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VIETNAM

## Hanoi: attacks continue against Thai Ha parish

by Paul Nguyen Hung

Local authorities, hooligans and police intensify attacks, threats and acts of violence against Catholic religious and laity trying to defend their parish from unlawful dispossession. Dozens of people have been arrested. Prayers are being said around the world for Thai Ha.



Hanoi (AsiaNews) – In the past two weeks, Vietnamese Catholics both at home and abroad have prayed non-stop for Thai Ha parish, northern Vietnam. Incredibly, 600 police and local government officials have surrounded the Redemptorist parish church, seizing its land. Redemptorist priests and religious were mistreated and threatened, but parishioners, including young people, are still gathering at Thai Ha to pray to God and Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Communist Party officials broke the cross in Dong Chiem. They poured dirty oil on the statue of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Thai Ha parish, broke into a church courtyard and desecrated the Eucharist in Hanoi Cathedral. In Thai Ha church, more than a hundred hooligans attacked the Redemptorists and threatened to kill them.

Local authorities, which are supposed to protect religious freedom, instead violated it. Wherever Communism and atheistic materialism rule in Vietnam, religion is oppressed.

“Many people have endured the injustice of prison without trial,” Paul Hung, of Thai Ha parish, told *AsiaNews*. “In the city of Hanoi, local authorities are using thugs and police agents to crack down and arrest the faithful, patriots like Fr Nguyen Van Ly, but also some 20 bloggers and 15 young Catholics.”

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hanoi:-attacks-continue-against-Thai-Ha-parish-23265.html>

Thai Ha Parishioners protested the Hanoi government that was confiscating its land.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAY29tZ8CnM>



2. A few days on 11/20/2011, hooligans attacked a Baptist church in Hanoi  
<http://www.bosnewslife.com/19146-news-alert-vietnam-house-church-attacked-12-injured>