



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE,  
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

No. 115/VNM.22

*Geneva, 25 July 2022*

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Further to its Note Verbale No. 96/VNM.22 dated 24 June 2022 which requests an extension of the deadline for providing a response to the Joint Urgent Appeal from the Special Procedures dated 26 April 2022 Ref. AU VNM 3/2022 concerning Ms. H' Thai Ayun and a group of women, victims of trafficking, who were repatriated from Saudi Arabia to Viet Nam, the Mission has the honour to hereby transmit the reply of Viet Nam to the above-mentioned Joint Urgent Appeal.

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



**Special Procedures Branch**  
**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**  
**GENEVA**

**Reply of Viet Nam to the Joint Urgent Appeal from the Special Procedures concerning Ms. H' Thai Ayun and a group of women, victims of trafficking, who were repatriated from Saudi Arabia to Viet Nam**

*Ref. AU VNM 3/2022 (dated 26 April 2022)*

**1. Regarding the concern of Special Procedures for information on investigating and sanctioning people involved in human trafficking:**

- Vietnamese authorities have promptly taken measures to rectify sending Vietnamese workers to work as domestic workers in Saudi Arabia, requested to strictly handle if violations are detected; organized an unscheduled inspection of 02 related enterprises and sanctioned administrative violations in respect of these two enterprises because they failed to promptly protect the legitimate rights and interests of workers. In which, 01 enterprise has to return the license (Thang Long OSC Company), 01 enterprise is suspended from operating within 06 months (VINACO Company) with a total fine of 160 million VND.

- Regarding information related to the labor management official at Viet Nam's Embassy in Saudi Arabia, after considering, the Vietnamese side has sent this official back to Vietnam in June 2022 to continue to verify, investigate and clarify. Violations, if any, will be strictly handled in accordance with Vietnamese law.

**2. Regarding follow-up information for individuals mentioned in the previous Joint Urgent Appeal:**

- For the case of Y Manh, Viet Nam's Embassy in Saudi Arabia has continued to request the authorities of Saudi Arabia to expeditiously resolve wage disputes. With the active intervention measures of Viet Nam's Embassy in Saudi Arabia, on 14 May 2022, Y Manh received full 26 months of salary (39,000 SAR equivalent to 240 million VND) and bought a ticket to return home on 15 May 2022.

- For the case of H' Xuan Siu's death, on 21 May 2022, her body was brought back to Viet Nam, handed over to her family and buried in her hometown. The mother of H' Xuan Siu thanked the Vietnamese authorities for their enthusiastic help on behalf of her family. In addition, VINACO Company has supported her family with the amount of 130 million VND. The individual who forged documents about H' Xuan Siu's age was sentenced to 36 months in prison, from 03 August 2020, for the crime of "forgery at work" according to the provisions of Article 359 of the Criminal Code of 2015.

- Regarding the case of H' Thai Ayun, she is a Vietnamese worker in Saudi Arabia under a labor export contract from 2018 with VINACO Company. Despite being covered for a repatriation flight ticket, this worker refused to return home on a repatriation flight in early September 2021, without specifying the reason. At the end of December 2021, H' Thai Ayun was covered by an organization in Saudi Arabia with a one-way flight ticket to transit through Qatar to Thailand and since then, the Vietnamese side has not received any information relating to H' Thai Ayun. Because this individual is abroad, the information that some organizations and individuals in the country threatened by force and the local police to criminally prosecute H' Thai Ayun are inaccurate and unobjective.

### **3. Regarding the allegation that the workers returning home from Saudi Arabia are threatened:**

- For the information stated in the Joint Urgent Appeal, through verification, Viet Nam has not received information that domestic workers returning from Saudi Arabia are threatened. However, Vietnamese authorities are still continuing to clarify this issue. According to Article 25 of the 2013 Constitution of Viet Nam, citizens have the right to freedom of speech, freedom of the press, access to information, etc. The exercise of these rights is prescribed by law. In Viet Nam, every citizen has the right to freely work and contact foreign organizations, including the United Nations' agencies, to carry out work permitted by Vietnamese law. Vietnamese law enforcement agencies have no administrative or legal measures to hinder the legitimate activities of Vietnamese citizens in contacting agencies and organizations of the United Nations. Those who use force, threaten to use force or other tricks to hinder citizens from exercising their right to freedom of expression will be handled in accordance with the law. In case they are witnesses in criminal cases, they will be protected under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code.

- In fact, Vietnamese workers abroad after repatriation are actively helped and supported by Vietnamese authorities to stabilize their lives and are protected by the law; all acts of intimidation, retaliation, harm of individuals and organizations to the workers themselves and their relatives are handled by Vietnamese law to different degrees depending on the nature of the incident. The relevant parties reviewed the cases of domestic workers returning home from Saudi Arabia and guided them to complete the necessary procedures to receive support from the Overseas Employment Support Fund in accordance with the regulations to help them to quickly find a new job and reintegrate into life./.