

ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN GALANG CAMP, INDONESIA
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JULY 28, 1994

In October 93, the MOU on Orderly Return Program (ORP) was signed between Indonesia, Vietnam and UNHCR. Starting in November, Indonesian authorities have implemented coercive measures to pressure the boat people into joining the ORP. One boat person was badly beaten for refusing to be photographed for the ORP. In February 94, the Indonesian police many times raided the camp in the dead of the night to round people up for ORP. In January, food rations were further reduced, private gardens were banned, and those receiving money orders from overseas relatives had their ID cards confiscated.

On April 20, a peaceful demonstration started with 1,000 boat people. Two days later 500 staged a hunger strike. It rapidly grew in size and was joined by virtually the entire camp population, except young children and a small contingent of volrep applicants. The demonstration remained peaceful despite the provocation of a small group of people, reportedly coached by the Indonesian police. By late June, some 1,500 hunger strikers had been hospitalized for exhaustion and dehydration.

In late April, I received an urgent message faxed from a colleague in Australia warning of an impending mass suicide. I immediately went on VOA and sent a plea to the demonstrators. But that was already too late. On April 26, Pham Van Chau, a Vietnamese veteran, burned himself alive and died. Seven others attempted suicide but were rescued. My message was heeded by the leaders of the demonstration who successfully stopped a mass suicide of some 15 boat persons on April 30. However, after one week, suicide attempts erupted again. On May 20, Le Xuan Tho self-immolated and died. Ten other suicide attempts were reported with some serious injuries. In late May, I sent another message to the boat people via BBC. I was recently informed that 20-30 people had made a pact to commit suicide together. On Friday July 29, I will go on VOA again.

The situation in Galang is currently tense and dangerously unstable. It calls for a camp visit by a senior UNHCR officer from Geneva to assess the situation and to establish a dialogue with the boat people. I have offered to go along. A gesture of good will and sympathetic consideration of their grievances would suffice to defuse the dangerous situation, at least for the moment. However, the crisis will not be resolved unless and until a genuine effort be made to address the issue of flawed screening.

Screening in Galang is severely rigged by corruption. Many cases with exceptionally strong claims have been screened out because they could not afford to pay bribes. The head of the P3V Task Force, Colonel Wim Roesdi, is the leader of the corruption ring. His assistant, Obrien Sitepu, known as Papa Phuc and fluent in Vietnamese, has set up bank accounts in many countries, including the United States, to collect money. The ring reaches into the JVA and other NGOs, most notoriously IOM. Many UNHCR workers hired among the camp population are also involved. At the screening stage, \$3,000-5,000 was the price. At the appeal stage the price started at \$7,000 and then quickly rose to \$12,000. Beside money, sexual favor was often demanded by Indonesian officials. A former Vietnamese captain, with very strong refugee

claims, had to offer his two daughters, one to Roesdi and one to Papa Phuc, to get refugee status for his family. At the same time, cases without claims but with cash, especially those who serve in the corruption ring, are routinely screened in. One former UNHCR lawyer is willing to serve as witness. In his own words, "several refugees whose status had been accepted by UNHCR officials were turned down by Indonesian officials after failing to come up with the cash" (AFP, 9/11/93). Many refugees newly arrived in the U.S., Canada, and Australia stand ready to serve as witnesses. An American organization has been compiling evidences and a list of witnesses for possible publication in the near future.

From my communication with people in the camp and new arrivals, I can say with confidence that anger over the screening system is a widespread sentiment. The problems of screening in Galang need to be addressed. While fear of raising false hopes may be justified in other circumstances, the system is so rigged by corruption that avoiding the issue altogether will be immediately perceived as not being serious and will backfire.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS PROVIDED BY BOAT PEOPLE S.O.S.

1. Affidavits of victims:
 - a. Statement of Kim Ngo (Virginia)
 - b. Letter of John Quang Nguyen (Indiana)
 - c. Affidavit of Nguyen Thi Kim Chi (Tennessee)
 - d. Affidavit of Allen Tran (Indiana)
 - e. Translated affidavit of Le Bao Chy (California)
 - f. Translated affidavit of Lu The Hien (Arizona)
 - g. Affidavit of Dao Duy Linh (California)
 - h. Affidavit of Hung Ly (Australia)
 - i. Affidavit of Ven. Thich Tam Dao (California)
 - j. Affidavit of Do Dinh Son (California)

2. Affidavits of former boat persons as witnesses:
 - a. Affidavit of Ven. Thich Thien Chi (New York)
 - b. Affidavit of Ven. Thich Tam Dao (California)
 - c. Affidavit of Le Xuan Anh (Australia)
 - d. List of potential witnesses

3. Affidavits of former camp workers, UNHCR lawyers, etc.:
 - a. Affidavit of Peter Andrew Hansen (JRS lawyer, contracted by UNHCR)
 - b. Affidavit of Simon Jeans (former UNHCR lawyer)
 - c. Affidavit of Gerassimos Furlanos (former UNHCR lawyer)
 - d. Letter of Gerassimos Furlanos
 - e. Report of Roy Pollard (former camp worker)
 - f. Report of James Gibbons (former JRS lawyer, contracted by UNHCR)

4. Evidences of corruption:
 - a. Petition of Nguyen Duc Hung (Indonesia)
 - b. Letter of Le Thi Muoi Sau (Virginia)
 - c. Receipt of cashier's check in amount of \$2,500 from Tran Thanh Thuan (Virginia)
 - d. Receipt for \$3,000 taken by Shariffudin, member of Malaysian Task Force
 - e. Receipt of money in amount of CA \$2,900. of (Canada)
 - f. Cashier's check in amount of \$5,000 from Douglas Do Tran (Virginia)
 - g. Translated excerpts from asylum seekers' letters sent to overseas relatives (there are about 50 such letters awaiting to be processed and translated)

5. Reports from human rights organizations, refugee advocates, etc.:
 - a. Statement of Elisa Massimino (Lawyers Committee for Human Rights)
 - b. Report on screening in Hong Kong (Lawyers Committee for Human Rights)
 - c. Statement of Daniel Wolf (Legal Assistance for Vietnamese Asylum Seekers)
 - d. Report on corruption in screening in Indonesia (NSW Refugee Fund, Australia)

- e. Report on corruption in screening in the Philippines (Refugee S.O.S. Task Force)
- f. Report on corruption in screening in Malaysia (Boat People S.O.S.)

6. Other relevant documents:

- a. Letter from Lyle MacWilliam, Canadian M.P.
- b. News article from AFP
- c. News article from Philadelphia Inquirer
- d. Draft of "UNHCR's Failures in the Comprehensive Plan of Action" (Boat People S.O.S.)

SAMPLE CASES WHO HAD TO PAY TO BE SCREENED IN

1. NGUYEN THI NIEN, AS 312.022, Nien was granted refugee status for US\$4000 paid to Mrs. Tutsia, UNHCR lawyer. Nien has since resettled in Australia.
2. VEN. THICH THANH LIEN, AS : His disciples had to ask overseas relatives to contribute US\$7000 to meet Colonel Roesdi's demand.
3. VEN. THICH NHU HAU: His disciples had pool money together to pay Indonesian officials US\$5000 to get Venerable screened in.
4. TRAN THI NGA, AS 073.044: Nga is a mistress of Indonesian officials and their middleman. She has been granted refugee status.
5. BUI VAN NAM, AS 073.002: Nam was denied refugee status. His first appeal was also rejected. However, by bribing Indonesian officials the requested US\$6000, Nam was granted refugee status on his second appeal.
6. DUONG VAN BE, AS 410.003: Be was a volunteer at the Joint Voluntary Agency. He had to pay the Indonesian screening officers US\$3000 to get refugee status. Be has been accepted by Canada.
7. PHAM NGOC TIEN, AS 406.020: By bribing US\$2500 to Indonesian officials on the P3V task force, Tien was granted refugee status. Tien was resettled to the United States in 1993.
8. DOAN VAN NHAT, AS 365.016: With Ngo Chi Duc as the middleman, Nhat paid Colonel Wim Roesdi US\$3000 and was granted refugee status. He is awaiting resettlement to the United States.
9. NGUYEN NGOC THANH, AS 357.007: Through Ngo Chi Duc, Colonel Roesdi demanded US\$3500 from Thanh. He is currently awaiting resettlement to Australia.
10. TRAN VAN TUOC, former Second Lieutenant, had to pay \$1500 to Colonel Roesdi. Thanks to the special recommendation of Ngo Chi Duc, he was given a discount. He has been accepted for resettlement by the United States.
11. NGUYEN VAN LUC, AS 166.002: Luc paid US\$3700 directly to. He has been accepted for resettlement in Australia.
12. DUONG VAN LONG, AS 408.006: Long paid US\$3500 to the Commander of Galang Camp (a major). He is awaiting resettlement to Australia.
13. DUONG HONG SON paid US\$3500 through Ngo Chi Duc.
14. TRUONG VAN LUAT, AS 177.077: Luat paid Roesdi US\$3700 and has since resettled in Australia.
15. TRUONG VAN PHEP, AS 281.006: Phep paid Mr. Lukman, a screening officer, US\$3500 to be screened in. Phep is now residing in Australia.
16. DUONG THE HUNG, AS 406.003: Hung paid US\$4500 through Ngo Chi Duc. He is currently awaiting resettlement to Australia.
17. NGUYEN LE TRUONG, AS 392.012: Truong had to pay the screening officer US\$4000. He has been accepted by Canada.
18. VO VAN THAN: Than paid the P3V US\$4000 for refugee status. He has been offered resettlement to Australia.

19. NGO HIEP: A disabled veteran supported by an American Veterans Association, Hiep had to pay the P3V task force US\$3500 to be screened in.

20. TRUONG THI HOA, AS 419.029: Hoa was referred by Adolf (employee of the UNHCR/Technical Office) to Attorney Kamark of the UNHCR, who demanded US\$3700. Hoa has been accepted by the United States for resettlement.

21. TRUONG VAN NHUT, AS 405.002, TRUONG VAN DUNG, AS 405.003, TRUONG VAN VIET, AS 405.004: These three brothers had to pay the P3V task force US\$8000. They all have resettled in the United States.

22. HUYNH HUU HIEN: Hien had to pay \$6000 to get screened in. He is a former lieutenant with strong refugee claims.

23. Nguyễn Hồng Hoàng: 6B/379 New Canterbury Rd.
Dulwich Hill NSW 2203 Australia
Chạy kiện cho Wim Roeske - Phục quốc ở Việt Nam, bị
nguy hiểm.

EVIDENCES OF CORRUPTION IN THE SCREENING PROCESS IN INDONESIA

1. Mr. Sumarno, Office Manager of the Joint Voluntary Agency (JVA) in Tanjung Pinang was a point person for the Indonesian screening officers. In 1992, he was fired by the JVA when a US citizen denounced him. The JVA is affiliated with and supervised by the US Consulate in Malaysia.

2. Obrien Sitepu, aka Papa Phuc, is an Indonesian screening officer. He is a key person in collecting bribes. He is the right-hand man of Colonel Wim Roesdi, the Head of the P3V Task Force in charge of Vietnamese boat people. Colonel Wim Roesdi supervises the corruption network. Sitepu has a bank account in the US through which he collects bribes:

Chemical Bank, New York, A/C Bank Paribas, Singapore, Chips, USD162984, Ref. 872556, 1429.9E.

He is reported to have another bank account in Australia.

3. Venerable Thich Thanh Lien, the Chief Representative in Galang Camp of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam, was refused refugee status despite the severe persecution he faced in Vietnam. In 1993, his disciples in Galang had to pay Colonel Roesdi 7,000 US dollars to get him screened in. Venerable Thich Minh Hau, another Buddhist monk, was granted refugee status only after his disciples paid 5,000 US dollars in bribes to the screening authorities. Thich Dong Thanh, a monk in training, had to pay 5,000 US dollars to get screened in.

The Venerable Thich Thien Chi, now the Abbot of Thap Phuong Temple in New York, is willing to serve as witness to the above cases of corruption in screening. He can be contacted at Thap Phuong Temple, 2222 Andrews Ave., Bronx, NY 10453, (718) 933-4132. Enclosed is an affidavit of the Venerable (in Vietnamese.)

The Venerable Thich Tam Dao, now residing at Tu Hieu Temple, is also willing to testify on the above charges. He can be reached at (310)523-4528.

4. Many cases of genuine refugees have been "screened out" because they could not afford to pay the screening authorities. Following are a few sample cases.

Tran Van Diep, AS 242.003, was asked to pay 3,000 US dollars.

Phan Van Quang, AS 308.019, was asked to pay 3,000 US dollars.

Tran Minh Khoi, AS 034.059, was asked to pay 3,000 US dollars.

We have many more cases.

5. The "price" ranges from 2,000 to 12,000 US dollars depending on the case. Those with relatives overseas have to pay more. Those whose refugee status has not been denied have to pay less than those who are appealing a negative decision. Those with appeal rejected have to pay the highest price: 7,000 to 12,000 US dollars to get a third review.

6. A UNHCR lawyer, Simon Jeans, resigned in protest of the corrupted screening process in Galang. He went on BBC to denounce the corruption. His address: Simon Jeans, 9 De Burgh Road, Killara, NSW 2071.

7. The article "Terrorized in the Camp of Shame" describes the widespread corruption and abuses in screening.

PHAN VAN QUANG, AS 308019

Asylum Country
Refugee Status

INDONESIA
APPEAL REJECTED

CASE SUMMARY

Phan Van Quang was a first lieutenant of the army of the Republic of Vietnam. His responsibilities included ferreting out communist infiltrators. In 1975, the communists sent Quang to various re-education camps where he endured hard labor, self-criticism, and mistreatment.

Upon release in 1978, Quang was sent to the New Economic Zone of Phung Hiep District, where he was tightly monitored. His family was denied a household registration card. He was forced to do unpaid labor clearing inactive military bases and mines. In 1979, when he attempted to practice Buddhism, he was arrested and beaten by the police.

In May 1981, not being able to withstand the harassment, Quang fled the NEZ. In 1985, he was caught and sent back. He had to report daily to the local police for three months and continued to endure hard and dangerous labor clearing battlefields and digging for construction.

In January 1990, Quang was arrested and repeatedly tortured in an investigation on reactionary activities of two of his friends. Quang was not released until he was crippled from the tortures. In March, 1990, he was summoned again by the police. Fearing further unjust tortures, Quang had to escape Vietnam. His refugee status was denied on May 21, 1993.

TRAN VAN DIEP, AS 242.003

Asylum Country
Refugee Status

INDONESIA
APPEAL REJECTED

CASE SUMMARY

Tran Van Diep was a second lieutenant of South Vietnam. After the communist takeover of the South in 1975, Diep took the identity of his deceased brother, a platoon leader of popular forces, to avoid severe punishment. He was sent to three days of re-education followed by six months of surveillance.

Diep lived in constant fear of being discovered until 1979 when he tried to escape Vietnam and was caught. He was imprisoned for nearly seven years during which he was subjected to ruthless torture and hard labor.

Upon release in 1986, Diep continued to be subjected to forced labor for three months every year. In 1989, his true identity was discovered. Fearing for his life after witnessing the execution of a former officer whose concealed identity had been found out, Diep immediately went into hiding. In 1990, he and his son, Trinh Anh Huy, fled from Vietnam.

On August 26, 1992, Diep and his son were denied refugee status. Trinh Anh Huy burned himself to death in protest. Huy's suicide and Diep's true background were later publicized and criticized by the media, resulting in the arrest of his other two children still in Vietnam. Tran Van Diep's appeal was rejected on August 25, 1993.

TRAN MINH KHOI, AS 034.059

Asylum Country
Refugee Status

INDONESIA
APPEAL REJECTED

CASE SUMMARY

He escaped Vietnam with his father and arrived in Galang on June 2, 1989. At the time Khoi was 18 year old.

His father, Tran Van Minh, was an artillery lieutenant of the South Vietnamese Army and faced persecution under the communist government as a result. For that reason, his father was granted refugee status upon appeal by the Indonesian government on April 24, 1992, and was offered resettlement by the United States.

Khoi, sharing the same case number as his father, however, was screened out. His appeal and his father's petition on his behalf were rejected.

On September 5, 1992, Mr. Minh slashed his wrist and his stomach in protest of such injustice. After release from the hospital, he hanged himself to death on October 7, 1992.

Khoi now faces repatriation to Vietnam.