

## REPORT ON THE ABDUCTION OF TRƯƠNG DUY NHẤT AND REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION

February 18, 2019

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January 24, 2019

Thai police officers trailed me that morning in their black Toyota Vios whose license plate (in Thai script) I could not read, At close to 6 p.m. Thai police officers met my wife and me at a kiosk where we were selling sugarcane drinks, at sòì 8 Rangsit - Nakhon Nayok. They used a cell phone to show us a photo of Trương Duy Nhất, asking us if we knew him. I replied that we knew him from social media sources only, and Nhất had served a prison sentence from 2013 to 2015, When asked if I had met him in person, I replied that I had not, and asked the police officers for the reason they were interested in finding him. They said that his being in Thailand could result in undesirable effects to their country, they did not plan to arrest him and were merely asking us to inform them of his whereabouts if we came across such information. They also asked me to try and learn about his activities and current residence, and to inform them as soon as I learned something. They said goodbye and left after making the request.



**Photos shown by the Thai police officers when they asked us to identify  
Trương Duy Nhất**



**Photos of the woman who helped him by reserving a hotel room online and  
activating his cell phone on January 19, 2019.**

**January 25, 2019**

Thai police officers in a black Toyota Vios trailed us that morning. When it was past 1 p.m., 2 Thai immigration police officers (including the officer whom I shall refer to as 191 To Mo) and a third man came to our sugarcane drinks kiosk. The officer asked for my cell phone and laptop.



The third man made a copy of all the information on my devices and stored in his own laptop. He appeared to understand Vietnamese (I thought that he had to be a Vietnamese government employee). Officer 191 To Mo did not ask for our consent when he took my cell phone and laptop and arrested my wife and me when we began eating lunch in our kiosk at Sòi 8 Rangsit - Nakhon Nayok. They brought us to a police station, took us to the 2nd floor (see photo) to interrogate us about Nhất's whereabouts. They threatened us with deportation unless we tell the truth about Nhất's location and give passwords for my cell phone and laptop. They allowed a Vietnamese person to make a copy of the contents of my devices and a picture of our UNHCR-issued cards (storing the information in a laptop), During nearly 2 hours we could not give them information on Nhất because we did not have it. The interrogators promised that the government would meet all our needs such as money and asylum if we only gave them the information. After reaffirming that we had no such information, we were moved to the yard of the police station and another police team took over (the team was named Sắn Di Bàn).

This team took us to the police station in Ramintra Bangkhen for further questioning. They acquiesced to our demand for notifying UNHCR by phone. They also let UNHCR know that they needed UNHCR to confirm if we were genuine UNHCR-certified refugees. While waiting for the UNHCR persons, the team wrote up an arrest report - reason: illegal entry and engaging in retailing without a permit - that we had to sign. The UNHCR persons, a Thai woman by the name of A DA and a Pakistani man who introduced himself as a UNHCR screening officer, came after about 2 hours. The UNHCR team confirmed that we were genuine refugees. The police team explained why they had arrested us and demanded (as a condition for releasing us) the telephone number that Nhất had provided when registering with UNHCR. The UNHCR team refused and explained that UNHCR must protect private information. The police officers warned that they would detain all UNHCR refugees, but got nowhere. Before the UNHCR team left, they informed us that we would be detained and tried in court for engaging in retailing without a permit, and then kept at the Immigration Detention Center in Bangkok.

The Thai police officers requested our help in locating Nhất. We had no choice but to comply (besides we wanted to help Nhất should we find him). We rode with them in a car to the hotel where Nhất had stayed. While driving there, the officers received a call informing them of Nhất's most recent cell phone number (0066 61 589 2710). The police officers dialed that phone number and asked my wife to listen to see if the person who answered was Nhất. After a number of rings, Nhất answered the phone. My wife said she called because someone had called her from that phone number. He said that he had never called someone with the number (of the cell phone used to call Nhất), I interjected for his benefit: "The police is looking for you and you must go away!" Nhất hung up and the officers could not get him to reply again. Using the police's tracking capability, the officers in our car learned that Nhất had replied from a hotel at 50.9-2 Tambon Khu Khot, Amphoe Lam Luk Ka, Chang Wat Pathum Thani 12130, Thailand). They quickly called and asked a team to go to the hotel as the car turned around to drop us off at the police station in Ramintra Bangkhen.

Sometime later, they showed us several photos below to see if we knew Nhất. We replied that we did not. They said that Nhất had left that hotel.





The hotel is at 50.9- 2 Tambon Khu Khot, Amphoe Lam Luk Ka, Chang Wat Pathum Thani 12130, Thailand. (A few days later, when I contacted a Thai police officer whom I knew, I learned that Nhất's last phone number was 0066615892710 (as previously listed) and the cell phone used by the officer in our car to call Nhất was. 0066832696521.

### **January 26, 2019**

Thai police officers could not find Nhất throughout the night of January 25. At a little later than 8 a.m. on January 26 they released us in an amiable manner. Actually we saw that someone was still following us. At approximately 5 p.m the police tracked Nhất's position in Future Park, a large mall. The officer whom I had known for a long time was involved with the kidnapping assignment. He could give us the details, including the location where they identified his presence (photo), and we made a voice recording of the information. Here are the details:

- At 5 p.m. on January 26, four Thai police officers tracked down Nhất in Future Park. Two of the four guarded the two entrances while the other two examined the security cameras. They saw that 3 men looked somewhat like the fugitive. After eliminating 2 Thai men from consideration, they narrowed down their search to the last man. Nhất went from the 3rd floor to the 2nd floor (G level) to buy ice cream at an ice cream shop. At about 5:20 p.m. Nhất made a phone call. After spending 10 minutes in their effort to identify him among the 3 likely targets, at 5:30 p.m. the 2 police officers approached Nhất who was sitting on a chair, grabbed the cell phone from his hand to put it on the table before introducing themselves as police officers (the conversation was through the interpreting apps accessed via their cell phone).

Officer: we want to help you apply for refugee status and so would you like to come with us to UNHCR?

Nhất: Yes.



During this exchange, 3 calls were made to Nhất's phone but the officers prevented him from answering and then they silenced the ringing. At about 5:40 p.m., an officer paid around 100 bahts for the ice cream. In their car, they turned off his cell phone. Below are photos taken at the ice cream shop on G level at Future Park where Thai police officers arrested Nhất before turning him over to Vietnamese police officers.



Photos (above) show the ice cream store's sign and the middle chair is where Nhất sat and made his phone calls.

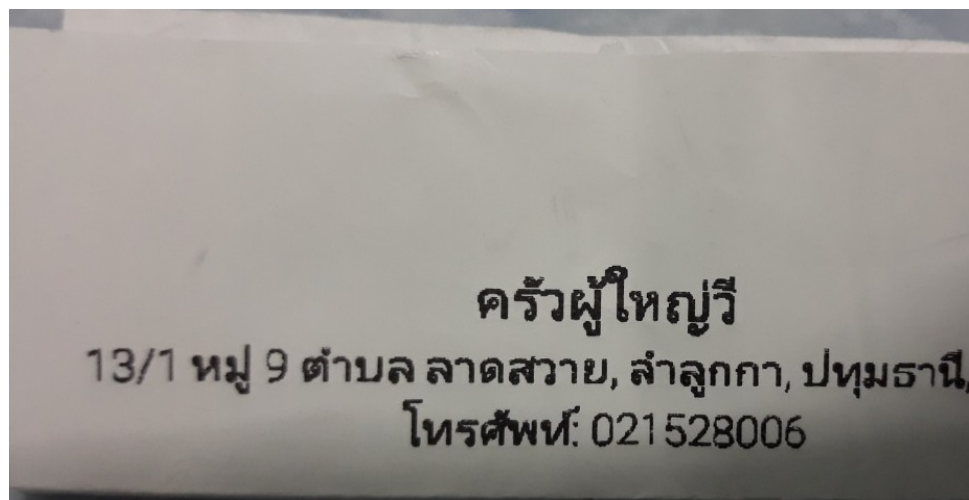
Photo (below) of entrance/exit from G-7 level



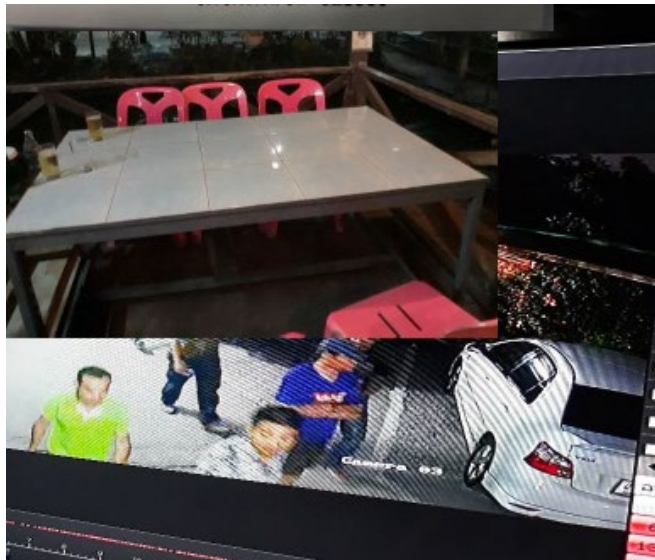


**Photo (above): the letter G identifies the exit through which Thai police officers led Nhất to a vehicle that brought them to the restaurant in the evening of January 26, 2019.**

Thai police officers treated him at the restaurant at 6:40 p.m. or about - address shown in photo below.

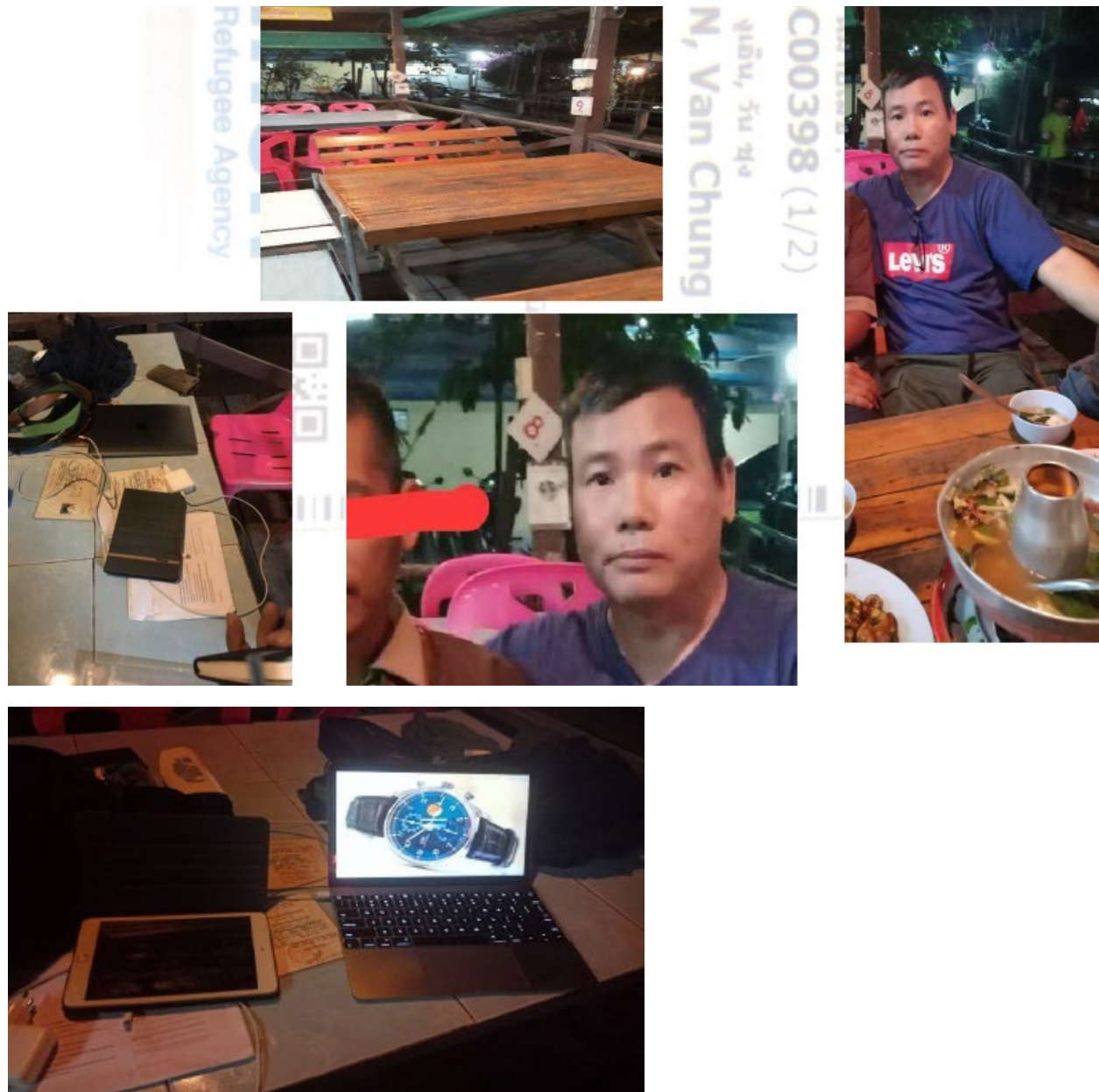


**The restaurant's address in Thai script.**



Photos shown above: The officers accompanying Nhất into this restaurant. Video recording is also provided.





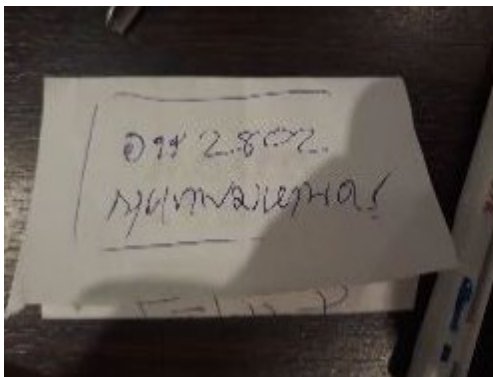
**Above photos: Thai police officers inspected personal articles, dined in the restaurant, and had him sit next to them to minimize the chance of him escaping.**

Nhất was in the restaurant; the officers had placed his personal articles on Table No. 8 as shown in the previous photo.





They took pictures of the articles. They all ate at Table No. 9 while waiting for orders. At some time later than 8 p.m. the order came: put a black hood over his head, take him outside and hand him to Vietnamese police officers. The Thai officers objected, saying that their assignment - the most challenging part- had been accomplished, that the Vietnamese needed to only enter and arrest him. Overruled by their superior officer, the Thai police officers said to Nhất that they were bringing him to UNHCR. Nhất believed and gladly complied, asking them only to let him change into more appropriate clothes before reaching UNHCR. The officers allowed him to change into a more appropriate shirt and pair of pants, but made him do so by Table 9 (see photo). As soon as he had changed clothes, the Thai police officers received another call ordering them to bring him outside and cover his head with a black hood. The officers hesitated because there were many people in the restaurant and security cameras were recording. The superior officer continued to press them to act, using a special encrypted line that showed up on the phone's screen as Number 0037i (This senior officer said: "Don't you understand my words?"). According to the Thai officer who gave these details to us, the officers in the restaurant had no choice but obey a superior's order. They drove Nhất to a location approximately 500 meters from the restaurant where a Toyota van belonging to Thai



police, with the licence plate shown in the photo, was waiting:



Car02q002_R01	กรมการขนส่งทางบก	หน้า 1/1
	รายการจดทะเบียน	วันที่ 14/02/2562
วันที่จดทะเบียน 9 ก.พ. 2543	เลขทะเบียน อข 2802	จังหวัด กรุงเทพมหานคร
ประเภท รถยนต์นั่งส่วนบุคคลเกิน 7 คน	(รย.2)	ลักษณะ ตู้นั่งสองแถว
ยี่ห้อรถ TOYOTA	แบบ LH184R	รุ่นปี
สี เทา	เลขตัวรถ LH184-0002653	อยู่ที่ ไต๋ที่นั่ง
ยี่ห้อเครื่องยนต์ TOYOTA	เลขเครื่องยนต์ 5L-4763195	
อยู่ที่ ชำยเครื่อง	เชื้อเพลิง ดีเซล	เลขถังแก๊ส
จำนวน 4 สูบ 2986.00 ซีซี	0 แรงม้า 2 เพลา 4 ล้อ ยาง 4 เส้น	
น้ำหนักกรด 1900 กก.	น้ำหนักบรรทุก/น้ำหนักลงเพลา - กก.	
น้ำหนักรวม - กก.	ที่นั่ง 11 คน	วันสิ้นอายุภาษี 13 มี.ค. 2562
	เจ้าของรถ	
ลำดับที่	วันที่ครอบครองรถ 15 พ.ย. 2544	
<hr/>		
ผู้ถือกรรมสิทธิ์ สำนักงานตำรวจแห่งชาติ		
เลขที่บัตร G001002046741	วันเกิด	สัญชาติ ไทย
ที่อยู่ ถ.พระราม 1 แขวงวังใหม่ เขตปทุมวัน กรุงเทพมหานคร 00000		
<hr/>		
ผู้ครอบครอง สำนักงานตำรวจแห่งชาติ		
เลขที่บัตร G001002046741	วันเกิด	สัญชาติ ไทย
ที่อยู่ ถ.พระราม 1 แขวงวังใหม่ เขตปทุมวัน กรุงเทพมหานคร 00000		
<hr/>		
สัญญาเช่าซื้อเลขที่	ลงวันที่	
สถานะรถ ปกติ		

The above photo shows the registration paper more clearly - the van belongs to the Thai



**police.**

Based on what we had recorded of what was said to us: seven people were in the van, including a Thai at the driver's seat, a woman wearing a mask, and 5 Vietnamese police officers. When the car (Toyota Vios) with the diners reached the waiting van, 3 Vietnamese police officers wearing masks and black gloves came out from the van. One of them used his right hand to choke Nhất's throat to prevent any screaming and his left hand to squeeze the back of Nhất's throat. The second man locked one of Nhất's arms by bending it at the elbow. The third man lifted one of Nhất's legs while taking the the backpack containing his personal articles. They dragged him out of the car and shoved him into the van where the remaining two Vietnamese overpowered Nhất. The kidnapping took very little time. Completely caught off guard, Nhất struggled in vain, dropping a Samsung phone in the process. The woman wearing a mask could be a medically trained person who injected Nhất with an anesthetic drug. The van sped away. The operation showed that the Vietnamese police had been well trained in kidnapping and had planned it meticulously. ***The police officer who gave us the details revealed that Nhất had been in Thailand from January 19 until he was kidnapped on January 26, his 8th day in Thailand. The officer felt that, based on his years of experience and seeing how the Vietnamese police had operated in Thailand in the past, Nhất could have been killed with a deadly injection. When we asked him if the Vietnamese government had submitted a warrant to the Thai government, he replied yes, and the Vietnamese government requested Thailand to let 10 Vietnamese police officers enter Thailand for this mission.***

- On July 27 Thai police officers ordered us not to change residence and report to them our activities and whom we would like to talk with (beforehand), otherwise they could not vouch for our safety.

Both the Thai and Vietnamese government had violated international agreements on arresting and deporting illegal residents when they acted like a Mafia gang, ignoring all the applicable laws and regulations. The Thai police has also threatened us when ordering us to keep quiet, to request their approval before seeing and talking to anyone, and to refrain from moving around. As someone who had to flee to Thailand to escape the Vietnamese Communists' persecution, and then to learn first hand about the Thai police's gross violation of the law, we are very fearful because we could be the next victims of kidnapping and even eliminated (no more risk of us being witnesses who reveal the unlawful police activities)- see what happened to Trương Duy Nhất.

We respectfully urge UNHCR to take concrete steps to speedily help us. UNHCR knew about our troubles as early as January 25. On subsequent days we repeatedly called UNHCR and told your staff about this tragic event and our situation with the Thai police. Nothing happened, causing us to make a desperate attempt to leave our residence and come to UNHCR on May 2, 2019 to bring the evidence to UNHCR. In your building, your staff talked to us through their office door, not allowing us to enter to communicate more fully with them. The Thai police had let Vietnamese police officers obtain our personal information from my cell phone and laptop, including the photos of our UNHCR-issued refugee cards. In Vietnam, the Vietnamese police had tried hard to learn where we had gone, and now they know.

When we reported our situation in person, UNHCR staff took many notes related to the

kidnapping and promised to inform their supervisor. UNHCR also suggested to us that JRS at Soi 12 Rachavithi, Bangkok 10400, would help us. When we contacted JRS, they could not help find us a safe place. The Thai police called us repeatedly to demand us to return to our temporary residence and asked why we were at UNHCR.

I have reported truthful facts and know that I am accountable for any misinformation. Please help us.

Please accept my sincere thanks.