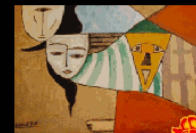
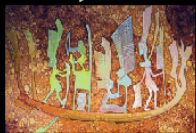




SAIGON ARTS, CULTURE & EDUCATION INSTITUTE



To Research, Document & Promote Vietnamese-American Culture

NEWSLETTER # 72

OCTOBER 2014

A COUNTRY
STAYS ALIVE
WHEN ITS
CULTURE IS
ALIVE.

HOPE NEVER DIES
IN THE
INDOMITABLE
VIETNAMESE MIND

- SACEI Newsletter updates you on the latest news about Vietnamese-America.
- It serves as a LINK between SACEI members and those who are interested in the Vietnamese or Vietnamese-American culture.

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The Communist Land Reform Campaign (1946-1957)

THE LAND REFORM (1946-1957)

Link to buy book:

<http://www.booklooker.de/B%FCcher/Angebote/titel=ROT%2BLEUCHTET%2BDER%2BSONG%2BCAI>

Source: Franz Faber, *Rot leuchtet der Song Cai* (Red Light on Cai River), 1955 Kongress – Verlag Berlin.

Robert Turner wrote in 1975:

“North Vietnamese land reform teams were provided with both training documents and advisors from China to assist them in correctly implementing the program...

The ‘special people’s tribunals’ were also copied after the Chinese model. The “defendant” was usually prohibited from responding to the charges and was often forced to kneel before the court or to stand in a hole so he would be below the accusers in stature. This was apparently to remove any inhibitions the peasants might have toward an individual who for years had been considered “above them’ socially...

Failure to participate in the denunciation of a landlord might easily be interpreted as harboring “pro-landlord thoughts, so it is not surprising that many of the victims of this “historic justice” were described as combining the characteristics of Jack the Ripper and Grigori Rasputin... The absence of a legitimate complaint did not deter the land reform cadres. Appropriate charges were simply manufactured and the proceedings continued.

At the conclusion of the “trial,” the judge would usually ask the peasants whether or not the defendant was guilty. Land reform cadres strategically placed throughout the crowd would begin to scream; “Guilty! Guilty! Guilty!”

Land reform became more fierce (sic) as it progressed...

“Land reform is a revolutionary task...It is a glorious and heavy task. The fighter is not only the man who kills the enemy at the front. You are fighters, too: fighters on the anti-feudal front. (Ho Chi Minh, *Selected Works*, 3: 422, 4: 191.

The Party was aware that wives and children of the men tortured, imprisoned or executed during the campaign were unlikely to become staunch supporters of the new regime...To keep these elements from proselytizing against the Party and to eliminate additional “possible dangers in the future,” relatives of landlords were isolated. Hoang van Chi described the isolation policy:

“As soon as a man had been labeled as ‘landlord,’ he and his family were boycotted and shunned by their fellow human beings. Like leprous dogs, they became creatures at whom

children were encouraged to throw stones. Nobody was permitted to talk to them or to have any contact with them. For more than a year...members of landlords’ families were

prevented from working. In consequence the majority of them died of starvation, children and old people first, and eventually the others.” Hoang Van Chi. *From Colonialism to Communism*. Nguyen Ngoc Bich

Projecting one execution for every 160 or so village residents, it could indicate nearly 100,000 executions. As more probable estimate is... 50,000, according to Bernard Fall. *The Two Vietnams*, 155... In addition to those who were executed, one must consider the indirect casualties: the landlords who committed suicide to avoid execution and torture, and the members of families of convicted individuals who were forced by the isolation policy to die of starvation. This figure is more difficult to ascertain, but estimates of 300,000 to 500,000 are common. Hoang van Chi put the figure at half a million. (Hoang Van Chi, 205)”

Robert F Turner: *Vietnamese Communism*. Hoover Institution Press, 1975: 135-143.



Landlords executed following the conclusion of the public denunciation



Landlords with hands tied behind their backs were ordered to kneel down to listen to the public denunciation

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A peasant denounced a landlord



Continue on next page



ĐỊA CHỦ ÁC QUÊ

Thánh hiền dạy rằng: "Vi nhân tiện nhân." Ai sống lành, chung đức với thì An Hòa kìa hết nông dân, thì mau lại nông, như trái thối không thể ăn. Bức này số học địa chủ quê người không như vậy. Đây là một thí dụ:

Mỹ địa chủ Cùchinh-Lang cũng hai đứa con và mấy tên lâu la dè:

— Giết chết là nông dân.

— Tra tiền đánh địa chủ nông dân, họ còn tàn tệ.

— Năm 1944, chúng đưa 32 gia đình gần 500 người — Năm 1944, chúng đưa 37 gia đình và đưa đến phá rừng khai ruộng cho chúng. Chúng bắt làm nhiều, và cho ăn đói là chúng ăn, vì vậy khổ quá, 32 gia đình đã chết hết, không còn một người.

— Chúng đã bắt hơn 30 nông dân — Năm 1945, chúng đưa 30 nông dân bị nạn đói ở Vinh và lên địa chủ. Chúng bị chúng cho ăn đói, bắt làm nhiều, 11 năm sau, đưa 30 người đã chết ở năm 1945.

— Năm 1944—45, chúng đưa 30 tên nhốt vào ngục. Chúng bắt các em ở ở dưới hầm, cho ăn đói như chuột, bắt làm quá sức, bắt đánh đập không nghỉ. Chỉ một tháng, 15 em đã bị chết.

Tên là họ của địa chủ Cùchinh-Lang, đã trực tiếp, gần tiếp giết chết gần 500 nông dân.

Còn những cách chúng tra tấn nông dân khác là nhiều hơn, thì tên này không báo gì lại ông bạn Pháp. Tới đây:

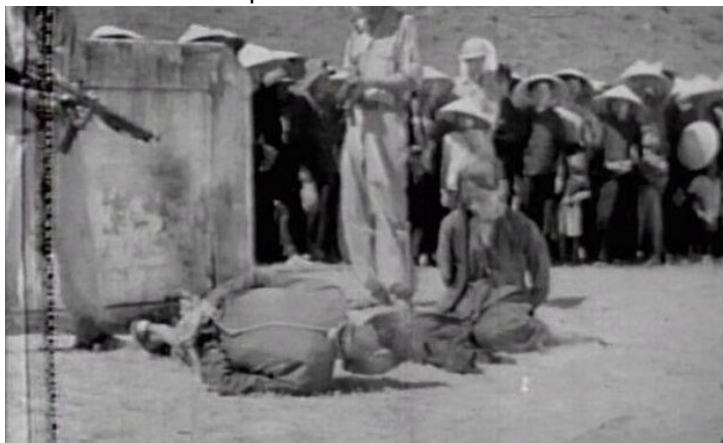
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A public tribunal



Public humiliation and denunciation of a landlord



Landlords executed right after the end of the public denunciation

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The party admitted its error in the Land Reform



Ho Chi Minh shed crocodile tears after realizing the land reform had erred.



Landlords executed right after the end of the public denunciation



Ho Chi Minh's self-criticism published on a newspaper

Despite admitting its error, the Party continued to rule with an iron fist and to oppress the people.

Based on Russian Archives: <http://www.rusarchives.ru/evants/exhibitions/vietnam1/22.shtml>

Экспонаты историко-документальной выставки
 “Советско-вьетнамское экономическое и научно-техническое
 сотрудничество. 1950 – 1990 гг.”
 Письмо Хо Ши Мина И.В.Сталину. 1952 г.
 Архив Президента РФ

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Дорогому товарищу И.В. Сталину

Направляю Вам проект аграрной программы партии Трудящихся Вьетнама. Проект программы был составлен мною при помощи товарищей Лу Шао-ши и Ван Ша-сян. Прошу Вас ознакомиться с ним и дать Ваши указания по нему.

С коммунистическим приветом!

/Хо Ши Мин/

31 октября 1952г. Ho Chi Minh

Копии посланы в Ц.К. Коммунистической
Молодежи, Припаркам.
1. XI 1952. W C-54/64)

Архив Президента РФ

Translation:

Dear Comrade Stalin:

Sire, please find attached the Land Reform program of the Vietnamese Communist Party. The program has been established by myself with the help of Lu Shao Shi and Van Sha Sha.

Sire, please look at it over and provide suggestions.

Ho Chi Minh, October 31, 1952

PS: this document proves without doubt that:

Ho was the main instigator of the Land Reform that killed more than 100,000 people,

By using Sire (Ngài) to call Stalin, he put the latter on a pedestal and presented himself as a "puppet" of the Soviets.

By establishing a communist empire over Vietnam and having sold his soul to the Soviets and Chinese communists, he could not claim to be a Vietnamese hero or nationalist.

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The Land Reform Exhibit (2014)

<http://www.asiasentinel.com/politics/vietnam-quickly-shutters-land-reform-exhibit/>

On September 5, 2014 the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sports website posted an announcement saying that the History Museum would hold an exhibit from September 8 until December assembled from the archives of the central government, the Communist Party and various provincial museums. It was an exhibit "pregnant with valuable historical contents never shown before," the ministry said.

A few Vietnamese who remember that period intimately, notably the economic historian Dang Phong and, very recently, the journalist Tran Dinh, have said openly that the ideologically driven land reform campaign was a complete failure. For younger generations, however, the gory details – at least 100,000, and perhaps two or three times that many, landlords were shot, beheaded or beaten to death by peasant mobs incited by Party cadres – have been lost from view.



On the morning of September 9, the third day of the exhibition, a few dozen people, all wearing red shirts proclaiming themselves farmers from the village of Duong Noi and bearing placards demanding "human rights," marched from a bus station to the History Museum. They also forced the closure of the exhibit.

The Saga Continues (2014)

VIDEO : SOCIALISM & COMMUNISM ROBBED LAND OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM PEOPLE

https://www.youtube.com/embed/1IzmOwnVT_g

**Vietnam: Pervasive Deaths, Injuries in Police Custody
Urgent Need to End Abuses, Ensure Justice for Victims**

(Bangkok, September 16, 2014) – Police throughout Vietnam abuse people in their custody, in some cases leading to death, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. The Vietnamese government should take immediate action to end suspicious deaths in custody and torture of detainees by police, Human Rights Watch said.

The 96-page report, "Public Insecurity: Deaths in Custody and Police Brutality in Vietnam," highlights cases of police brutality that resulted in deaths and serious injuries of people in custody between August 2010 and July 2014. Human Rights Watch documented abuses in 44 of Vietnam's 58 provinces, throughout the country, and in all five of the country's major cities.

"Police severely abused people in custody in every region of Vietnam," said Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "The Vietnam government has a human rights crisis on its hands and should investigate and start holding abusive police accountable."

The report draws on Human Rights Watch's review of police abuse cases reported in government controlled Vietnamese-language newspapers, as well as reports from independent bloggers, citizen journalists, and foreign news agencies. Many of the accounts included in this report have never before been published in English. Human Rights Watch also conducted research in Vietnam for this report but decided to not interview victims and witnesses there because doing so would have exposed them to almost certain retaliation.

In many cases, those killed in police custody were being held for minor infractions. In an August 2012 case, police beat Nguyen Mau Thuan to death in Hanoi after arresting him less than three hours earlier in relation to a minor dispute in his neighborhood. In August 2010, police beat and tear gassed Le Phuc Hung to death in Gia Lai province while holding him for alleg-

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edly stealing water pipes.

Police frequently provided causes for these deaths that strained credulity and gave the appearance of systematic cover-ups. The police alleged that dozens of otherwise mentally and physically healthy people committed suicide by hanging or other methods. In other cases, only a vague and unconvincing explanation was given, as in the case of Nguyen Van Duc in Vinh Long province, who according to an autopsy died from a hematoma in the brain and other injuries. Police attributed his injuries to doctors who were “too hard with their hands” during emergency treatment. A surprisingly large number of people – many of them young and healthy in their 20s and 30s – allegedly died from medical problems in custody. Injuries in police custody are also reported frequently throughout the country.

A number of survivors said they were beaten to extract confessions, sometimes for crimes they maintained they did not commit. In July 2013, Soc Trang province police beat and forced six men to confess to a murder. Others said they were beaten for criticizing police officers or trying to reason with them. Victims of beatings also included children and people with mental disabilities.

Local media coverage of these incidents has been uneven, raising serious concerns about the negative impact of government control of the media. In some instances, media reports were extensive and detailed, exposing conflicting police statements and misconduct, such as in the case of Nguyen Cong Nhut, an alleged “suicide” who died in custody in April 2011 in Binh Duong province. On the other hand, there was no media coverage of other key cases, such as the death of Hoang Van Ngai, an ethnic Hmong, in March 2013 in Dak Nong province. Journalists reported that in some cases local authorities had prevented them from approaching the families of victims for interviews.

“Vietnam should permit the media to do its job of investigating and reporting the news about official abuses,” Robertson said. “Independent journalism could help expose abuses that otherwise would be swept under the carpet.”

Officers who commit serious, even lethal, transgressions rarely face serious consequences. In many cases in which abuses are officially acknowledged, police officers face only light internal disciplinary procedures, such as criticisms or warnings. Demotions, transfers, or dismissals of offending officers are rare, and prosecutions and convictions even rarer. Even when they are prosecuted and convicted, police officers tend to receive light or suspended sentences.

In one case, a police officer was even promoted after committing abuses. In July 2010, deputy chief Nguyen Huu Khoa of La Phu commune (Hoai Duc district, Hanoi) was accused of beating a truck driver named Nguyen Phu Son. It was unclear how the case was investigated and handled, but by December 2010, Nguyen Huu Khoa had been promoted to chief.

“Vietnam should promptly open an impartial investigation for every accusation of police brutality, and take strong action when the evidence reveals abuse,” Robertson said. “Until police get a loud and clear message from the top levels of government that abuse won’t be tolerated, there will be no security for ordinary people who fall into police hands,”

In several of the cases, Human Rights Watch found that police arrested people based on vague suspicions without supporting evidence, and then beat them to elicit confessions. Police also routinely ignored basic procedures to safeguard citizens against ill-treatment or arbitrary detention and prevented lawyers and legal consultants from gaining immediate access to their clients.

“All persons detained should be granted immediate and unhindered access to their lawyer in order to minimize possible police abuse during interrogation,” said Robertson.

The Vietnam government should immediately adopt a zero-tolerance policy for abuse by police, provide better training for police at all levels, particularly commune police, and install cameras in interrogation and detention facilities, Human Rights Watch said. The government also should facilitate the role of legal counsel for suspects and detainees and ensure freedom of expression for journalists and on the Internet.

The government should also form an independent police complaints commission to review and investigate all reported police abuse and misconduct and provide high-level support for prompt and impartial investigations and prosecutions of police abuse

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and misconduct.

"UN agencies and international donors assisting Vietnam establish the rule of law shouldn't allow these punishing police practices to continue," Robertson said. "There should be a concerted outcry to press for government action to end police abuses."

"Public Insecurity: Deaths in Custody and Police Brutality in Vietnam" is available at:

<http://hrw.org/node/128619>

<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2014/09/16/public-insecurity-0>

Hanoi Not Releasing Political Prisoners

<http://www.voanews.com/content/vietnam-shows-no-sign-of-political-prisoner-release/2437680.html>

Vietnam is regularly criticized by human rights groups and Western governments for its suppression of political dissent and treatment of religious groups.

Dieu Cay's wife, Duong Thi Tan, told VOA's Vietnamese service that during a short monthly phone call last week, the blogger told his son that he'd dismissed authorities' request that he write a petition seeking a pardon.

"He rejected the request to write the petition for pardon because he did not violate laws," she said. "He said he was innocent so he did not ask for pardon. He said if he had to write, he would write a letter requesting to be released since he did not commit any wrongdoings."



Political prisoner Dieu Cay still remained in prison

Hanoi's War in Cambodia

Less celebrated is Vietnam's quiet retreat from its own deeply unpopular foreign war that ended 25 years ago this month. A war where Vietnamese troops, sent as saviours but soon seen as invaders, paid a steep price in lives and limbs during a grueling decade-long guerilla conflict.

On the 25th anniversary of their withdrawal from Cambodia, Vietnamese veterans are still haunted by their memories of war with Pol Pot's army.

Some wonder why Cambodians are not more grateful to the troops who freed them from the brutal Khmer Rouge regime.

"Anyone who came back from Cambodia intact was a lucky person," said Nguyen Thanh Nhan, 50, a veteran of the war and author of the autobiographical book "Away from Home Season - The Story of a Vietnamese Volunteer Veteran in Cambodia".

"I don't want to have this experience to tell you about," Mr Hieu said.

Vietnam does not want to entirely forget about the war in Cambodia, said Mr Nhan. It only wants to remember an official version: a victorious, lightning attack that toppled Pol Pot.

Best forgotten, Mr Nhan said, are the 10 years of punishing hit-and-run fighting and the largely-forgotten veterans still scarred from their experiences.

"For me, the truth needs to be said," he said.

"Sometimes I think the dead are lucky. They rest in peace. We have to struggle every day. Our lives continue."

Bill Laurie, on the other hand, argued that:

Nowhere does author of this piece give any indication that Khmer Rouge owed its existence, and combat capabilities, to Ha-

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noi. Had there been no Hanoi militaristic expansionism there would have been no Khmer Rouge. Author also leaves out any mention of the thousands of land mines Hanoi placed along the Thai-Cambodian border and elsewhere in Cambodia. At one time Phnom Penh was called the "traumatic amputation capital of the world." Author also leaves out mention of Hanoi's torture of those suspected of disloyalty to new Hanoi-installed Hun Sen/Heng Samrin "government."

Finally, this column omits any mention of Hanoi's influence and control in Cambodia at present, to include involvement with clear-cut logging in NE Cambodia.



Relations Between Vietnam & China Still Tense

<http://learningenglish.voanews.com/content/vietnam-china-relations-still-tense/2437404.html>

The Chinese deployed an oil rig in May 2014 in what Vietnam considered its water. After months of demonstrations by Vietnamese inside Vietnam and Vietnamese Americans in the US (Hanoi was absent during this confrontation) and pressure by US and Asian governments, the Chinese removed the rig in July.

Carl Thayer says Vietnam is seeking to improve its relations with the United States and other countries as a way of, in his words, "bargaining" against China.

"China keeps warning them about moving too close to the U.S., but that doesn't stop them from working towards Japan, which they've already done, and India if India is willing to play the game."

Jonathan London says he does not believe anyone in Vietnam thinks relations with China are as good as they could be. And he says he cannot be sure that relations are improving.



Vietnamese protesters chant anti-China slogans in Hanoi, Vietnam Thursday, June 19, 2014. (AP Photo/Tran Van Minh)