

# VIETNAM'S PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

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2023 REPORT



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# Background Information

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On January 1, 2023, Vietnam joined the United Nations Human Rights Council after an intense lobbying effort within the international community. Some hoped that this would lead to greater respect for human rights by the Vietnamese government, while others raised alarm about the contradicting nature of the situation. In particular, a country notorious for human rights violations is now tasked in the UN with promoting these rights internationally.

The situation for human rights defenders in Vietnam worsened in 2023. The Vietnamese regime no longer only targeted political critics, who have often been silenced and imprisoned under restrictive laws meant to protect an authoritarian state's control over society, such as Article 117 (propaganda against the state and the Communist Party) or Article 331 (abuse of democratic freedoms).

Some members of civil society, who were previously authorized to work legally in Vietnam, are now also victims of the communist regime. Under the pretext of tax evasion, these civil society leaders have been arrested and sentenced to several years in prison. For instance, Hoang Thi Minh Hong, a climate activist and founder of an environmental organization called CHANGE VN, was sentenced to 3 years in prison at the end of September. A few weeks earlier, Ngo Thi To Nhien, an energy expert leading the Vietnam Initiative for Energy Transition (VIET), was arrested right after President Biden visited Vietnam. Ngo Thi To Nhien was involved in the implementation of a \$15 billion plan funded by a group of Western countries and international institutions to assist Hanoi in achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

Hanoi has extended its repression beyond its borders. On April 13, 2023, blogger Thai Van Duong was kidnapped from Thailand, where he was seeking refuge and [awaiting resettlement in a third country. Thai Van Duong was forcibly returned to Vietnam, where he faces charges of "propaganda against the state" (Article 117). On August 18, 2023, the Vietnamese police issued an arrest warrant for Paulus Le Son, an activist who had already spent 4 years in prison and is currently a political refugee in the United States since 2018.

# Background Information

For several years, Hanoi has used activists as bargaining chips, if not hostages, in its relations with Western countries. The regime imprisons hundreds of activists and releases them gradually as part of its negotiations with Western democracies to demonstrate its "goodwill." This is how some of these political prisoners have been conveniently released and deported to foreign countries shortly before the visits of Western leaders to Vietnam. The most recent examples are activists Nguyen Bac Truyen and Mai Phan Loi, who were released just before the arrival of U.S. President Joe Biden to Vietnam on September 10, 2023.

Vietnam is currently courted by many Western countries in an effort to isolate China. Given these geostrategic considerations, the question of human rights should not be disregarded. For peace and stability in the region, a truly free and democratic Vietnam that follows international norms and conventions is what will make a trustworthy long-term partner.

Nearly 200 activists are imprisoned in Vietnam due to their political opinions. The following biographies of Vietnamese prisoners of conscience are not exhaustive, but they provide an overview of individuals who dare to protect human rights and challenge the authoritarian regime, even at the risk of spending decades in prison.



# Timeline

## 2022

### AUG

Aug 2 2022: Blogger Do Cong Duong died in prison.

Aug 11 2022: Mai Phan Loi's sentence was reduced from 48 months to 45 months. (Article 200)

Aug 16 2022: Y Wo Nie appeal trial and sentenced upheld 5 years. (Article 331)  
Le Van Dung appeal trial and sentence upheld to 5 years. (Article 117)

Aug 17 2022: Trinh Ba Phuong Nguyen Thi Tam appeal trial and sentence upheld to 10 and 6 years. (Article 117)

Aug 25 2022: Pham Doan Trang appeal trial and sentenced confirmed to 9 years in prison. (Article 117)

Aug 30 2022: Le Anh Hung sentenced to five years in prison. (Article 331)

### SEP

Sep 7 2022: Bui Tuan Lam (Peter Lam Bui) was arrested. (Article 117)

Sep 8 2022: Dang Dang Phuoc was arrested. (Article 117)  
Phan Son Tung (Thin Vuong Party) was arrested. (Article 117)

Sep 11 2022: Nguyen Phuong Hang was charged for "abusing democratic freedoms." (Article 331)

Sep 15 2022: Appeals court upheld one year sentence for Pham Tan Hoa for "abusing democratic freedoms." (Article 331)

Sep 28 2022: Facebooker Nguyen Minh Son detained from Sep 28 2022 to Jan 25 2023 for "posting anti-state" videos.

### OCT

Oct 4 2022: Vu Binh Van and Ong Thi Thuy were arrested and charged for "abusing democratic freedom." (Article 331)

Oct 13 2022: Phan Thi Huong Thuy, former member of Hanoi Lawyers Association was charged with "abusing democratic freedom." (Article 331)

Oct 14 2022: Appeal trials were postponed for Le Tung Van, Le Thanh Trung Duong, Le Thanh Hoan Nguyen, Le Thanh Nhat Nguyen, Le Thanh Nhi Nguyen, and Cao Thi Cuc

Oct 25 2022: Citizen journalist Le Manh Ha sentenced to eight years in prison and five years of house arrest on the charge of "disseminating anti-state materials" for his advocacy on behalf of citizens who lost land. (Article 117)

Oct 27 2022: Facebooker Dang Nhu Quynh was sentenced to two years in prison for "abusing democratic rights." (Article 331)

### NOV

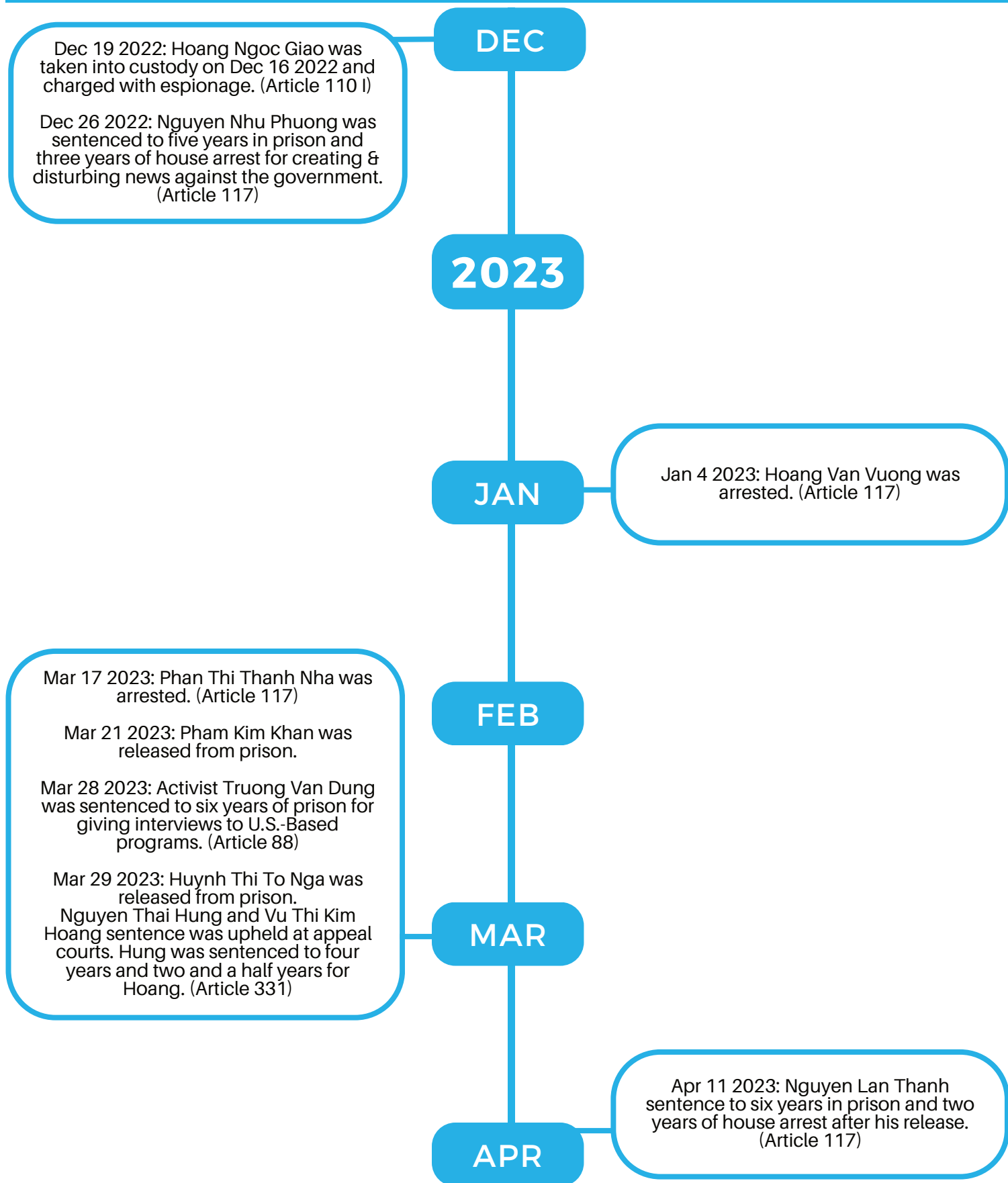
Nov 3 2022: Appeal trials and sentence upheld for Le Tung Van, Le Thanh Trung Duong, Le Thanh Hoan Nguyen, Le Thanh Nhat Nguyen, Le Thanh Nhi Nguyen, and Cao Thi Cuc.

Nov 17 2022: Facebooker Bui Van Thuan sentenced to eight years in prison and five years of house arrest. (Article 117)

Nov 21 2022: Nguy Thi Khanh's appeal trial upheld a sentence reduction from 24 to 21 months. (Article 200)

Nov 22 2022: Nguyen Thai Hung was sentenced to a four-year term and his spouse, Vu Thi Kim Hoang was sentenced to two and a half years for running their YouTube channel, "Telling the Truth TV." (Article 331)

# Timeline



# Timeline

MAY

May 12 2023: Tran Van Bang was sentenced to eight years in prison and three years of house arrest. (Article 117)

May 13 2023: Nguy Thi Khanh was released.

May 25 2023: Bui Tuan Lam was sentenced to five and a half years in prison for mocking minister's lavish dining. (Article 117)

JUN

Jun 1 2023: Hoang Thi Minh Hong was arrested for "tax evasion." (Clause 200, Article 2015 of the XNUMX Penal Code.

Jun 6 2023: Dang Dang Phuoc was sentenced to eight years in prison for his music. (Article 117)

Jun 26 2023: Le Thi Dung was released after 15 months in prison.

JUL

Jul 1 2023: Tran Hoang Phuc released after six years in prison and four years of house arrest.

Jul 5 2023: Le Anh Hung was released after five years in prison.

AUG

Aug 4 2023: Nguyen Hoang Nam was arrested on an anti-state charge related to his social media activities, just two years after his release from prison. (Article 117)

Aug 7 2023: Hoang Van Vuong was sentenced to five years in prison without knowledge by his family for "abusing his democratic rights. (Article 331)

SEP

Sep 27 2023: Ngo Thi To Nhien was arrested for allegedly appropriating documents.

Sep 28 2023: Hong Thi Ming Hong was sentenced to three years in prison. (Clause 3, Article 200 of 2015 Penal Code)

# Recommendations

Support Vietnamese human rights defenders and pro-democracy activists:

- During meetings with Vietnamese officials, please raise concerns about prisoners of conscience, including the following individuals who face long prison sentences and mistreatment in detention: Le Dinh Luong, Pham Doan Trang, Tran Huynh Duy Thuc, Nguyen Van Tuc, Pastor Nguyen Trung Ton, Truong Minh Duc, Nguyen Van Vien, Tran Van Quyen, Tran Thi Xuan, Le Dinh Cong, and Le Dinh Chuc.
- Request Embassy officials in Vietnam to regularly visit imprisoned political activists. Even if those requests are denied, the effort makes Vietnamese officials aware that the international community is paying attention, helping political prisoners avoid mistreatment and improve detention conditions.
- Request prisoners of conscience be imprisoned near their family home. Most of them are imprisoned more than 1000 kilometers (600+ miles) from their families, which is a form of isolation and torture.
- Request that prisoners of conscience receive a yearly health checkup made by a doctor the family chooses, because the unhygienic prison condition and mistreatment causes the health of the activist to quickly decline.
- Request Embassy officials in Vietnam to receive family members of imprisoned activists on special occasions such as International Human Rights Day, the Lunar New Year, and the National Day of your country, etc.





# Recommendations

Support online freedom of expression:

- Urge major internet companies to not comply with the Vietnamese government's demand to censor content when that content does not violate any international standards.

Deepen focus on legal reform:

- Call for the repeal of Articles 109 (Subversion), 117 (Propaganda against the Vietnam state), 118 (Public disorder) and 331 (Abuse of democratic freedoms) in the Vietnamese Penal Code, which are used to silence political opposition.
- Urge Vietnam to ratify the Optional Protocol of the UN Convention Against Torture and all the ILO conventions to protect workers.
- Continue to request Embassy officials to attend political trials.

Always include concerns about human rights in engagements with Vietnam:

- Incorporate calls for legal reform into the agenda when promoting higher education and trade with Vietnam.
- Develop a roadmap linking human rights improvements with closer security and trade ties.
- Establish benchmarks during human rights dialogue with Vietnam. Insist on human rights progress as a condition to any high level delegation visits.



# PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE PROFILES

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## Bach Hung Duong



**Date of Birth:** 1975

**Place Detained:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Date of Arrest:** June 24, 2021

**Charges:** Article 200 (2015 Penal Code) - Tax evasion

**Past Work and State Repression:** Bach Hung Duong was the director of Media in Educating Community (MEC), which was founded by Mai Phan Loi. Vietnamese officials allege that Duong helped Loi in evading taxes and detained both of them on June 24, 2021. On January 11, 2022, Duong was sentenced to 30 months in prison on charges of "tax evasion." However, an appeals court ruled that Duong did not financially benefit from the tax evasion and is suffering from an

unspecified illness, so the sentence was reduced by 3 months on August 11, 2022. The arrest of civil society leaders connected to a coalition of NGOs developed under the EVFTA framework indicates the Vietnamese government's concern about the role these organizations might have in defending labor rights, land rights, and the environment.

## Bui Tuan Lam



**Date of Birth:** 1984

**Place Detained:** Hoa Son Detention Center, Da Nang Province

**Date of Arrest:** September 7, 2022

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Code) - Making, storing, spreading, or propagating information, materials, items for the purpose of opposing the State.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Bui Tuan Lam is an entrepreneur, and human rights and democracy activist. He is known as a member of several state blacklisted civil society organizations, including No-U Football Club-Hanoi and Con Duong Viet Nam. Lam regularly posted and shared content on social media that allegedly

discredited the government and party leaders. He was arrested on September 7, 2022 under charges of spreading "anti-state propaganda" and was sentenced to 5.5 years in prison. Since his arrest, his wife and parents were unable to see him ahead of his trial and currently, have difficulty visiting him in prison. The police notified Lam's wife that he "refused to have legal representation", which goes against his instructions to hire a lawyer for him during his arrest.

## Bui Van Thuan



**Date of Birth:** May 1, 1981

**Place Detained:** Prison No. 6, Nghe An province

**Date of Arrest:** August 30, 2021

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Bui Van Thuan is from the Muong ethnic minority community. He is a teacher and entrepreneur, who sold honey online. The Vietnamese authorities used social media posts on Thuan's account to allege that he had defamed and critiqued the Vietnamese Communist Party, the state, and its leaders. His arrest on August 30, 2021, came days

after Vice President Kamala Harris visited Vietnam and had stressed the importance of human rights in bilateral relations. On November 18, 2022, Thuan was sentenced to 8 years in prison and 5 years of house arrest. On February 15 2023, Trinh The Nhung, Thuan's wife, received her first phone call from Thuan since his sentence in August 2021. According to Nhung, Thuan has been transferred to Prison No. 6 in Nghe An Province and is in good health with outside exercise regularly.

## Can Thi Theu\*



**Date of Birth:** August 14, 1962

**Place Detained:** Prison No. 5, Thanh Hoa Province

**Date of Arrest:** June 24, 2020

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Can Thi Theu became a land rights activist after her home was seized by the government in 2008. She helped others seek redress for land confiscated by the Vietnamese authorities. She also defended victims in environmental disasters, such as the Formosa chemical discharge in 2016. She was previously arrested in 2014 and 2016 because of her

advocacy for land rights. After her release from prison, the Vietnamese authorities have monitored and harassed Can Thi Theu. In 2019, she was physically assaulted by plainclothes officers while visiting prisoners of conscience at Prison No. 6 in Nghe An Province.

\*On June 24, 2020, the Vietnamese authorities sent a force of a few hundred uniformed and plainclothes officers to arrest Can Thi Theu and her two sons, Trinh Ba Phuong and Trinh Ba Tu, both of whom are featured later in our list of profiles. The arrests occurred soon after the authorities concluded their investigation into the Dong Tam incident in mid-June 2020. On May 5, 2021, Can Thi Theu and Trinh Ba Tu were each sentenced to 8 years in prison and 3 years of house arrest. On December 15, 2021, Trinh Ba Phuong was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 5 years of house arrest. On February 22 2022, Can Thi Theu was moved to Camp 5 in Thanh Hoa Province while her son, Trinh Ba Tu, was transferred to Camp 6 in Nghe An Province. These camps are hundreds of kilometers away from each other which makes it harder for family members to visit them.

## Dang Dang Phuoc



**Date of Birth:** August 20, 1963

**Place Detained:** Dak Lak Province

**Date of Arrest:** September 8, 2022

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Code) - Making, storing, spreading, or propagating information, materials, items for the purpose of opposing the State.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Dang Dang Phuoc is an educator and human rights activist. He uses social media to frequently share his views on human rights abuses, corruption, education and other social political issues in Vietnam. Phuoc was arrested on September 8, 2022 under charges of spreading "anti-state propaganda" and was sentenced to eight years in prison

and four years of house arrest. The police notified Phuoc's wife that "[he] did not ask for a defense [lawyer] but [chose to] protect his own interests during the investigation process", which goes against his instructions to hire a lawyer for him during his arrest.

## Dang Dinh Bach



**Date of Birth:** September 12, 1978

**Place Detained:** Prison No. 6, Nghe An Province

**Date of Arrest:** June 24, 2021

**Charges:** Article 200 (2015 Penal Code) - Tax evasion

**Past Work and State Repression:** Dang Dinh Bach is an environmental lawyer and director of the nonprofit called Law and Policy of Sustainable Development (LPSD). Bach mobilized young people to volunteer for charitable projects such as assisting victims impacted by global warming and environmental catastrophes. He was a board member of a network established to monitor the implementation of the European-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA). On June 24, 2021, Bach was

detained by the police in Hanoi for questioning on charges of "tax evasion." On January 24, 2022, Bach was sentenced to 5 years in prison and ordered to pay a fine of nearly 1.38 billion dong (\$57k USD). Bach has gone on hunger strikes to protest against his prolonged detention and not being allowed family visits. He denies the charges against him and refuses to pay the fine. The court of appeals upheld his sentence on August 11, 2022. On October 14th 2022, Bach was transferred from Hanoi Detention Center 1 to Prison No 6 in Nghe An Province without his family's knowledge.

## Dinh Thi Thu Thuy



**Date of Birth:** September 5, 1982

**Place Detained:** An Phuoc Detention Center, Binh Duong Province

**Date of Arrest:** April 18, 2020

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Dinh Thi Thu Thuy is an activist who used Facebook to share documents critiquing the Vietnamese Communist Party's leadership. In June 2018, she participated in protests against the Law on Special Economic Zones and the Cybersecurity Law. The Vietnamese authorities alleged that she

opened multiple Facebook accounts to slander the state. They also attempted to claim that she was spreading disinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic. After 9 months in pre-trial detention, on January 20, 2021, she was sentenced to 7 years in prison. Her trial was held only five days before the start of the Vietnamese Communist Party Congress. On January 15 2022, Thuy's sister reported that she called home.

## Duong Tuan Ngoc



**Date of Birth:** 1985

**Place Detained:** Lam Dong

**Date of Arrest:** July 16, 2023

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material

**Past Work and State Repression:** Duong Tuan Ngoc, former university lecturer, gained recognition for his numerous video content covering topics like nutrition, technology, and history. He became famous particularly for his livestreams and videos that claimed to reveal insights about "the real Ho Chi Minh" and highlighted various shortcomings of the Party and government.

Ngoc also created parodies of popular songs on his YouTube channel to satirize corrupt Communist officials. His YouTube channel has over 450 videos and more than 34,000 followers, while his personal page has more than 45,000 followers. On July 10th, Lam Dong police summoned him for an investigation on charges of anti-state propaganda for his Facebook and YouTube videos. He was charged with Article 117, disseminating anti-state propaganda.

## Hoang Duc Binh



**Date of Birth:** February 10, 1983

**Place Detained:** An Diem Prison, Dai Loc District, Quang Nam Province

**Date of Arrest:** May 15, 2017

**Charges:** Article 331 (2015 Penal Code) - Abusing democratic freedoms to infringe upon the interests of the State, lawful rights and interests of organizations and/or citizens

**Past Work and State Repression:** Hoang Duc Binh is a labor activist and environmental activist who works in trade, consultation, and civil construction. He is the Vice President of the Viet Labour Movement and a member of "No-U Saigon," a soccer group that protests China's

encroachment on the Paracel and Spratly Islands. The Viet Labour Movement works to help protect the rights of factory workers and supports workers to establish trade unions. Binh was arrested on May 15, 2017 in Nghe An province, and was later sentenced to 14 years in prison. His appeal was denied on April 24, 2018. For the past two year, Binh has been in good health and stable even though only eating food sent from his family.

## Hoang Ngoc Giao



**Date of Birth:** 1954

**Place Detained:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Date of Arrest:** December 16, 2022

**Charges:** Article 200 (2015 Penal Code) - Tax evasion

**Past Work and State Repression:** Hoàng Ngọc Giao is a legal expert and former director of the Institute for Policies on Law and Development (PLD), a government-affiliated NGO in Vietnam. He played a significant role in shaping Vietnam's legal framework. In 2020, he called for an independent investigation into a land conflict in Dong Tam commune. In 2022, he was poised to become the new chairman of the Vietnam-China International Trade Arbitration Center (VCITAC) before his arrest on

December 16. Initially accused of espionage under Clause 1, Article 110, state media later confirmed he was charged with tax evasion under Article 200 of the 2015 Penal Code.

## Hoang Thi Minh Hong



**Date of Birth:** October 5, 1972

**Place Detained:** T30 Detention Center, Cu Chi district, Ho Chi Minh City

**Date of Arrest:** May 31, 2023

**Charges:** Article 200 (2015 Penal Code) - Tax evasion

**Past Work and State Repression:** Hoang Thi Minh Hong is a climate activist and part of the first cohort for the Obama Foundation Scholars Program. She is also the founder of an environmental organization called CHANGE, which focuses on wildlife protection, climate change, and environmental pollution. Given targeted arrests of other environmental activists in 2021 and 2022, Hong closed down CHANGE after nearly a decade

of operating. On May 31, 2023, she was arrested and charged with tax evasion like the other environmental activists detained before her. On September 28, 2023, she was sentenced to 3 years in prison. She has received widespread support from not only climate and human rights groups, but the UN and foreign governments like the US and France have denounced the arrest and sentencing against Hong.

## Le Dinh Cong & Le Dinh Chuc



Le Dinh Cong



Le Dinh Chuc

**Date of Birth:** Cong (b. 1964) | Chuc (b. 1980)

**Place Detained:** Detention Center No. 2, Hanoi

**Date of Arrest:** January 9, 2020

**Charges:** Article 123 (2015 Penal Code) - Murder

**Past Work and State Repression:** Le Dinh Cong and Le Dinh Chuc are the sons of Le Dinh Kinh, who was brutally killed in a police raid at their home in Dong Tam, Vietnam. The family has been defending their land from government seizures for several years. In the early morning of January 9, 2020, the police sent thousands of officers into the village, shooting and killing Le Dinh Kinh while claiming that three police officers were killed by local residents. 29 people were placed on trial in September 2020 for the "murder" of the police. Several of the defendants were tortured and beaten to give forced confessions. Le Dinh Cong and Le Dinh Chuc were given the harshest sentence, which was the death penalty. They tried to seek an appeal, but the sentence was upheld in a court hearing on March 9, 2021. Their appeal on March 2021 was denied.



## Le Dinh Luong



**Date of Birth:** December 10, 1965

**Place Detained:** Nam Ha Prison, Ha Nam Province

**Date of Arrest:** July 24, 2017

**Charges:** Article 109 (2015 Penal Code) - Activities against the people's government.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Le Dinh Luong is a businessman, environmentalist, and human rights activist. He campaigned to support imprisoned activists in Vietnam. He used social media to highlight human rights violations and protect victims of the 2016 Formosa environmental disaster. Luong was arrested on July 24, 2017, and charged with subversion because of his human rights work and association with pro-democracy

organization, Viet Tan. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison and 5 years of house arrest. While in prison, he has been denied the use of his Bible, his Catholic calendar, and even pen and paper. Along with other political prisoners, Luong engaged in a two-week hunger strike in October 2020 to protest the inhumane living condition in prison. In October 2022, Luong's family attempted to visit him, but authorities said he could not come out because he refused to wear the prison uniform. The family remembers prior warnings that this could be a sign of trouble and is urging international support to see if anything has happened to Luong.

## Le Huu Minh Tuan



**Date of Birth:** March 20, 1989

**Place Detained:** Bo La Prison Camp, Binh Duong Province

**Date of Arrest:** June 12, 2020

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Le Huu Minh Tuan is a citizen journalist who also goes by his pen name Le Tuan. In 2015, he became a member of the Independent Journalists Association of Vietnam (IJAVN). His writings focus on the political situation in Vietnam, and he hopes to one day publish a book on Vietnam's history. He

received a degree in history and studied at the Hanoi Law University. He is the fourth member of the Independent Journalists Association of Vietnam to be detained in less than a year. Prior to his arrest, Le Huu Minh Tuan was frequently harassed and requested to attend "working" sessions that were essentially interrogations. On January 5, 2021, he was sentenced to 11 years in prison and 3 years of house arrest. He was in bad health when his family visited him in May 2022, which was why he was transferred to another detention center. According to his sister, Tuan is suffering from a number of different medical conditions, and is not allowed to receive any medicine sent by his family.

## Le Manh Ha

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**Date of Birth:** February 21, 1970

**Place Detained:** Chiem Hoa District

**Date of Arrest:** January 12, 2022

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** In 2022, the independent citizen journalist Le Manh Ha was arrested and subsequently charged with distributing propaganda against the state. Le Manh Ha had emerged as a prominent figure within the community of land petitioners, particularly in his campaign against the contentious relocation of farmers in Tuyen Quang.

Through his widely-followed platforms, including his YouTube channel, "The Voice of the People - Le Ha Television," and his impactful Facebook posts, he was committed to give farmers and land petitioners a platform to speak about the injustices they faced. He was sentenced to 8 years in prison followed by 5 years of house arrest. Police officers raided his residence, confiscating books, laptops, and a cell phone.

## Le Van Dung

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**Date of Birth:** October 10, 1970

**Place Detained:** Nam Ha Prison, Ha Nam Province

**Date of Arrest:** June 30, 2021

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Le Van Dung is an independent journalist for Chan Hung Nuoc Viet, a Facebook and Youtube outlet that reports on national issues not covered by state media. Dung also shares his views on his personal Facebook page called Le Dung Vova. Dung is part of the Independent Journalists Association of Vietnam (IJAVN), whose members have

increasingly been harassed and arrested by the Vietnamese government. The authorities claimed video posts Dung created on social media distorted state policies and defamed government officials. On March 23, 2022, Dung was sentenced to 5 years in prison and 5 years of house arrest.

## Ngo Thi To Nhien



**Date of Birth:** *Unknown*

**Place Detained:** *Unknown*

**Date of Arrest:** September 15, 2023

**Charges:** Article 342 Appropriating state documents and/or secrets

**Past Work and State Repression:**

Ngo Thi To Nhien, executive director of the Vietnam Initiative for Energy Transition Social Enterprise, an energy policy think tank, is currently in custody and may face charges to the "misappropriation of state documents. Nhien is a prominent environmental activist and a vocal critic of coal power. Ngo Thi To Nhien is now the sixth environmental activist in Vietnam to be

confronted with legal actions over the past two years. Nhien's arrest on September 15th, 2023, by Hanoi police, followed a visit by U.S. president Joe Biden, who had discussions with Vietnam's top leaders concerning human rights and environmental issues.

## Nguyen Lan Thang



**Date of Birth:** December 18, 1975

**Place Detained:** Prison No. 5, Thanh Hoa province

**Date of Arrest:** July 5th, 2022

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Nguyen Lan Thang is from a prominent family of scholars in Vietnam. He studied and worked as an engineer, but in 2011 became an independent journalist, capturing images of demonstrations and government injustices with his photography skills. He has been involved with the No-U Football Club in Hanoi that protests China's claims in the

South China Sea and has charitable efforts to help those in poverty in the rural areas of Vietnam. He has also been active in the Network of Vietnamese Bloggers to challenge Vietnamese criminal codes that violate freedom of expression. He has contributed articles to international media networks like RFA and BBC. Over the past decade, he faced government harassment and restrictions from leaving the country. On July 5, 2022, he was arrested and charged with anti-state propaganda under Article 117. In a closed trial on April 12, 2023, Thang was sentenced to 6 years in prison and 2 years of house arrest. He has chosen not to appeal his conviction in order to prevent further harassment to his family.

## Nguyen Nang Tinh



**Date of Birth:** 1976

**Place Detained:** Prison No. 5, Thanh Hoa Province

**Date of Arrest:** May 29, 2019

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Nguyen Nang Tinh is a music teacher, activist and member of various groups that the authorities regard as "opposition groups." On November 15, 2019, he was sentenced to 11 years in prison and 5 years of house arrest. The content of the posts officials used as evidence against him included protests against Vietnam's law on Special Economic

Zones (which many citizens feared would lead to China's greater economic presence in Vietnam) and protests against Formosa, a Taiwanese steel plant that dumped toxic waste into Vietnam's central coast and caused an environmental disaster in April 2016. Tinh went on a 46-day hunger strike between March and April 2020 to protest the prison's prevention of access to a priest during Lent and Holy Week. He ended the hunger strike after the authorities scheduled a date for his appeals trial, but he stated he would resume the hunger strike if his right to practice religion was further restricted.

## Nguyen Thuy Hanh



**Date of Birth:** May 25, 1963

**Place Detained:** Central Mental Hospital, Hanoi

**Date of Arrest:** April 7, 2021

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Nguyen Thuy Hanh is a prominent human rights defender who has a large following on social media, where she posts and discusses human rights issues. In 2017, she founded the 50K Fund that supports the families of those who are unjustly detained. In June 2018, Thuy Hanh was arrested for participating in a protest against the Law of

Special Economic Zones and the Cybersecurity Law. Reports later revealed she was severely beaten and heavily interrogated during her temporary detention from that demonstration. On April 7, 2021, the Vietnamese authorities arrested Thuy Hanh, and charged her under Article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code. In May 2022, she was transferred from pre-trial detention to a hospital in Hanoi for severe depression. According to her husband, her mental health has declined and has not been eating. Doctors have tried providing medication but none seem to help.

## Nguyen Trung Ton

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**Date of Birth:** September 2, 1971

**Place Detained:** Gia Trung Prison, Gia Lai Province

**Date of Arrest:** July 30, 2017

**Charges:** Article 79 (1999 Penal Code) - Carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Nguyen Trung Ton is a Protestant pastor and human rights defender with the Brotherhood for Democracy. He advocates for freedom of religion and democracy in Vietnam. As a blogger, he has written about government corruption and land seizures. Vietnamese authorities arrested Pastor Ton, and his colleagues from the Brotherhood for Democracy,

at the end of July 2017. On April 5, 2018, he was sentenced to 12 years in prison and 3 years of house arrest. He has chronic pain from injuries sustained in a brutal attack in February 2017 from unknown thugs with special police equipment. Pastor Ton has been unable to walk correctly since the assault. He lacks access to adequate medical care and clean water in prison. According to his wife, his eyesight is almost gone and he is suffering from post COVID complications. He has not received any medical care for these conditions.

## Nguyen Trung Truc

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**Date of Birth:** June 6, 1974

**Place Detained:** Prison No. 5, Thanh Hoa Province

**Date of Arrest:** August 4, 2017

**Charges:** Article 79 (1999 Penal Code) - Carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Nguyen Trung Truc is an activist and member of the Brotherhood for Democracy. He has been targeted for his association with an oppositional organization. In July 2016, plainclothes police attacked and beat Truc and a group of activists he was with when they attended the wedding of a fellow activist. Truc was arrested at his home in

Quang Binh province on August 4, 2017, just days after the arrest of other members of the Brotherhood for Democracy. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison and 5 years of house arrest on September 12, 2018. According to his lawyer, Truc maintained his innocence, and was later denied his appeal request. Truc's health has severely deteriorated during his time in prison.

## Nguyen Tuong Thuy



**Date of Birth:** 1952

**Place Detained:** An Phuoc Detention Center, Binh Duong Province

**Date of Arrest:** May 23, 2020

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Nguyen Tuong Thuy is a blogger about human rights in Vietnam and has been a contributor to Radio Free Asia's Vietnamese service for over six years. In 2014, Thuy flew to Washington, DC, and spoke about press freedom at a Congressional briefing. However, the Vietnamese

authorities in 2018 blocked him from leaving his home to meet with officials of the UN who were visiting Vietnam. Thuy has faced harassment from government officials and was physically assaulted in 2015 by plainclothes police. In March 2020, Vietnamese authorities summoned him for their investigation on his colleague Pham Chi Dung, but Nguyen Tuong Thuy declined to meet due to his current health conditions and the coronavirus outbreak. On May 23, 2020, around 50 officials stormed his home in Hanoi, arresting him, confiscating documents, cell phones, and laptops. On January 5, 2021, he was sentenced to 11 years in prison and 3 years of house arrest.

## Nguyen Van Hoa



**Date of Birth:** April 15, 1995

**Place Detained:** An Diem Prison, Dai Loc District, Quang Nam Province

**Date of Arrest:** January 11, 2017

**Charges:** Article 88 (1999 Penal Code) - Conducting propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Nguyen Van Hoa is a young Catholic activist from Ky Anh, Ha Tinh province, one of the areas most affected by the environmental disaster caused by Formosa dumping industrial waste into the sea. After the Formosa environmental disaster occurred in April 2016, he became active in assisting fishermen's families in demanding compensation and

justice. Hoa is a digital security trainer and regular contributor to Radio Free Asia. Despite the risks, he live-broadcasted drone footage of peaceful protests in October 2016 outside of Taiwanese-owned Formosa's steel plant in Ha Tinh province that went viral. On November 7, 2017, in a secret trial, Hoa was sentenced to 7 years in prison and 3 years of house arrest. Neither a defense lawyer nor his family were present at the trial. In February 2022, One Free Press Coalition had put him in their list of "10 most urgent cases of injustice against journalists". In March 2023, he was put on Freedom House's "Free Them All: A Political Prisoners Initiative". Since then, he only wrote once to his sister and is allowed a phone call every 2-3 months to let her know that he is still feeling healthy.

## Nguyen Van Tuc



**Date of Birth:** May 28, 1964

**Place Detained:** Prison No. 6, Nghe An Province

**Date of Arrest:** September 1, 2017

**Charges:** Article 109 (2015 Penal Code) - Activities against the people's government.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Nguyen Van Tuc was the Deputy Head of the Brotherhood for Democracy, a Vietnamese organization that promotes democracy in Vietnam. He advocated for human rights and maritime sovereignty in Vietnam. After serving 4 years in prison from 2008 to 2012 for his peaceful activism, he was arrested again in September 2017 for his affiliation with the Brotherhood for Democracy. He was charged with

subversion and sentenced to 13 years in prison and 5 years of house arrest. In June 2019, along with two other prisoners Truong Minh Duc and Dao Quang Thuc, Nguyen Van Tuc started a hunger strike at Nghe An's Camp No. 6. He suffers from various health conditions, such as heart disease, eye problems, and a degenerative spine. He has been denied proper medical treatment and his health has since worsened in prison.

## Nguyen Van Vien



**Date of Birth:** 1971

**Place Detained:** HCM City Prison Detention Center, No.4, Phan Dang Luu, Ho Chi Minh City

**Date of Arrest:** January 13, 2019

**Charges:** Article 113 (2015 Penal Code) - Terrorism aimed to oppose the people's authority.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Nguyen Van Vien is a member of the Brotherhood for Democracy. After the Formosa environmental disaster in 2016, he became an advocate to help those displaced and suffering from the incident. He was detained in January 2019 while he met with a Vietnamese Australian activist, Chau Van Kham. On November 11, 2019, Nguyen Van Vien, Chau Van

Kham, and Tran Van Quyen were tried under charges of terrorism because of their alleged association with political organizations. Nguyen Van Vien was sentenced to 11 years in prison.

## Pham Chi Dung



**Date of Birth:** 1966

**Place Detained:** Xuan Loc Prison, Dong Nai Province

**Date of Arrest:** November 21, 2019

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Pham Chi Dung is a journalist, writer, and President of the Independent Journalists Association of Vietnam (IJAVN), which was founded in 2014 to promote press freedom. He has a Ph.D. in economics and was a member of the Communist Party of Vietnam for 20 years until he resigned in 2013. The Vietnamese authorities arrested him in July 2012 for

“conspiring to overthrow the government” and “antigovernment propaganda.”

After six months in detention, he was released without trial. Pham Chi Dung has been a commentator about Vietnamese politics for several media outlets such as VOA Vietnamese, NBC News, and the BBC. To silence Pham Chi Dung, the Vietnamese authorities intimidated and harassed him, banning him in 2014 from traveling to attend a Vietnam UPR side-event organized in Geneva. On November 21, 2019, the public security detained Pham Chi Dung after he dropped off his kids from school. In June 2022, he was refusing his meat rations in protest of the prison conditions. On January 5, 2021, he was sentenced to 15 years in prison and 3 years of house arrest. In March 2023, he had a bleeding throat infection and was treated in prison with improvement.

## Pham Doan Trang



**Date of Birth:** May 27, 1978

**Place Detained:** An Phuoc Detention Center, Binh Duong Province

**Date of Arrest:** October 6, 2020

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Pham Doan Trang is a well respected journalist, who worked for different state media outlets until she was detained for speaking out against China's bauxite initiatives in the Central Highlands of Vietnam in 2009. She has helped co-found the Liberal Publishing House to produce independent

books, and established online magazines such as Luat Khoa and The Vietnamese, focused on issues of human rights, law, and politics. She has constantly been harassed, surveyed, and detained by the Vietnamese authorities. On October 6, 2020, the Vietnamese authorities arrested Pham Doan Trang despite concluding a few hours earlier the annual US-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue. On December 14, 2021, Trang was sentenced to 9 years in prison and her appeal in August 2022 was not granted. She has been recognized by numerous human rights awards, including the latest one from the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) in November 2022.



## Pham Van Troi



**Date of Birth:** October 10, 1972

**Place Detained:** Ba Sao Prison, Nam Ha Province

**Date of Arrest:** July 30, 2017

**Charges:** Article 79 (1999 Penal Code) - Carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Pham Van Troi is a human rights defender and member of the Brotherhood for Democracy. He was formerly the organization's President. In 2008, the Vietnamese authorities had arrested and charged him with conducting propaganda against the state. He was sentenced to 4 years in prison. After he was released, he continued to speak out against

human rights abuses. In May 2015, he was prevented from meeting US diplomats who were present for the annual US-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue. He has been harassed and assaulted by the authorities. On July 30, 2017, he was arrested and this time charged with subversion against the state. He was sentenced to 7 years in prison and 1 year of house arrest. At the end of 2019, his wife reported that he was not well and after several petitions to get medical attention and fainting on the job, he was finally taken to a hospital but constantly in handcuffs. In March 2023, his wife sent more updates about his treatment in prison. He has been denied any books, paper, or pencil. He is not allowed to learn or speak English. His mental health is deteriorating along with his current comorbidities of diabetes, abnormal blood pressure, and scabies.

## Phan Son Tung



**Date of Birth:** 1984

**Place Detained:** Ha dong district, Hanoi

**Date of Arrest:** September 9, 2022

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Phan Son Tung is a political activist known for his founding of the Prosperous Vietnam Party, which advocated for the elimination of inequality and the removal of the communist party from leadership. Additionally, he managed three YouTube channels, namely "For a Prosperous Vietnam," "Phan Son Tung," and "Son Tung

TV," along with an active Facebook page named "David Phan," boasting a substantial following of 530,000 individuals across his various social media platforms. Reports vary on his exact date of arrest, either September 9, 2022, or August 31, 2022. He was charged under Article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code. On July 3, 2023, he was sentenced to 6 years in prison.

## Tran Duc Thach



**Date of Birth:** 1952

**Place Detained:** Prison No. 5, Thanh Hoa Province

**Date of Arrest:** April 23, 2020

**Charges:** Article 109 (2015 Penal Code) - Activities against the people's government.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Tran Duc Thach is a prolific writer of poems, stories, and articles on the injustices in Vietnam. Although a veteran of the North Vietnamese armed forces, he later wrote about the abuses of the communist government. In 2008, the Vietnamese authorities arrested him for violating Article 88 (1999 Penal Code), conducting propaganda against the state. After the three-year sentence ended, Tran Duc

Thach continued his activism and joined the Brotherhood for Democracy to advance human rights. This organization was about to mark its 7th Anniversary on April 24, 2020 when Tran Duc Thach was arrested. Around 20 public security officials barged into his house with an arrest warrant during the COVID-19 pandemic and confiscated cell phones, computers, and cameras. On December 15, 2020, Tran Duc Thach was sentenced to 12 years in prison and 3 years of house arrest.

## Tran Huynh Duy Thuc



**Date of Birth:** November 29, 1966

**Place Detained:** Prison No. 6, Nghe An Province

**Date of Arrest:** May 24, 2009

**Charges:** Article 79 (1999 Penal Code) - Carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Tran Huynh Duy Thuc is a Vietnamese engineer, entrepreneur, and human rights activist. He helped establish the Chan Research Group that was planning to publish a book about political reforms centered on human rights. The book was called Con Duong Vietnam [The Path of Vietnam], which later inspired a movement by that same name. On

May 25, 2009, Thuc was arrested and eventually charged with subversion. On January 20, 2010, he was sentenced to 16 years in prison. While in prison, he has denied exile to the US, he refused to admit guilt for a lesser sentence, and engaged in several hunger strikes to protest poor prison conditions. His most recent hunger strike was from February 20 to July 8, 2021. On August 31, 2023, Thuc's 10 minute call informed his family that him and three other political prisoners involved in a recent hunger strike were attacked by four strange men who entered their cells wearing prison clothes. Thuc later reports to his brother during a visitation on several instances of human rights violations he had experienced in prison such as confiscating of his blood sugar and blood pressure monitors, and refusing to allow him to submit a form allowing his brother or a hired lawyer to represent him while he finishes his term in prison.

## Tran Thi Xuan



**Date of Birth:** October 10, 1976

**Place Detained:** Prison No. 5, Thanh Hoa Province

**Date of Arrest:** October 17, 2017

**Charges:** Article 79 (1999 Penal Code) - Carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Tran Thi Xuan is a member of the Brotherhood for Democracy. After the 2016 Formosa toxic spill, she participated in protests in her hometown of Loc Ha District and demanded compensation for those affected by the environmental disaster. She was arrested on October 17, 2017, under charges of subversion. Several hundred parishioners

held a prayer vigil in protest of her arrest. On April 12, 2018, she was sentenced to 9 years in prison and 5 years of house arrest. Prior to her arrest, she suffered from multiple health problems including kidney disease. In 2019, she frequently fainted and had to be rushed to the emergency room because of the poor prison conditions and lack of medicine.

## Tran Van Bang



**Date of Birth:** March 1, 1961

**Place Detained:** Chi Hoa Prison, Ho Chi Minh City Province

**Date of Arrest:** March 1, 2022

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Code) - Making, storing, spreading, or propagating information, materials, items for the purpose of opposing the State.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Tran Van Bang is an engineer, military veteran, and pro-democracy activist. He is a member of the Le Hieu Dang Club, a community organization advocating for democracy and the protection of Vietnam's sovereignty. Bang posted on social media that allegedly discredited the party

unspecified illness, so the sentence was reduced by 3 months on August 11, 2022. The arrest of civil society leaders connected to a coalition of NGOs developed under the EVFTA framework indicates the Vietnamese government's concern about the role these organizations might have in defending labor rights, land rights, and the environment.

## Tran Van Quyen



**Date of Birth:** 1999

**Place Detained:** B34 Detention Center, Ho Co Minh City

**Date of Arrest:** January 23, 2019

**Charges:** Article 113 (2015 Penal Code) - Terrorism aimed to oppose the people's authority.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Tran Van Quyen is an electronics trade worker. His family suffered from land grabs by local officials and he had to quit school to support his family. Witnessing social injustice at a young age, Quyen became outspoken about freedom, democracy, and human rights, particularly after the Formosa environmental disaster in 2016. Tran Van Quyen was arrested on January 23, 2019. On November

11, 2019, he was tried with Nguyen Van Vien and Chau Van Kham under charges of terrorism because of their alleged association with pro-democracy organizations. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

## Truong Minh Duc



**Date of Birth:** August 10, 1960

**Place Detained:** Prison No. 6, Nghe An Province

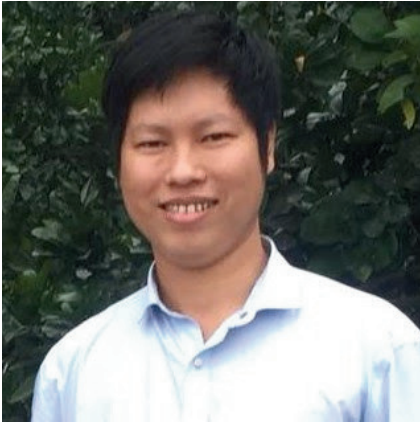
**Date of Arrest:** July 30, 2017

**Charges:** Article 79 (1999 Penal Code) - Carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Truong Minh Duc is a journalist and labor rights activist. He is a member of the Brotherhood for Democracy. He was also a member of Bloc 8406 and the Vietnam Populist Party, which promoted greater political pluralism in Vietnam. He was previously imprisoned in 2007 and served a sentence of 5 years for his activism. On July 30, 2017, he was

arrested in a crackdown against members of the Brotherhood for Democracy. Duc was charged with subversion and sentenced to 12 years in prison and 3 years of house arrest. In June 2019, he and several political prisoners went on a hunger strike for nearly two weeks to protest the lack of access to fans in prison while the weather was extremely hot in the summer months. Truong Minh Duc suffered a stroke in May 2017, and his health has worsened in prison. On July 6th 2018, his wife, Nguyễn Thị Kim Thanh, reports that they had moved him from Prison 14 to Prison 6 near Nghệ An without notifying his family. On August 9, 2021, during an allotted 10 minute phone call with his wife from prison, Duc reported that they are not providing COVID vaccines to prisoners.

## Trinh Ba Phuong



**Date of Birth:** January 26, 1986

**Place Detained:** Hanoi Police Detention Center No. 1, Hanoi

**Date of Arrest:** June 24, 2020

**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Trinh Ba Phuong is a land rights activist. In January 2020, Trinh Ba Phuong provided on-the-ground coverage when the authorities prevented media outlets from reporting about the Dong Tam police raid over land issues. Previously, he fought for his mother's release from prison and helped others

seek redress for land seized by the government. This activism resulted in Phuong being subjected to intimidation, harassment, and short detainment over the past four years. Trinh Ba Phuong met with US Embassy officials in February 2020, providing handwritten letters and personal testimonies about the Dong Tam police raid and calling for an independent investigation into the attack. In February 2023, the authorities sent him to the Central Psychiatric Evaluation Center without cause and put him through a series of unnecessary procedures. These include MRI's, telling him to take medicine without a diagnosis, and putting him in a small room for weeks at a time. He was there for a month and wrote a 5 page document detailing his experiences

## Trinh Ba Tu



**Date of Birth:** April 24, 1989

**Place Detained:** Prison No. 6, Nghe An Province

**Date of Arrest:** June 24, 2020

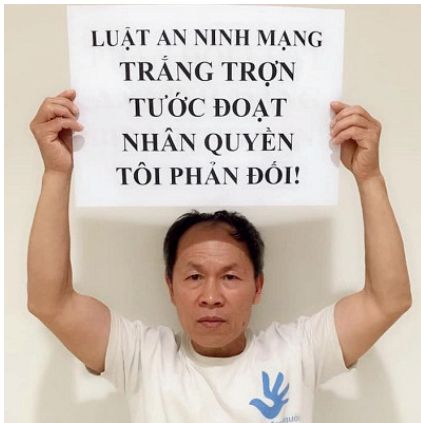
**Charges:** Article 117 (2015 Penal Code) - Making, storing, and spreading anti-state information and material.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Trinh Ba Tu is a land rights activist and reported on the Dong Tam police raid in January 2020. Back in 2015, he and forty others were physically assaulted by plainclothes police after they went to Prison No. 6 in Nghe An Province to welcome Trinh Ba Tu's father home. Trinh Ba Tu's father, Trinh Ba Khiem, was being released from prison after he was

arrested with his wife in 2014 for filming a government land-grab incident. In the attack, Trinh Ba Tu suffered the worst injuries, which required him to undergo two eye surgeries. His right eye is now unable to see clearly. He has been frequently monitored by the public security. On September 20th 2023, during a visit with Tu, his sister and father reported that he had been beaten, tortured, and shackled during his imprisonment.

\*On June 24, 2020, the Vietnamese authorities sent a force of a few hundred uniformed and plainclothes officers to arrest Trinh Ba Phuong, Trinh Ba Tu, and their mom, Can Thi Theu. The arrests occurred soon after the authorities concluded their investigation into the Dong Tam incident in mid-June 2020. On May 5, 2021, Can Thi Theu and Trinh Ba Tu were each sentenced to 8 years in prison and 3 years of house arrest. On December 15, 2021, Trinh Ba Phuong was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 5 years of house arrest.

## Truong Van Dung



**Name:** Truong Van Dung

**Date of Birth:** 1958

**Place Detained:** Hanoi Police Detention Center No. 1, Hanoi

**Date of Arrest:** May 21, 2022

**Charges:** Article 88 (1999 Penal Code) - Conducting propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.  
**Past Work and State Repression:** Truong Van Dung is a democracy activist and co-founded Hoi Bau Bi Tuong Than in 2013 to support political prisoners, victims of land dispossession, and their families. Dung is also involved in defending human rights and Vietnam's sovereignty against China's territorial aggression. Radio

Free Asia reported that from 2013 to 2018, the public security had physically assaulted Dung at least 6 times. Dung's teeth and ribs have been broken as a result of these police attacks. On May 21, 2022, Dung was arrested a week after Vietnam released four prisoners of conscience ahead of the Vietnamese Prime Minister's visit to the United States. Breaking away from recent trends, the authorities charged Dung under the 1999 penal code, rather than the 2015 penal code. On July 13th 2023, Truong Van Dung's appeal against a 6 year prison term was denied. He was dragged out of the courtroom as he desperately protested the "for show" trial. Truong Van Dung is currently serving a 6 year prison term under Article 88 of Vietnam's 1999 penal code, often used to prosecute those who voice opinions that oppose the Vietnam government.

## Yo Wo Nie (Ama Quynh)



**Date of Birth:** 1970

**Place Detained:** Unknown

**Date of Arrest:** September 20, 2021

**Charges:** Article 331 (2015 Code) - Abusing democratic freedoms to infringe upon the interests of the State, the legitimate rights and interests of organizations and/or citizens.

**Past Work and State Repression:** Y Wo Nie advocates for religious freedom and human rights for minorities such as the Ede ethnic group and the Montagnard people. Since the early 2000s, he demonstrated against the state's seizure of land in the Central Highlands. He was first arrested in 2004 and sentenced to 9 years in

prison with 5 years of house arrest. He was released early from prison in 2011. He continued to carry out missionary activities and arranged classes for local community members to learn about their rights. On September 20, 2021, local police charged him with "abusing democratic freedoms," because he wrote three reports on human rights violations that occurred in Vietnam. He was sentenced on May 20, 2022, to 4 years in prison. On August 16, 2022, the appeals court upheld the sentence.

# Index - 2022 Timeline

<b>05/01/2022</b>	YouTuber Nguyen Thai Hung arrested (Art. 331)
<b>07/01/2022</b>	Monks Le Thanh Trung Duong, Le Thanh Hoan Nguyen, Le Thanh Nhat Nguyen arrested for abusing democratic freedoms (Art. 331)
<b>11/01/2022</b>	Mai Phan Loi sentenced to 4 years in prison for tax evasion (Art. 200)
<b>12/01/2022</b>	Facebooker Le Manh Ha arrested (Art. 117)
<b>14/01/2022</b>	Former police captain Le Chi Thanh sentenced to 2 years in prison (Art. 330)
<b>15/01/2022</b>	Nguyen Duc Hung arrested (Art. 117)
<b>19/01/2022</b>	Nguyen Van Oai freed after serving 4.5 years in prison (Art. 257 & 304 of 1999 Penal Code)
<b>24/01/2022</b>	Dang Dinh Bach sentenced to 5 years in prison for tax evasion (Art. 200)
<b>05/02/2022</b>	Former journalist Doan Tu Tan arrested for abusing democratic freedoms (Art. 331)
<b>09/02/2022</b>	Environmentalist Nguy Thi Khanh arrested for tax evasion (Art. 200)
<b>17/02/2022</b>	Appeals court upheld 6.5 years sentence for Tran Quoc Khanh (Art. 117)
<b>28/02/2022</b>	Appeals court upheld 11 years sentence for Le Huu Minh Tuan (Art. 117)
<b>01/03/2022</b>	Tran Van Bang arrested (Art. 117)
<b>23/03/2022</b>	Le Van Dung (Le Dung Vova) sentenced to 5 years in prison (Art. 117)
<b>24/03/2022</b>	Appeals court upheld 10 years sentence for Do Nam Trung (Art. 117)
<b>24/03/2022</b>	Businesswoman Nguyen Phuong Hang arrested for abusing democratic freedoms (Art. 331)
<b>05/04/2022</b>	Nguyen Hoai Nam sentenced to 3.5 years in prison (Art. 331)
<b>07/04/2022</b>	Phan Bui Bao Thy sentenced to 1 year of "non-custodial reeducation" (Art. 331)
<b>13/04/2022</b>	Appeals court upheld 2 years sentence for former police captain Le Chi Thanh (Art. 330)
<b>14/04/2022</b>	Facebooker Dang Nhu Quynh arrested for posting "unverified informations"
<b>20/04/2022</b>	Appeals court upheld 5 years sentence for Le Trong Hung (Art. 117)
<b>26/04/2022</b>	Dinh Van Hai sentenced to 5 years in prison (Art. 117)
<b>06/05/2022</b>	Tran Hoang Huan sentenced to 8 years in prison (Art. 117)
<b>11/05/2022</b>	Ho Duc Hoa freed and expelled to the US
<b>12/05/2022</b>	Cao Thi Cuc arrested (Art. 331)
<b>20/05/2022</b>	Y Wo Nie sentenced to 4 years in prison (Art. 331)
<b>21/05/2022</b>	Truong Van Dung arrested (Art. 88 of 1998 penal code)
<b>09/06/2022</b>	Nguyen Duy Linh sentenced to 5 years in prison and 5 years of house arrest (Art. 117)
<b>18/06/2022</b>	Nguy Thi Khanh sentenced to 2 years in prison (Art. 200)
<b>22/06/2022</b>	Former police captain Le Chi Thanh sentenced to 3 more years in prison for abusing democratic freedoms (Art. 331)
<b>23/06/2022</b>	Phan Huu Diep Anh sentenced to 1.5 years in prison for abusing democratic freedoms (Art. 331)
<b>05/07/2022</b>	Nguyen Lan Thang arrested (Art. 117)
<b>13/07/2022</b>	Nguyen Duc Hung sentenced to 5.5 years in prison (Art. 117)
<b>20/07/2022</b>	5 monks and a volunteer sentenced to prison (Art. 331) : - Le Tung Van (5 years) - Le Thanh Trung Duong (4 years) - Le Thanh Hoan Nguyen (4 years) - Le Thanh Nhat Nguyen (4 years) - Le Thanh Nhi Nguyen (3.5 years) - Cao Thi Cuc (3 years)
<b>02/08/2022</b>	Blogger Do Cong Duong died in prison
<b>11/08/2022</b>	Appeals court upheld 5 years sentence for Dang Dinh Bach and reduced the sentence for Mai Phan Loi from 48 months to 45 months and for Bach Hung Duong from 30 months to 27 months (Art. 200)
<b>16/08/2022</b>	Appeals court upheld 4 years sentence for Y Wo Nie (Art. 331)
<b>16/08/2022</b>	Appeals court upheld 5 years sentence for Le Van Dung (Art. 117)

# Index - 2022 Timeline

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- 17/08/2022** Appeals court upheld 10 years sentence for Trinh Ba Phuong and 6 years sentence for Nguyen Thi Tam (Art. 117)
- 25/08/2022** Appeals court upheld 9 years sentence for Pham Doan Trang (Art. 117)
- 30/08/2022** Le Anh Hung sentenced to 5 years in prison (Art. 331)
- 07/09/2022** Bui Tuan Lam (Peter Lam Bui) arrested (Art. 117)
- 08/09/2022** Dang Dang Phuoc arrested (Art. 117)
- 08/09/2022** Phan Son Tung (Thinh Vuong party) arrested (Art. 117)
- 11/09/2022** Nguyen Phuong Hang charged for abusing democratic freedoms (Art. 331)
- 15/09/2022** Appeals court upheld 1 year sentence for Pham Tan Hoa for abusing democratic freedoms (Art. 331)
- 28/09/2022** Facebooker Nguyen Minh Son detained from Sept. 28, 2022 to Jan. 25, 2023 for posting anti-state videos.
- 03/10/2022** Vu Bich Van and Ong Thi Thuy arrested and charged for abusing democratic rights (Art. 331)
- 13/10/2022** Phan Thi Huong Thuy, a former member of the Hanoi Lawyers Association, is charged with abusing democratic freedom (Art. 331)
- 14/10/2022** Appeals trial postponed for Le Tung Van, Le Thanh Trung Duong, Le Thanh Hoan Nguyen, Le Thanh Nhat Nguyen, Le Thanh Nhi Nguyen, and Cao Thi Cuc (Art. 331)
- 25/10/2022** Citizen journalist Le Manh Ha sentenced to 8 years in prison and 5 years of house arrest (Art. 117)
- 27/10/2022** Facebooker Dang Nhu Quynh sentenced to 2 years in prison for abusing democratic rights (Art. 331)
- 03/11/2022** Appeals court upheld sentencing for Le Tung Van, Le Thanh Trung Duong, Le Thanh Hoan Nguyen, Le Thanh Nhat Nguyen, Le Thanh Nhi Nguyen, and Cao Thi Cuc (Art. 331)
- 17/11/2022** Facebooker Bui Van Thuan sentenced to 8 years in prison and 5 years of house arrest (Art. 117)
- 21/11/2022** Nguy Thi Khanh's sentence reduced from 24 to 21 months (Art. 200)
- 22/11/2022** Nguyen Thai Hung sentenced to 4 years in prison and his wife, Vu Thi Kim Hoang, is sentenced to 2.5 years in prison (Art. 331)
- 16/12/2022** Hoang Ngoc Giao taken into custody and charged with espionage
- 26/12/2022** Nguyen Nhu Phuong sentenced to 5 years in prison and 3 years of house arrest for creating and distributing news against the government



# Index - 2023 Timeline

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<b>04/01/2023</b>	Hoang Van Vuong arrested
<b>17/03/2023</b>	Pham Thi Thanh Nha arrested
<b>21/03/2023</b>	Pham Kim Khan released from prison
<b>28/03/2023</b>	Truong Van Dung sentenced to 6 years in prison for giving interviews to a US-based program
<b>29/03/2023</b>	Huynh Thi To Nga released from prison
<b>29/03/2023</b>	Appeals court upheld 4 year sentence for Nguyen Thai Hung and 2.5 year sentence for Vu Thi Kim Hoang
<b>11/04/2023</b>	Nguyen Lan Thang sentenced to 6 years in prison and 2 years of house arrest
<b>12/05/2023</b>	Tran Van Bang sentenced to 8 years in prison and 3 years of house arrest
<b>13/05/2023</b>	Nguy Thi Khanh released from prison
<b>25/05/2023</b>	Bui Tuan Lam sentenced to 5.5 years in prison for mocking a minister's lavish dining
<b>01/06/2023</b>	Hoang Thi Minh Hong arrested for "tax evasion"
<b>06/06/2023</b>	Dang Dang Phuoc sentenced to 8 years in prison for his music
<b>28/06/2023</b>	Le Thi Dung released after 15 months in prison
<b>01/07/2023</b>	Tran Hoang Phuc released after 6 years in prison and 4 years of house arrest
<b>05/07/2023</b>	Le Anh Hung released after 5 years in prison
<b>04/08/2023</b>	Nguyen Hoang Nam arrested on an anti-state charge related to his social media activity, just 2 years after his release from prison
<b>07/08/2023</b>	Hoang Van Vuong sentenced to 5 years in prison without knowledge by his family for "abusing his democratic rights"
<b>28/09/2023</b>	Hong Thi Minh Hong sentenced to 3 years in prison
<b>27/09/2023</b>	Ngo Thi To Nhien arrested for allegedly appropriating documents

## About Viet Tan

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The mission of Viet Tan is to overcome dictatorship, build the foundation for a sustainable democracy, and demand justice and human rights for the Vietnamese people through a nonviolent struggle based on civic participation. Viet Tan has members and supporters throughout Vietnam and among Vietnamese communities worldwide. Our members represent a cross-section of the country and the diaspora.

We are the lawyer in Hanoi, the blogger in Saigon, the farmer in the Mekong Delta, the doctor in Sydney, the university student in California, and the retiree in Paris. Our members include well-known prisoners of conscience and individuals who have sacrificed their lives for a free Vietnam.

Viet Tan engages in actions that empower the Vietnamese people. Specifically, we seek to roll back existing restrictions against key human rights: freedom of expression, freedom of association, and freedom of assembly. These enabling freedoms are the pillars for a civil society.

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