Thien An Abbey, Vietnam
6. Đặng Doan  
Businessman, Vietnam
7. Reverend Đặng Hữu Nam  
Catholic Priest, Vietnam
8. Dede Laugesen, Executive Director  
Save the Persecuted Christians
9. Do Nhu Dien, Entrepreneur and Human Rights Advocate  
San Diego, USA
10. Doan Huu Dinh  
Veteran of Army of the Republic of Vietnam, Virginia, USA
11. Dr. Quoc-Hung Tran, MD, Director of Communication  
Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam, USA
12. Dr. Trương Minh Ân, Mayor  
City of Haltom, Texas, USA
13. Dr. Vo Dinh Huu, President Executive Committee/ Co-Chairman  
United Council of Vietnamese of Homeland and Overseas, USA
14. Dr. William Devlin, Volunteer CEO  
REDEEM!

15. Duc Son (Ntsuab Zoov Vaaj), Co-ordinator  
Against Religious Oppression, Thailand
16. Dung Vu  
Vietnamese Diaspora Community, USA
17. Duong Van Thai  
Vietnamese Hmong Community, Vietnam
18. Faith J. H. McDonnell, Director of Advocacy  
Katartismos Global
19. Giang A Dinh, House church leader  
Vietnamese Hmong Community, Vietnam
20. Giang A Gia  
Vietnamese Hmong refugee, Thailand
21. Giang Mi Mua  
Vietnamese Hmong Community, Vietnam
22. Giaquoc Nguyen, Overseas Coordinator Representative  
Independent Journalists Association of Vietnam (IJAVN), USA
23. Prof. Gregory H Stanton, Founding President  
Genocide Watch, USA
24. H Mla Hdruě  
Montagnard Protestant, Vietnam
25. H Ngao Knul  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
26. H Rem Niê  
Evangelical Church of Christ of the Central Highlands, Thailand
27. H Si Pra Bdap  
Degar Evangelical Churches, Thailand
28. H Tluñ Bdap  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
29. H Zia Niê  
Evangelical Church of Christ of the Central Highlands, Vietnam
30. Hieu V. Tran, Social Worker  
USA
31. Hoang Van Li  
Hmong Protestant, Vietnam

32. Hoang Van No  
Hmong Protestant, Thailand
33. Hoàng Văn Qua, Deacon in charge  
Bui Tre Evangelical Church of Dak Nong, Thailand
34. Hoang Van Tu  
Vietnamese Ethnic Hmong Community, Vietnam
35. Hoang Van Vang  
Vietnamese Ethnic Hmong Community, Vietnam
36. Hung Ngo  
Vietnamese Diaspora in Canada
37. Jenny Noyes, Executive Director  
New Wineskins Missionary Network, USA
38. Khin Ohmar  
Progressive Voice, Myanmar
39. Kim Bongiorno  
Save the Persecuted Christians
40. Kim Dung Nguyen  
Vietnamese Refugee Community, USA
41. Kim Van Dang  
Vietnamese Refugee Community, USA
42. Kpă Hung, Evangelist  
International Degar Church, Thailand
43. Pastor Ksor Sun  
Evangelical Church of Christ of the Central Highlands, Thailand
44. Ksor Thủy Linh  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
45. Ksor Y Yu, Deacon  
Degar Evangelical Churches, Thailand
46. Kyaw Min San, Former Member Parliament  
Myanmar
47. Lauren B. Homer, Attorney At Law  
Homer International Law
48. Liem Ly, Co-founder  
Advocate for Faith and Justice in Vietnam, USA



49. Lien Bui  
Vietnamese Diaspora Community, USA
50. Loan Nguyen  
Vietnamese Diaspora Community, Australia
51. Loan Vo, Coordinator  
Buddhist Solidarity Association, USA
52. Lu Thi Tuong Uyen, Chairwoman  
Stichting Vietnam Human Rights Foundation, Netherlands
53. Lý A Chà  
Hmong Protestant Community, Vietnam
54. Ly A Chua  
Hmong Protestant Community, Thailand
55. Lý A Dành, Member  
Against Religious Oppression, Vietnam
56. Ly Thi My  
Protestant Refugee Community, Thailand
57. Ly Thi Song  
Protestant Refugee Community, Thailand
58. Ma Seo Nhe  
Hmong Community in Vietnam
59. Mark Singer  
Save the Persecuted Christians
60. Michelle Nguyen, Co-founder and Coordinator  
Coalition Against Torture in Vietnam
61. Minh Do  
Vietnamese Diaspora, USA
62. Mygam Thi Dang  
Vietnamese Diaspora, USA
63. Nguyen Dinh Thang, PhD  
Laureate of 2011 Asia Democracy & Human Rights Award
64. Reverend Nguyễn Đình Thục  
Catholic Priest, Vietnam
65. Nguyen Thanh Ha, Coordinating Chair  
Assembly For Democracy In Viet Nam, USA

66. Nguyen Van An  
Catholic Church, Vietnam
67. Reverend Nguyen Van Khai, Catholic Priest  
Congregation of Most Holy Redeemer, Rome
68. Dr. Nguyen-mau Trinh, Chairman  
Friends of the Imperial Hue City, USA
69. Nguyễn, Anh Dao  
Vietnamese Diaspora, USA
70. Nkaj Pov Vaj (Hoang Van Pa), Deacon  
Bui Tre Evangelical Church of Dak Nong, Vietnam & Thailand
71. Pastor Nguyen Hoang Hoa, Co-chair  
United Council of Vietnamese of Homeland and Overseas  
Vietnam Interfaith Council, Viet Nam
72. Patricia Streeter, Co-Leader  
Anglican Persecuted Church Network
73. Paul Nguyen  
Vietnamese Diaspora in Houston, USA
74. Phàng a Giàng  
Hmong Protestant Community, Vietnam
75. Phong Hoang  
Vietnamese Human Rights Advocate, USA
76. Quan Van Bui, President  
Cao Dai Tay Ninh Temples of Texas, USA
77. Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director  
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, USA
78. Rev. Marian Edmonds-Allen, Executive Director  
Parity, USA
79. Dr. Robin Ramcharan, Executive Director  
Asia Centre
80. Scott Morgan, President  
Red Eagle Enterprises, USA
81. Su Rahlan  
Central Highlands Evangelical Churches, Thailand

82. Sung A Vang  
Hmong Protestant Community, Thailand
83. Sung Van De  
Hmong Protestant Refugee, Thailand
84. Tạ Quang Trung, Former General Secretary  
Buddhist Programs Office, External Affairs Institute, Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam  
Headquarters, Association of Lay Buddhist Practitioners of Vietnam, USA
85. Tam Truong, Jurist  
Vietnam Coalition Against Torture, Vietnam
86. Thanh N. Huynh  
Vietnamese Diaspora, USA
87. Thao A Son  
Hmong Protestant Community, Thailand
88. Thào A Thè  
Against Religious Oppression, Vietnam
89. Sung Thi Sang  
Against Religious Oppression, Thailand
90. Venerable Thich Dong Quang  
The Unified Buddhist Sangha of Vietnam
91. Venerable Thich Nu Dieu Hoa, Buddhist Nun  
Co Lam Temple, Seattle WA, USA
92. The Most Venerable Thich Thien Minh, former Religious Prisoner of Conscience  
Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam, Vietnam
93. Venerable Thich Thien Thuan  
The Unified Buddhist Sangha of Vietnam, Vietnam
94. Venerable Thich Vinh Phuoc  
The Unified Buddhist Sangha of Vietnam, Vietnam
95. Thu Huong Nguyen, President  
Vietnamese Association of Charlotte NC, USA
96. Tien Tat Chu, Novelist, Poet, and Artist  
Vietnamese Diaspora, USA
97. Tráng A Sáu  
Hmong Protestant Community, Vietnam

98. Dr. Trong Phan, President  
Vietnamese American Community of the USA
99. Tuan Truong  
Vietnamese Refugee Diaspora, USA
100. Vàng A Cầu  
Yeshua Evangelical Church, Vietnam
101. Vang A Lenh  
Hmong Christian Community, Vietnam
102. Vang A Sinh  
Vietnamese Hmong Community, Thailand
103. Vang Duc Hung  
Hmong Protestant Church, Vietnam
104. Vang Thi Mai  
Hmong Protestant Church, Thailand
105. Vang Duc Son, Evangelist  
Vietnamese Hmong Community, Vietnam
106. Villiam, Coordinator  
Against Religious Oppression, Thailand
107. Vincent Nguyen  
Vietnamese Diaspora in Australia
108. Vinh Nguyen, Manager  
Engaging Buddhist Group of Australia, Australia
109. Y An Hdruě, Deacon  
Central Highlands Evangelical Churches, Vietnam
110. Y Aron Eban, Assistant Coordinator  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
111. Y Arôn Êban, Member  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
112. Y Bhiông Hdruě, Member  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
113. Y Chuân Mlô, Member  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
114. Y Jon Ayũn, Evangelist  
Montagnards Christian Church, Thailand

115. Y Khuong Êban  
Evangelical Degar Church of the Central Highlands, Thailand
116. Y Krit Bdap  
Central Highlands Evangelical Churches, Vietnam
117. Y Liã Êčã  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
118. Y Mi Sin Knul  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
119. Y Nghet Niê  
Evangelical Church of Christ of the Central Highlands, Thailand
120. Y Phais Kbuôr  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
121. Y Pher Hdruč, Founder  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
122. Y Phrok Niê  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
123. Y Quí Bdap  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
124. Y Quynh Bdap, Co-Founder  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
125. Y Rôma Hdruě  
Degar Evangelical Churches, Thailand
126. Y Sak Mlô, Deacon  
Evangelical Degar Church of the Central Highlands, Thailand
127. Y Sani Niê, Member  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
128. Y Sêdrăk Êban, Member  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
129. Y Sung Bdap  
Montagnard Protestant Community, Vietnam
130. Y Thanh Êban  
Central Highlands Evangelical Churches, Thailand
131. Y Thiêu Bkrông  
Central Highlands Evangelical Churches, Vietnam

132. Y To Bdap  
Central Highlands Evangelical Churches, Vietnam
133. Y Truyên Mlô  
Montagnards Stand For Justice (MSFJ), Thailand
134. Y Uin Bkrông, Co-Founder  
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135. Y Yachun Ksor  
Degar Evangelical Churches, Thailand
136. Y Yahun Ksor  
Evangelical Degar Church of the Central Highlands, Thailand
137. Y Yôhan Bdap  
International Degar Church, Thailand
138. Y Yuong Byă  
Evangelical Church of Cue Village - Dak Lak, Vietnam