

**Vietnam: Government and its Cao Dai sect disrupted a religious ceremony at the home of traditional Cao Dai Church followers in Tây Ninh Province. A sect member hit a victim.**

To: Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief  
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
United Nations at Geneva

**(1) General information**

Summary: The local government and 1997 Cao Dai Sect (government-controlled) forced Cao Dai believers to stop their important ceremony which involved installing the Divine Eye Banner on the altar of the family's home. A 1997 sect member struck a female victim.

- *Did the incidents involve an individual or a group?* Several adherents of the traditional, authentic Cao Dai Church.
- *Location of incident:* Tây Ninh Province, Vietnam
- *Nationality and ethnic group of victim:* Vietnamese national, Kinh (dominant ethnic group)
- *Does national policy require registration for religious activities? If yes, what is the current status of the group?* Yes, required. The Communist government established a Cao Dai denomination in 1997 with fundamental doctrinal differences from the authentic Cao Dai religion that was established in 1926.

**(2) Identity of the persons concerned**

The victims are followers of the traditional, authentic Cao Dai Church and authorizes Boat People SOS to speak for them.

**(3) Information on the alleged violation(s)**

● **28 January 2024**

Around 12:30 pm, police officers and members of the government's 1997 Cao Dai sect came to the home of Mr. Lê Hoàng Thọ and used violence to stop the ceremony of Installation of the Divine Eye Banner. A member of the 1997 Cao Dai sect struck Ms. Nguyễn Thị Mai (the host's relative). The intruders and the family members and guests had a big argument. All the victims (traditional Cao Dai Church) had to come to the commune police station to be interrogated.

**Perpetrator List**

1. Lê Hoàng Ân. police of Bến Cầu District, Tây Ninh Province.
2. Mười Vũ. police of Long Chử Commune, Bến Cầu District, Tây Ninh Province.
3. Mr. Ngàn. Head of Culture and Information team, Long Chử Commune, Bến Cầu District, Tây Ninh
4. Several members of the 1997 Cao Dai sect.

**(4) Steps taken by the victim, his/her family, or anyone else on his/her behalf?**

- *Please indicate if complaints have been filed, when, by whom, and before which State authorities or competent bodies (i.e., police, prosecutor, court, etc.).* Yes (in Addendum).
- *Were there any other steps taken?* None.
- *Steps taken by the authorities:* None.
- *Indicate whether or not, to your knowledge, there have been investigations by the State authorities; if so, what kind of investigations? Please indicate progress and status of these investigations and which other measures have been taken:* None.

- In case of complaints by the victim or his family, how have those authorities or other competent bodies dealt with them? What has been the outcome of those proceedings? The government and its Cao Dai sect would not do anything to help.

(5) Identity of the person or institution submitting this form:

- Boat People SOS, Email: [info@bpsos.org](mailto:info@bpsos.org) using information provided by the Cao Dai Church (Ms. Nguyễn Xuân Mai Email: [vyvo.vinasoftware@gmail.com](mailto:vyvo.vinasoftware@gmail.com)).

- Individual or organization authorized to represent: BPSOS, a nonprofit organization based in Virginia, USA.

*Do you act with knowledge and on behalf of the victim(s)? Yes.*

*Please state whether you want your identity to be kept confidential: no*

*Date you are submitting this form: 2 February 2024*

### **Addendum 1. Identity of the Persons Concerned**

1. Lê Hoàng Thọ DoB: 1966 Gender: male

199 ấp Long Giao, Long Chử Commune, Bến Cầu District, Tây Ninh Province.

2. Nguyễn Thị Liên DoB: 1968 Gender: female

199 ấp Long Giao, Long Chử Commune, Bến Cầu District, Tây Ninh Province.

3. Nguyễn Thị Mai DoB: Gender: female

Long Thuận Commune, Bến Cầu, Tây Ninh.

4. Trần Văn Đực DoB: 1959 Gender: male

1745 Long An Hamlet, Long Thuận Commune, Bến Cầu District, Tây Ninh Province

5. Trần Thị Diệp DoB: 1976 Gender: female

Long Phi Hamlet, Long Thuận Commune, Bến Cầu District, Tây Ninh Province

All are Vietnamese citizens and authorize Boat People SOS to speak for them

### **Addendum 2. Evidence**



Mr. Ngàn. Head of Culture and Information team, Long Chử Commune,



Police officer Mười Vũ



Leader of local 1997 sect: Hai Giáo in white Cao Dai religious vestment



Police officer Lê Hoàng Ân in uniform. 1997 Sect member wearing the blue mask beat Ms. Nguyễn Thị Mai



Police officers in olive green uniforms and 1997 Sect members (the one wearing the blue mask beat Ms. Nguyễn Thị Mai)