

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VIETNAMESE INTERFAITH COUNCIL IN AMERICA, CALLING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND GOVERNMENT OF ALL FREE COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD TO INTERFERING DIRECTLY WITH THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM, FORCING THEM TO STOP ALL POLICIES AND REPRESSION, RELIGIOUS ABUSES AND PROSECUTION IN VIETNAM.**



The Vietnamese Interfaith Council in America includes Buddhist, Cao Dai, Catholic, Protestant, Hoa Hao Buddhism, and Orthodox religions. Religious Leaders attending the Annual Conference of the Vietnamese Interfaith Council on March 11th, 2019 at the Vietnamese Catholic Center, in the City of Santa Ana, California, collectively agreed:

WHEREAS, since seizing power in Northern Vietnam in 1945 until its complete takeover of the entire Vietnamese nation in 1975 and in the years that followed, the Vietnamese communist authorities have sought to engross and control all religions in the country. Specifically, the Vietnamese communist authorities have continuously carried out measures to suppress religion subtly as representatives of the different faiths have presented in past annual conferences.

Some of the highlights are:

1. Arrest, detain, assassinate prominent and influential clergy, religious leaders, and lay followers.
2. Prohibit, restrict the appointment and training of clergy.
3. Restrict the movement and activities of clergy and religious leaders.
4. Destroy, confiscate religious facilities, schools, hospitals, and social institutions.
5. Maximum restriction on religious activities such as worship, ceremonies, truncate and restrict the distribution of religious documents and publications.
6. Dissolve, restrict the assembly and activities of religious organizations.
7. Forbid, restrict contacts with religious authorities overseas.
8. Engross upon the different religious institutions by establishing state-sponsored religious organizations, independent religious groups, or by infiltrating the religious institutions to collect information, disrupt with the intention to create division among religious institutions.
9. Slander and defame religions with different media, newspapers, propaganda campaigns, to diminish the reputation of the various religions.

Most recently, in particular, the heavy sentences were given to 4 prisoners of conscience including Pastor Nguyễn Trung Tôn, Journalist Trương Minh Đức, Engineer Phạm Văn Trội, Ms. Trần Thị Xuân and the entire family of Hòa Hảo Buddhist followers Bùi Văn Trung, Vương Văn Thả.

Facing the blatant suppression of religion by the Vietnamese communist authorities, we collectively resolved as follow:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VIETNAMESE INTERFAITH COUNCIL IN AMERICA, AS FOLLOWS:

The Vietnamese communist authorities must release all Religious Leaders, clergy, lay followers of the different religions and other patriots who are under detention or isolation such as Protestant Pastor Nguyễn Trung Tôn, Cao Dai Dignitary Hứa Phi, Father Nguyễn Văn Lý, Venerable Mater Thích Quảng Độ, Hoà Hảo Buddhist followers Mr. Bùi Văn Trung and his children, Nguyễn Bắc Truyền, Vương Văn Thả, Nguyễn Văn Túc and prisoners of conscience who have been given heavy sentences such as: Trần Huỳnh Duy Thức, Journalist Trương Minh Đức, Engineer Phạm Văn Trội and Ms. Trần Thị Xuân.

- Immediately return to the different religions properties that have been illegally seized since 1975.
- Fully respect the fundamental rights of the different religions in term of religious practice, missionary, religious training, appointment, and transferring of clergy without the control of the authorities.
- Repeal the various laws and decrees aimed at restricting religious activities.
- Repeal the Cybersecurity Law aimed at silencing the voices of all citizens who are advocating for Freedom, Democracy, and Human Rights for the entire nation and people.
- Immediately halt the suppression, defaming and denouncing of Priests and the arrests of patriotic citizens protesting the Vietnamese communist authorities' Special Economic Zones and Cybersecurity laws.

WE CALL ON THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED NATIONS, THE EUROPEAN UNION PARLIAMENT AND ALL OTHER FREE NATIONS IN THE WORLD.

Directly intervene with the Vietnamese communist authorities, demanding that they must halt all repressive and discriminatory policies against religions.

Open investigations on severe religious abuses continuously occurred in Vietnam.

Request the United States Government to consider reenlisting Vietnam onto the list of Country of Particular Concern for serious human rights and religious freedom violations.

Apply strong and effective economic and aids sanctions in the face of the violations stated above.

Little Saigon, California on March 11th, 2019

Undersigned by Members of the Vietnamese Interfaith Council in America

BUDDHIST: Venerable Master Thích Minh Nguyễn, Venerable Master Thích Chơn Thành.

CAO DAI: Dignitary Hà Vũ Bằng.

CATHOLIC: Rev. Tran Van Kiem, Rev. Tran Cong Nghi, Rev. Mai Khai Hoan.

CHRISTIAN: Pastor Le Thuong, Pastor Lê Minh, and Pastor David Doan

HOA HAO BUDDHIST: Professor Nguyen Thanh Giàu, Abbot Trang Văn Mến

OTHOXOX: Rev. Mai Biên