



VIETNAM'S PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN 2021



The Swiss Vietnam Committee COSUNAM was constituted in Geneva in 1990 with the objectives to make the Swiss authorities and public opinion aware of the situation in Vietnam and to support all peaceful means for the democratization of Vietnam in the sense of the establishment of freedom of expression, free elections and more generally of public liberties in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Citizenship.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

01 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

02 TIMELINE: THE CONTINUED CRACKDOWN ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM

05 RECOMMENDATIONS

06 PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE PROFILES

23 ABOUT US

**The informations and illustrations
in this report come from Viet Tan's
sources.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Vietnamese government has continued to show its disregard for human rights. As a one-party state, Vietnam has oppressed free media and any oppositional political parties. The crackdown on human rights defenders has intensified over the past six years, with the use of vague penal codes to forcibly limit and suppress peaceful freedom of expression and political opposition.

Since the Cybersecurity Law went into effect at the beginning of 2019, the authorities have used social media posts from platforms like Facebook to arrest and imprison activists. Music teacher Nguyen Nang Tinh of Nghe An province was sentenced to 11 years in prison on November 15, 2019 for sharing information online about political prisoners, environmental disasters, and street demonstrations. Mr. Tinh is among [ten other individuals](#) detained in 2019 because of their online postings. This number does not include the amount of arrests of social activists the government charges with subversion or terrorism.

The authorities have also targeted foreign nationals of Vietnamese descent. In the past three years, two Vietnamese-Americans (William Nguyen and Michael Nguyen, not related), and one Vietnamese-Australian (Chau Van Kham) were detained. The government alleges these individuals were in the country for political reasons, but they were engaged in expression of freedoms protected by international treaties that the Vietnamese government has signed.

At the beginning of 2020, the Hanoi regime heavy-handedly asserted its authority against the local residents of Dong Tam. In the early hours of January 9, a police force of several thousand were sent to the area. One civilian was killed in the police raid and three policemen died under questionable circumstances during the process. Among those killed was Le Dinh Kinh, a respected 84-year-old land rights activist protecting the residents' land from government seizure. The authorities blocked off access to Dong Tam as well as shut off internet and phone connections to prevent media reports from investigating the incident. They later arrested 29 family members of Mr. Kinh for the death of the policemen. In a speedy trial without proper legal counsel for the defendants, two of Mr. Kinh's sons were sentenced with the death penalty.



Timeline: The Continued Crackdown on Human Rights in Vietnam

2020

JAN

January

Jan 09: Dong Tam Police Raid

FEB

February

Feb 12: EVFTA ratification by the European Parliament

MAR

March

Mar 18: Between 11-14 ethnic minority Hmong activists sentenced from 2 years to life in prison (Art. 109 & Art. 117)

APR

April

Apr 18: Arrest of Dinh Thi Thu Thuy (Art. 117)

Apr 24: Arrest of Tran Duc Thach (Art. 109)

Apr 27: Chung Hoang Chuong sentenced to 1.5 years in prison (Art. 117)

Apr 28: Phan Cong Hoi sentenced to 5 years in prison + 3 years probation (Art. 117)

MAY

May

May 21: Arrest of Pham Chi Thanh (Art. 117)

May 25: Arrest of Nguyen Tuong Thuy (Art. 117)

JUN

June

Jun 12: Arrest of Le Huu Minh Tuan (Art. 117)

Jun 13: Arrest of Huynh Anh Khoa & Nguyen Dang Thuong (Art. 117)

Jun 23: Nguyen Van Khiem sentenced to 6 years in prison

Jun 26: Arrest of Can Thi Thieu, Trinh Ba Phuong, Trinh Ba Tu, Nguyen Thi Tam, Vu Tien Chi, Nguyen Thi Cam Thuy (Art. 117)

Art. 109: Subversion
Art. 117: Propaganda against the state
Art. 118: Public disorder
Art. 331: Abuse of democratic freedoms

July

Jul 07: Nguyen Quoc Duc Vuong sentenced to 8 years in prison +3 years probation (Art. 117)

Jul 31: 8 members of Hien Phap Group sentenced from 2.5 years to 8 years in prison (Art. 118)

JUL

AUG

August

Aug 21: Arrest of Tran Thi Tuyet Dieu (Art. 117)

SEP

September

Sep 14: 29 people from Dong Tam sentenced from 2 years probation to the **death penalty**

OCT

October

Oct 07: Arrest of Pham Doan Trang, a prominent journalist and activist, Voltaire Prize awardee, Reporters Without Borders 2019 Award Recipient (Art. 117)

NOV

DEC

December

Dec 11: Nguyen Trung Linh sentenced to 12 years in prison (Art. 117)
Dec 14: Tran Duc Thach sentenced to 12 years in prison + 3 years probation (Art. 117)
Dec 17: Arrest of former journalist Truong Chau Huu Danh (Art. 331)

Art. 109: Subversion

Art. 117: Propaganda against the state

Art. 118: Public disorder

Art. 331: Abuse of democratic freedoms

Timeline: The Continued Crackdown on Human Rights in Vietnam

2021

January

Jan 05: Trial of DAVN members under Article 117
Pham Chi Dung sentenced to 15 years in prison +
3 years probation

Nguyen Tuong Thuy sentenced to 11 years in
prison +3 years probation

Le Huu Minh Tuan sentenced to 11 years in prison
+3 years probation

Jan 20: Dinh Thi Thu Thuy sentenced to 7 years
in prison (Art. 117)

JAN

FEB

February

Feb 21: Arrest of state media journalist Phan Bui Bao
Thy (Art. 117)

MAR

March

run in the National Assembly Election (Art. 117)

Mar 10: Arrest of Tran Quoc Khanh who wanted to

Mar 23: Arrest of Nguyen Duy Huong, MD (Art. 117)

Mar 26: Arrest of Le Trong Hung who wanted to
run in the National Assembly Election (Art. 117)

APR

April

Apr 07: Arrest of Nguyen Thuy Hanh (Art. 117)

Apr 22: Facebooker Ngoc Lan CT (Le Thi Binh)
sentenced to 2 years in prison (Art. 117)

Apr 23: Freelance journalist Tran Thi Tuyet Dieu
sentenced to 8 years in prison (Art. 117)

MAY

May

May 5: Land rights activist Can Thi Theu and her
son Trinh Ba Phuong sentenced each to 8 years in
prison +3 years probation (Art. 117)

While the COVID-19 pandemic consumed global attention, the Vietnamese government continued to detain and sentence human rights defenders to nearly a decade or more in prison. By the end of 2020, [Defend the Defenders reported](#) that Vietnam has at least 258 prisoners of conscience, an increase of [almost twenty more](#) activists detained from the previous year. The profiles mentioned below are only a small sample of those who are being detained as a result of Vietnam's crackdown on human rights.

Art. 109: Subversion

Art. 117: Propaganda against the state

Art. 118: Public disorder

Art. 331: Abuse of democratic freedoms

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, Tran Huynh Duy Thuc, Ho Duc Hoa, Nguyen Van Tuc, Pastor Nguyen Trung Ton, Truong Minh Duc, Chau Van Kham, 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 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.

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 2015 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



Name: Can Thi Theu***Age:** ~58 (b. 1962)

Place Detained: Cham Mat Detention Center,

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 back 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 probation. The other son, Trinh Ba Phuong is still in pre-trial detention.



Name: Chau Van Kham

Age: ~72 (b. 1950)

Place Detained: Thu Duc Prison, Binh Thuan Province

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: Chau Van Kham is a retired baker and a member of Viet Tan. He was detained in January 2019 while meeting with a member of the Brotherhood for Democracy in Vietnam. In November 2019, the Australian citizen was sentenced to 12 years in prison for terrorist activities, but the indictment did not describe any acts of violence. Human Rights Watch has likened the court verdict to a "death sentence," particularly because of his elderly age. Kham's wife and children have grave concerns for his well-being, especially because he suffers from glaucoma, high blood pressure, and kidney stones. Since the coronavirus pandemic, the Australian consular has had limited abilities to visit him, which raises concerns about his current condition.



Name: Dinh Thi Thu Thuy

Age: ~38 (b. 1982)

Place Detained: Hau Giang Police Detention Center, Hau Giang 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.



Name: Ho Duc Hoa

Age: ~46 (b. 1974)

Place Detained: Nam Ha Prison, Ha Nam Province

Date of Arrest: August 2011

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

Past Work and State Repression: Ho Duc Hoa is a religious activist and citizen-journalist. As a member of the Vinh Diocese and John Paul II Group to Protect Life, he organized programs to aid the disabled, mobilized access to education for poor students, and assisted typhoon victims. Hoa was arrested in August 2011 and sentenced to 13 years in prison and 5 years of probation as part of a crackdown on activists with ties to religious organizations, anti-China protests, environmental advocacy, and citizen journalism. Hoa's health has reportedly worsened due to poor prison conditions. Though the prison is aware of his ailing health, he has not received treatment and is denied access to religious materials.



Name: Hoang Duc Binh

Age: 38 (b. 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. He was denied his appeal.



Name: Huynh Thi To Nga

Age: ~37 (b. 1983)

Place Detained: Dong Nai Province Detention Center

Date of Arrest: January 28, 2019

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

Past Work and State Repression: Huynh Thi To Nga is a medical doctor and mother of 2 young children. In parallel with her professional activity in a hospital in Saigon, she maintains two Facebook accounts (Dieu Hang and Selena Zen) where she analyzes the political situation in Vietnam as well as posts articles promoting democratic pluralism in Vietnam. Huynh Thi To Nga was arrested on January 28, 2019 and sentenced at the end of 2019 to 5 years in prison for "propaganda against the state" under Article 117 of the Vietnamese 2015 Penal Code. Her brother, Huynh Minh Tam, was arrested at the same time and was sentenced to 9 years in prison under the same charges.



Le Dinh Cong

Name: Le Dinh Cong & Le Dinh Chuc
Age: Cong (~57- b. 1964) | Chuc (~41- b. 1980)
Place Detailed: 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.

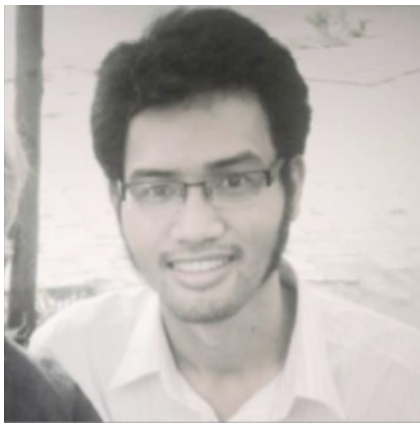


Le Dinh Chuc

Name: Le Dinh Luong
Age: 55 (b. December 10, 1965)
Place Detained: Ba Sao Prison, Nam Ha 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. Le Dinh 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 probation. 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, Le Dinh Luong engaged in a two-week hunger strike in October 2020 to protest the inhumane living condition in prison.





Name: Le Huu Minh Tuan

Age: ~30 (b. 1990)

Place Detained: Chi Hoa Prison, Ho Chi Minh City

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 is currently studying 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 probation.



Name: Nguyen Nang Tinh

Age: ~44 (b. 1976)

Place Detained: Quynh Luu District, Nghe An 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 probation for sharing and posting materials deemed to be "anti-state." 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.



Name: Nguyen Thuy Hanh

Age: ~57 (b. 1963)

Place Detained: Unknown

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, a 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.



Name: Nguyen Trung Ton

Age: 49 (b. September 2, 1971)

Place Detained: Gia Trung Prison, Gia Lai Province

Date of Arrest: July 30, 2017

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

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 Nguyen Trung 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 probation. 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.



Name: Nguyen Trung Truc
Age: 44 (b. June 6, 1974)
Place Detained: Prison No. 5, Thanh Hoa Province
Date of Arrest: August 4, 2017
Charges: Article 109 (2015 Penal Code) - Activities against the people's government.
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 arrests of other members of the Brotherhood for Democracy. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison on September 12, 2017. 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.



Name: Nguyen Tuong Thuy
Age: ~68 (b. 1952)
Place Detained: Bo La Prison Camp, 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 issues 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. Nguyen Tuong 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 Ha Noi, arresting him, confiscating documents, cell phones, and laptops. On January 5, 2021, he was sentenced to 11 years of prison and 3 years of probation.



Name: Nguyen Van Hoa

Age: 25 (b. April 15, 1995)

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

Date of Arrest: January 11, 2017

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

Past Work and State Repression: Nguyen Van Hoa is a young Catholic activist from Ky Anh, Ha Tinh province, one of the areas that was 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 27, 2017, in a secret trial, Hoa was sentenced to seven years in prison and three years of probation. Neither a defense lawyer nor his family were present at the trial.



Name: Nguyen Van Tuc

Age: 56 (b. 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 probation. He suffers from various health conditions, such as heart disease and a degenerative spine. He has been denied proper medical treatment and his health has since worsened in prison.



Name: Nguyen Van Vien

Age: ~49 (b. 1971)

Place Detained: H C M 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. He was last known to be held at No. 4 Phan Dang Luu Detention Center in Ho Chi Minh City.



Name: Pham Chi Dung

Age: ~54 (b. 1966)

Place Detained: Bo La Prison Camp, Binh Duong 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, 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 "anti-government 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, Foreign Policy, the BBC, and Nikkei Asian Review. To oppress 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. On January 5, 2021, he was sentenced to 15 years in prison and 3 years of probation.



Name: Pham Doan Trang

Age: 42 (b. May 27, 1978)

Place Detained: Hoa Lo Prison

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 continued to write prolifically through blogs, on social media, and in books about social and political issues in Vietnam. 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 been recognized for her activism and journalism by organizations such as Reporters Without Borders. She has constantly been harassed, surveyed, and detained by the Vietnamese authorities. She was prevented from meeting with President Barack Obama in May 2016. On October 6, 2020, the Vietnamese authorities arrested Pham Doan Trang despite concluding a few hours earlier the annual US-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue to improve democratic freedoms in Vietnam. She is charged under Article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code, and faces up to 20 years in prison.



Name: Phan Kim Khanh

Age: 27 (b. June 3, 1993)

Place Detained: Ba Sao Prison, Nam Ha Province

Date of Arrest: March 21, 2017

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

Past Work and State Repression: Phan Kim Khanh was studying international relations at Thai Nguyen University. He created and hosted two blogs, Bao Tham Nhung, an anti-corruption newspaper and Tuan Viet Nam (Vietnam Weekly), as well as three Facebook pages and two YouTube channels. He was arrested on March 21, 2017 for "propaganda against the state." After being detained for seven months, his trial began on October 25, 2017 and lasted only four hours. The young student was sentenced to 6 years in prison and 4 years of probation. He had difficulty in appealing his conviction and was the victim of abuse and threats from the prison authorities. In May 2020, the United Nations Arbitrary Detention Working Group (UNGWAD) recognized the arbitrariness of the arrest and detention of Phan Kim Khanh, calling for his immediate release from prison.



Name: Pham Van Troi

Age: 48 (b. October 10, 1972)

Place Detained: Ba Sao Prison, Nam Ha Province

Date of Arrest: July 30, 2017

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

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 probation. 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.



Name: Tran Duc Thach

Age: ~68 (b. 1952)

Place Detained: Nghe An Province Police Detention Center, Nghe An 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. He used blog sites and Facebook to share insights on human rights and corruption. 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 probation.



Name: Tran Hoang Phuc

Age: 26 (b. April 30, 1994)

Place Detained: An Phuoc Detention Center, Binh Duong Province

Date of Arrest: June 29, 2017

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

Past Work and State Repression: Tran Hoang Phuc is a law student, but the school did not let him graduate because of his activism. While in school, he founded the Vietnamese Students for Human Rights Association and is a member of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), a training program developed by the United States. He helped seek compensation for those affected by the Formosa environmental disaster in 2016 and provided relief for victims of annual floods. In May 2016, the Vietnamese authorities prevented him from attending a civil society meeting with President Barack Obama. On June 29, 2017, the Vietnamese authorities kidnapped Tran Hoang Phuc from his apartment, and charged him for propaganda against the state because of video posts he made online. On January 31, 2018, he was sentenced to 6 years in prison and 4 years probation. Tran Hoang Phuc suffers from Hepatitis C, but receives inadequate medical attention while in prison. He is also prevented from accessing books, writing materials, and adequate food.



Name: Tran Huynh Duy Thuc

Age: 54 (b. November 29, 1966)

Place Detained: Prison No. 6, Nghe An Province

Date of Arrest: May 24, 2009

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

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 strikes were in October and November 2020.



Name: Tran Thi Xuan

Age: 44 (b. October 10, 1976)

Place Detained: Prison No. 5, Thanh Hoa Province

Date of Arrest: October 17, 2017

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

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 probation. 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.



Name: Tran Van Quyen

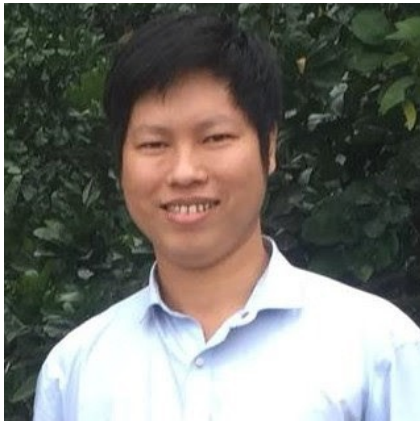
Age: ~21 (b. 1999)

Place Detained: B34 Detention Center, Ho Co 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: 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, and was last known to be at the B34 Detention Center in Ho Chi Minh City.



Name: Trinh Ba Phuong*

Age: ~35 (b. 1985)

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 resulted in 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.



Name: Trinh Ba Tu*

Age: ~31 (b. 1989)**Place Detained:** Cam Mat Detention Center

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 public security officials since reporting on the Dong Tam incident.



Name: Truong Minh Duc

Age: 60 (b. August 10, 1960)

Place Detained: Prison No. 6, Nghe An Province

Date of Arrest: July 30, 2017

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

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 5 years sentence 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 probation. 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.



The informations and illustrations in this report come from Viet Tan's sources.

The mission of Viet Tan is to 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. Their members represent a cross-section of the country and the diaspora.

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In this sense, Cosunam actively supports the efforts of Viet Tan.