

1: The Vietnamese - Human Rights and Politics in Vietnam

Vietnam's human rights record remains dire in all areas. The Communist Party maintains a monopoly on political power and allows no challenge to its leadership. Basic rights, including freedom of

Chairman and Members of the Committee let me begin by thanking you for holding this important and timely hearing. It is an honor for me to be here. It has been thirty years since the end of the Vietnam War and ten years since our two countries have normalized relations. Relations between our two countries have strengthened and improved in many important areas. Military ties are growing as our naval ships now regularly visit Vietnamese ports. The U.S. These are encouraging signs and ones that should be capitalized on. A secure and prosperous Southeast Asia is in the interest of both our countries. But significant issues remain, particularly in the area of human rights, including religious freedom. More than any other issue, differences over human rights and religious freedom have the potential to inhibit the forward momentum in our bilateral relationship. Relations can never fully develop until the Government of Vietnam protects and promotes the fundamental human rights of all its citizens. It is crucial that the U.S. Government speaks with one strong voice that economic and security interests should not precede human rights. In his meeting with the Prime Minister, President Bush has the chance to explain why human rights are an important U.S. Human Rights and Freedom in Vietnam: The Current State of Affairs. Mr. Our deepening economic and commercial relationship with Vietnam may encourage economic reform and transparency and it may draw Vietnam further into a rules-based international trading system, but the evidence suggests that it has not encouraged greater political freedom for Vietnamese citizens. The human rights situation in Vietnam has not improved since passage of the Bilateral Trade Act of 1995. One has seen the brutal and ongoing suppression of ethnic Montagnards who marched for land rights and religious freedom in April of 1999, the jailing of Pham Song Hong and others for posting articles critical of the government on the Internet, the silencing and jailing of journalists for exposing corruption, and the mass arrests of Buddhist monks from the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV), despite promises by Prime Minister Khai that pressure on the group would cease. UBCV monk Thich Thien Minh, released in February after sixteen years in prison, did not see many improvements in human rights and religious freedom. He said, "I have exchanged my small prison for a bigger one. People want to experience the benefits of liberty undiluted and governments who try to check this desire will find they are trying to hold back the rolling tide of the human spirit. I am sure that the other panelists today will discuss in more detail other human rights concerns. So, with the remainder of my remarks, I would like to focus on religious freedom in Vietnam and particularly on U.S. Commissioners and staff have traveled to Vietnam and we have established contact with religious leaders, scholars, and human rights activists inside and outside of Vietnam. Over the past fifteen years, the government of Vietnam has slowly carved out a noticeable "zone of toleration" for government approved religious practice. However, at the same time, it has actively repressed, and targeted as subversive, religious activity it cannot control or that which refuses government oversight. This repression has not abated in the last year. Since 1998, the Commission recommended that Vietnam be designated as a country of particular concern (CPC) for ongoing, egregious, and systematic abuses of religious freedom under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. Since the CPC designation, the State Department and the Vietnamese government have engaged on the issue of religious freedom. The government of Vietnam has made some gestures, including the release of several prominent dissidents, a directive to stop forcing Protestants to recant their faith, and another to streamline the application process for religious groups registering with the government. The State Department cited these actions as progress when it announced last month that it had reached an "agreement" with Vietnam to avoid more stringent actions, including economic sanctions, for countries designated as a CPC. Though the agreement is secret, from public statements we know that basically Vietnam promised to implement its new laws and the U.S. We should not downplay the significance of this action and Ambassador-At-Large for International Religious Freedom John Hanford should be commended for the time and effort he has invested in Vietnam. We should see this as evidence that both vigorous diplomatic action and the use of the CPC designation produced results that might lead to future improvements

in religious freedom in Vietnam. Chairman, the key words here are "might" and "future. Promises do not mean progress. And, these actions do not address the human rights violations that landed Vietnam on the CPC list in the first place. Leaders of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam UBCV continue to be harassed and detained, and there is no legal framework for the UBCV, the Hoa Hao, Cao Dai, and others to register with the government and operate independently with leaders of their own choosing; There are an estimated religious prisoners in jail or under some form of house arrest for religious activity, according to human rights groups, although actual numbers are difficult to obtain because of the lack of judicial transparency; And hundreds of churches, home worship centers, and meeting places remain closed, and forced or coerced renunciations of faith continue in some parts of the country. The government continues to impose limits on the number of candidates allowed to study for Roman Catholic priesthood, controls the appointment and promotion of Catholic clergy, and has seized church properties. Troubling reports continue to arrive of new arrests and pressure on religious and ethnic minorities in Vietnam. On February 25 at 7 a. They were asked who in their village followed "the religion that is political" and where they worshiped, and ordered to cease following Dega Christianity. They did not agree to stop. The police hit one of the men with their fists and beat the second man until he lost consciousness. The three were released from detention the same day. They were warned that they would be arrested if they were caught practicing their religion again. Officials called Montagnard representatives from villages in these communes for full day meetings at the district headquarters in Cu Se, where they were lectured by district authorities as well as "police from Hanoi" most likely officials from the Ministry of Public Security and warned not to follow "Dega Christianity". In some cases they were forced to sign pledges agreeing to abandon Christianity and politics. Officials also conducted meetings in the villages during this time in which they instructed villagers not to hold religious gatherings. Police and security forces continue to summon Hmong Christian villagers to "re-education" where they are told to give up their faith traditions, are harassed, beaten and sometimes forced to drink wine. I have a copy of the summons for the Committee. Chairman, security forces have arrested church leaders, destroyed church property, and continue to harass followers of the Mennonite Church of Vietnam. The letter documents, in great detail the arrests and harassment faced by his religious community over the past eighteen months. It is a sad and telling testimonial to the continued pressure that religious groups face in Vietnam. He wants the Commission to give the letter to the Committee and distribute it to those concerned about religious freedom in Vietnam. Pastor Hien is taking a great risk compiling and sending this letter and he knows it. We are told that he is in hiding in a third country. He is awaiting an interview with the Department of Homeland Security so he can come to the United States and meet with you, Mr. It is obvious to me that the situation in Vietnam can be summed up as "repression as usual. We know that human rights remain a problem for U. But the question that always arises is what can we do about it? In general, the Commission recommends that U. We believe that new public diplomacy, economic development, and technical assistance programs should be targeted to address ongoing human rights problems. We have made specific recommendations for Congressional and Administration action in the areas of public diplomacy, economic development, education, good governance, and rule of law programs for Vietnam. I will append them to my remarks for the record. If the Government of Vietnam were to take further steps to honor its international commitments and improve its respect for human rights, U. Chairman and I welcome your questions.

2: Human Rights Violations During the Vietnam War by henry weddle on Prezi

Human rights in Vietnam (Vietnamese: Nhân quyền ở Việt Nam) have long been a matter of much controversy between the Government of Vietnam and some international human rights organizations and Western governments, particularly that of the United States.

Human Rights in Vietnam Introduction Against the backdrop of a growing and diversifying civil society movement, the Government of Vietnam continues to repress dissidents and human rights defenders and has taken steps in recent years to amend or introduce laws and regulations that impact on civil and political rights. A host of laws, regulations and decrees grant broad discretionary powers to officials to impose restrictions of basic rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution and under international human rights law. The public consultation period before the adoption of a revised Constitution in saw significant public demand for rule of law reforms. Laws on public assembly and on association are pending. Media freedom is severely limited as most media outlets and publications are state-owned or under the Communist Party of Vietnam CPV effective control. Restrictions on the rights to freedom of assembly and association continue both in law and in practice. The amendments to the Penal Code retained all the draconian provisions. Despite economic development and progress in poverty alleviation in recent years, ethnic and religious minorities, as well as women, continue to face discrimination, unequal access to economic and education opportunities, and restrictions of their human rights. The Situation for Human Rights Defenders in Vietnam Intimidation, assaults, surveillance and prosecution of human rights defenders continue in Vietnam. Internet activists face prosecution and imprisonment for peaceful expression online. Human rights defenders are often targeted with politically motivated charges, including accusations of tax evasion. Vietnam has an estimated political prisoners including human rights defenders, such as bloggers, land and labour rights activists, and religious followers. The prison conditions for human rights defenders are harsh and prisoners are routinely denied their rights, such as the right to access adequate health care and sanitation. The spread of Internet connectivity and communications technology has enabled activists and human rights defenders to more effectively share, receive, and seek information that facilitates their work, build up coalitions, and mobilise others to join their cause. As a result, human rights violations are increasingly difficult to hide and the authorities face greater domestic and international scrutiny. Ten Rights In Focus The right to life and physical integrity 15 crimes are punishable by death, after the death penalty were eliminated for seven crimes, including some drug-related offenses, in late Access to accurate and comprehensive statistics concerning the use of the death penalty is restricted. According to the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, there were no recorded executions in , seven executions in and three in However, Vietnamese courts continue to hand down death sentences. Cases of torture are frequently reported, particularly in police stations, detention facilities, and drug rehabilitation centres. In March , the Ministry of Public Security admitted that people died in detention centres between October and September In and early , deaths in policy custody continue to be reported. According to a study conducted by UN Women, one third of all women in Vietnam have been exposed to physical, sexual or psychological violence. The right to liberty and security of person Arbitrary detention, arrests and harassment, especially of human rights defenders, are commonplace. Human rights defenders are also subject to house arrest or face severe restrictions on their freedom of movement, including the denial or confiscation of their passports. In recent years, physical assaults against dissidents and activists by police, plainclothes agents and unidentified thugs take place with virtual impunity. Drug users incarcerated in labour camps have little recourse to independent judicial review of their deprivation of liberty and lack access to rights-based rehabilitation and medical treatment. Moreover, persons arbitrarily detained are often not given any official reasons for their detention, and their prompt access to legal counsel is often restricted, if not denied all together. Arbitrary detention is often followed by politically motivated charges against detainees, particularly those who question or challenge the CPV or call for human rights and democratic reforms, resulting in prison sentences, at times harsh. Prisoners are sometimes transferred to remote prisons, thus making it difficult for families and friends to visit and support them. The right to a fair trial and an effective remedy The judiciary is

not independent and is under the control and influence of the government and the CPV. Pre-trial detention is sometimes long – often exceeding months – and trials are often hasty and routinely fail to uphold the principle of presumption of innocence, especially in politically motivated cases. Defendants and their defence lawyers are sometimes denied the right to a defence and are given insufficient time for preparations or lack relevant information about the charges. Families of defendants, foreign diplomats, and journalists are often blocked from attending trials. The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion Religious freedom is protected under both the Vietnamese Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Vietnam is a State party. However, broadly worded exception clauses in the Constitution and related administrative decrees and ordinances place limitations on and grant local authorities broad discretionary powers to prohibit, restrict, and supervise the exercise of the right to religious freedom. There is a state-controlled system of registration for religious groups and the official recognition that comes with registration allows for greater space to operate in. The religious minorities that are denied registration face significant difficulties as non-recognised groups. Religious persecution particularly targets Catholic Redemptorists, Hoa Hao Buddhists, Falun Gong followers and other religious minority groups. Their right to practice their respective religion in public and to print and disseminate religious materials are denied or limited. Individuals have been forced to renounce their religious beliefs and followers of minority religions have been prohibited from attending religious events, both inside and outside of Vietnam. The draft Law on Belief and Religion places limitations on freedom of religion or belief that go beyond those permitted under international human rights law. The right to the freedom of expression Freedom of expression faces a myriad of challenges in Vietnam. The government adopts administrative, regulatory, legal, and technological measures to control access to and the content of information. Television, radio and printed outlets are almost entirely state-owned or run by the authorities in Vietnam. Following the amendments to the Constitution in November , the government has issued several decrees and directives aimed at controlling online information. The newly adopted Law on Access to Information provides the state with wide discretionary powers to restrict access and withhold information on vaguely defined grounds. A number of recently adopted decrees, initiated by the top leaders, restrict freedom of expression online and offline. The decree in effect renders news sharing and the blogging activities of writers critical of government actions or policies illegal. Facebook has been intermittently blocked since and personal blogs challenging the CPV or the army are sometimes shut down or blocked. Writers are also targeted with malware and exposed to extensive digital and physical surveillance and attacks. More than three million individuals host blogs in Vietnam. An increasing number of independent writers contribute to underground publications or publish their own texts on the Internet, covering a wide range of topics, including human rights and democracy. We Will Not be Silenced The right to freedom of assembly and association The right to freedom of assembly and association is guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution. In practice, public protests are rare due to tight social controls and severe government reprisals against organisers and participants, but they have become more frequent in recent years. While the initial protests were tolerated, subsequent ones were met with excessive use of force and the arrest and detention of hundreds of protesters. In the early s, the government began drafting a Law on Associations. A draft released in late included extremely restrictive and control-centered provisions and was fiercely opposed by a diverse range of associations. The law was shelved in In the absence of a law on association, the registration, management, operation and funding of civil society organisations, research institutes, and other non-profit entities are governed by highly restrictive decrees that grant far reaching discretionary powers to government officials and prohibit a wide range of activities. Non-governmental organisations are required to register in order to operate legally inside Vietnam. To minimise government interference or dictates, some groups do not apply for, and operate without, registration and are thus more vulnerable to government harassment. No trade unions are permitted unless they are endorsed by and affiliated with the VGCL. The UN Human Rights Committee has expressed concern over the lack of any law on political parties and that in fact no political party other than the Communist Party is permitted. The Communist Party has a firm monopoly on political power. Results from a UN-supported public opinion survey in on public governance indicate that participation at local levels remains limited. Elections to the National Assembly are held every five years. In

the May election, the Communist Party of Vietnam won out of seats. International observers have questioned these numbers. For the term, one fourth of all seats in the National Assembly are held by women. Dozens of activists nominated themselves as independent candidates in the national assembly elections and an overwhelming majority of them have been summarily disqualified during the state-controlled vetting process. State control over the media, tight restrictions of information online and offline, and reprisals against government critics undermine the right to participate in public affairs. Despite these challenges, human rights defenders, journalists, intellectuals, and, increasingly, some former CPV officials have publicly called for greater respect for political rights and rule of law reforms. The Internet has also become a de facto civil society space in which rigorous discussions of public affairs are not only possible, but also widespread. Endemic corruption seriously undermines good governance in Vietnam and is one of the principal triggers of public protest and criticisms of the government. Vietnam currently does not have a freedom of information law, but the Ministry of Justice has been drafting a law on access to information, with international assistance.

The right to protection against discrimination There are non-discrimination clauses in the Constitution and various laws, but Vietnam lacks a comprehensive non-discrimination law while some discriminatory provisions are still found in some laws and decrees. Limited access to formal employment, low level of access to legal aid, low-level of participation in political and public life, gender wage gap, gender stereotypes, and prevalence of domestic violence are some of the key barriers to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. There are 54 officially recognised ethnic groups. The Kinh account for Despite progress in poverty reduction, the poverty rate is considerably higher among ethnic minorities than among the Kinh. Ethnic minority women in rural areas face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The Khmer Krom community is particularly vulnerable to discrimination. Religious minority groups also face various forms of discrimination, including violations of their right to freely practice their faith. In , a UN expert on minority rights visited Vietnam and concluded that minorities still face obstacles in enjoying their right to education, religion freedom, and civil rights. There have been some progress in and greater space for the discussion of the rights of LGBT persons, but challenges remain. In late , a government decree removed administrative fines for holding same-sex weddings. The National Assembly amended the Law on Marriage and Family in and removed a provision prohibiting same-sex marriage. However, there is no law prohibiting discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, and such discrimination persists in family life, education, employment, and healthcare. The rights of same-sex couples still do not receive legal protection, including legal recognition of their marriage. In late November , the National Assembly amended the Civil Code to legalise sex reassignment surgery and recognise the right of transgender persons to change their legal name and gender after surgery. It remains to be seen how the amended Civil Code will be enforced. Civil Rights Defenders highlights the work of and challenges facing human rights defenders in articles, op-eds, and joint statements. It has also contributed to campaigns for the release of political prisoners through international advocacy. Civil Rights Defenders also supports the annual Viet Pride events celebrating diversity and equality through public events and a bike rally through the streets of Hanoi.

3: World Report Vietnam | Human Rights Watch

If the Government of Vietnam were to take further steps to honor its international commitments and improve its respect for human rights, U.S.-Vietnam relations will improve for the long term and serve as the basis for a strong and healthy relationship built on mutual interests, the rule of law, and the "non-negotiable demand of human dignity."

A crackdown on dissent intensified, causing scores of activists to flee the country. Prominent activists faced restrictions on movement and were subject to surveillance, harassment and violent assaults. Prisoners of conscience were tortured and otherwise ill-treated. Suspicious deaths in police custody were reported, and the death penalty was retained. Several were sentenced to death for embezzlement. In July, state security officials abducted a former businessman and government official while he was seeking asylum in Germany, and forcibly returned him to Viet Nam to stand trial for embezzlement and economic mismanagement; Vietnamese authorities maintained that he had returned voluntarily. No amendments were made to vaguely worded national security legislation used against peaceful dissidents to bring it into line with international law and standards. Repression of dissent The crackdown on freedom of expression and criticism of government actions and policies intensified, causing scores of peaceful activists to flee the country. At least 29 activists were arrested during the year, and others went into hiding after arrest warrants were issued. They were charged mostly under vaguely worded provisions in the national security section of the Penal Code or detained on other spurious charges. Bloggers and pro-democracy activists were particularly targeted, as well as social and environmental activists campaigning in the aftermath of the Formosa Plastics toxic spill that killed tonnes of fish and destroyed the livelihoods of thousands of people. Several were previous prisoners of conscience. At least 98 prisoners of conscience were detained or imprisoned, an increase on previous years despite some releases on completion of sentences. They included bloggers, human rights defenders working on land and labour issues, political activists, religious followers and members of ethnic minority groups. The authorities continued to grant early release to prisoners of conscience only if they agreed to go into exile. He was immediately flown into exile in France. Both men were tortured and otherwise ill-treated while imprisoned. Trials of dissidents routinely failed to meet international standards of fairness; there was a lack of adequate defence as well as denial of the presumption of innocence. He had criticized corruption and lack of freedom of expression in Viet Nam on blogs and social media. He was forcibly deported to France in June. Torture and other ill-treatment Reports continued of torture and other ill-treatment, including beatings and other assaults, of peaceful activists by individuals believed to be acting in collusion with security police. Prisoners of conscience were routinely held incommunicado during pre-trial detention, lasting up to two years. Detainees were denied medical treatment and transferred to prisons distant from their family home. He was held incommunicado and denied access to medication for pre-existing medical conditions. Freedom of assembly The authorities used unnecessary or excessive force to disperse and prevent peaceful gatherings and protests, in particular those relating to the Formosa Plastics toxic spill in April. Several individuals were injured and required hospital treatment, and others were arrested. Police claimed that he committed suicide, but his father said that the injuries on his body suggested that he was tortured before being killed. Death penalty A Ministry of Public Security report published in February revealed the extent of implementation of the death penalty, with an average of executions annually between August and June. The report stated that five new lethal injection centres were to be built. Only one execution was reported by official media during , but more were believed to have been carried out. Death sentences were handed down for drug offences and embezzlement.

4: Human rights in Vietnam - Wikipedia

Human Rights in Vietnam Eric G. John, Deputy Assistant Secretary, East Asian and Pacific Affairs Statement before the Subcommittees on Asia and the Pacific and Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, House International Relations Committee.

This is the Congressional testimony of a Jesuit Priest who lived in Vietnam for nineteen years and remained after the communist takeover for fifteen months. Judge for yourself whether the communist takeover was good for the people who were unable to escape. First, a word of introduction on my sources of information for the facts that I am about to describe. I am a Canadian, a Jesuit Priest, as has already been stated. I came to Vietnam in as a professor of Chinese history at the University of Saigon. Starting in , and for 13 years without interruption, I was on the staff of the Alexander-de-Rhodes Student Center, which has been for all these years the largest and most influential center of activities for Vietnamese University students. After the Communist takeover, I stayed on at the center for 15 more months, moving around freely within the borders of Gia Dinh Province. My information on conditions outside of Gia Dinh Province comes from these hundreds of Vietnamese students and families that I dealt with daily. I might add here that most of these were Buddhists and Confucians, only one-third being Christians. Let me start with the most obvious, the expected: Before the Communist victory. South Vietnam published 27 daily newspapers, 22 in Vietnamese, 3 in Chinese, 1 in French, and 1 in English. It also produced some scholarly journals, scholarly, technical, or literary, and a number of popular magazines. It had three TV channels and some 2 dozen radio stations. In May , every single one of these newspapers, serials, and stations were suppressed. Back issues of magazines, books, records, and cassettes were confiscated from homes and from libraries and burned in the streets in huge bonfires. From then on, our only source of in-formation was one TV channel owned by the Government, on the air for 2 hours only, from 7: Also, two radio stations and three dailies providing the same propaganda, the same editorials, and the same selection of biased news items dictated by the unique party-controlled news agency. No one was allowed to listen to short-wave radio, and any person aware of this crime in his neighborhood and failing to report it could be deported to the work camps with his entire family. It was also the duty of every citizen to report ali private conversations deemed contrary to the spirit of the revolution. I hurry to add, however, that at least in Saigon this often repeated threat failed to curb the curiosity of the people. News items from the daily bulletins of the BBC and of the VOA were eagerly sought after, and spread through the population like brushfire. Another basic human right which has been wiped out by the Communist victor is the freedom of movement. Without a special pass from the police, no one is allowed to go from place to place, not even to the next village or suburb. These official passes are not always easy to obtain, and often they can be had only through bribery. It goes without saying that permission to travel abroad is restricted to official envoys of the Government. Thousands of Vietnamese Americans can testify to this who are hopelessly separated from their wives, children, and parents. Another basic right ignored in Vietnam is the right for a court of law, or at least for a hearing before condemnation. Some , men have been imprisoned in reeducation camps for over 2 years now, and not one of them has ever been judged, condemned, or even accused of any. In Saigon, someone disappears nearly every day, and note that I am not talking on hearsay. Many of my friends have seen their daughter, their son, their husband fail to come home for supper. After frustrating inquiries from one police station to another, they were invariably told that if they want to stay out of trouble, they should mind their own business, or that the police does not know where this person is, but if he or she was not a criminal, he would surely be home by now. Arrests are usually made in one of the following four ways, all of which I have personally witnessed. First, the person is called to report to the police station, and is never heard of since. Many priests have disappeared in this way. Second, the person is quietly kidnaped by the police patrol car while walking back home on the street or walking to work or walking to the market. This seems the most often-used method. Third, the house is raided, usually at dawn. All the occupants are ordered out, and a search conducted without witness by a swarm of troops invariably produces some damning evidence, guns, documents, U. Fourth, the house is searched at night, and the person is carried away during

curfew hours. It is impossible to know how many persons are presently in jail. All I know is that all jails are crowded, that at least two large new ones have been built near Saigon, and that almost all U. I know this from the report of prisoners who have come back to tell me. Everyone has to show his contrition for past crimes, his hatred for Americans who, among other crimes, used to cook and eat Vietnamese babies, so it is said, and his love for the Marxist-Leninist society. Everyone is threatened with deportation to the work camps if he does not join in the campaign of denunciation against his neighbor, if he clings too hard to religious convictions or if, in any way, he fails to cooperate fully with the new regime. The list could go on and on, but I think my time is over, and I may say more under the questions. This is the fate America left to its allies, a people who trusted us to help them defend their country from communist takeover.

5: Viet Nam / | Amnesty International

Ambiguities in Vietnam's laws contribute to an environment ripe for human rights violations. The authorities use vaguely worded provisions of the national security section of the Penal Code.

Authorities restricted basic rights, including freedom of speech, opinion, association, and assembly. All religious groups had to register with the government and operate under surveillance. Bloggers and activists faced daily police harassment and intimidation, and were subject to arbitrary house arrest, restricted movement, and physical assaults. Many were detained for long periods without access to legal counsel or family visits. The number of bloggers and activists known to be convicted and sentenced to prison almost tripled from the previous year, from 7 to at least 21. In May, Vietnam held a tightly controlled and scripted national election in which all candidates had to be approved by the CPV. Several dozen independent candidates were intimidated and disqualified. State Violence against Activists, Dissidents, and Criminal Suspects There were frequent physical assaults against human rights bloggers and campaigners at the hands of anonymous men who appear to be acting with state sanction and impunity. During the first seven months of 2013, at least 34 people—including children—reported that unknown assailants beat them. In February, men threw rocks at the house of former political prisoner, Tran Minh Nhat, and broke his skull. In April, former political prisoner Nguyen Dinh Cuong was taken to a police station in Nghe An province where men in civilian clothes beat and punched him. In May, police briefly detained 17-year-old rights activist Huynh Thanh Phat for allegedly participating in pro-environment protests. Two men wearing surgical masks and civilian clothes attacked him on the way home from the police station. In July, men in civilian clothes attacked rights activist La Viet Dung with a brick in Hanoi and broke his skull. No one was charged in any of the cases. Police brutality continued, and detainees were apparently injured and even killed as a result. The three men claimed they were forced to write statements saying they volunteered to spend five days at the police station. Freedoms of Assembly, Association, and Movement Vietnam bans all independent political parties, labor unions, and human rights organizations. Authorities require official approval for public gatherings and refuse to grant permission for meetings, marches, or protests they deem politically or otherwise unacceptable. Many protesters reported that they were beaten and detained for hours. Restrictions on freedom of movement are used to prevent bloggers and activists from attending public events, such as protests, human rights discussions, or trials of fellow activists. Nguyen Quang A reported that between late March and early August police detained him six times to prevent him from meeting with foreign diplomats and delegations including Germany, the United States, the European Union, and Australia. Freedom of Religion The government monitors, harasses, and sometimes violently cracks down on religious groups that operate outside official, government-registered, and government-controlled religious institutions. Authorities subject to intrusive surveillance unrecognized branches of the Cao Dai church, the Hoa Hao Buddhist church, independent Protestant and Catholic house churches in the central highlands and elsewhere, Khmer Krom Buddhist temples, and the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam. Another common form of harassment that authorities continue to use against independent religious groups is forced denunciation of their faith. This constitutes a violation of freedom of belief, which is not subject to limitation under international human rights law. Trials of rights bloggers and activists consistently failed to meet international fair standards. Police regularly intimidated and in some cases detained family members and friends who tried to attend trials. In August, police in Khanh Hoa province reportedly dragged Nguyen Thi Nay by the hair and detained her for several hours for trying to approach the court during the trial of her son, Nguyen Huu Quoc Duy. According to state media, during the first three months of 2013 alone more than 1,000 people were sent to mandatory centers in and around Ho Chi Minh City. Violations of center rules and failure to meet work quotas are punished by beatings and confinement to disciplinary rooms where detainees are deprived of food and water. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity In November 2013, the National Assembly approved a bill to legalize sex reassignment surgery and to introduce the right to legal gender recognition for transgender people who have undergone such surgery. Although Hanoi maintains close economic ties to China, one of its largest trade partners, it is engaged in major disputes with

Beijing over maritime territory. In recent years, it has forged closer military and economic relations with the US. In , as in previous years, the US consistently raised human rights concerns in bilateral meetings and repeatedly called on Vietnam to release political prisoners, but has not directly connected human rights improvements to better diplomatic ties. The EU and Australia, focusing on commercial relations, made limited efforts to support detained activists or otherwise advocate for improved respect for basic rights in Vietnam. In June, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the human rights situation in Vietnam.

6: What You Need to Know About Vietnam's Human Rights Record | HuffPost

Human rights, therefore, are considered to be international (they apply everywhere) and preserve equality (they apply to all), and we specifically talk about the rights of: life, freedom, honor and dignity, equality, prohibition of slavery, ban of torture, protection against arbitrary arrest, detention or exile, the right to privacy and the.

Please improve this by adding secondary or tertiary sources. May Learn how and when to remove this template message A report drafted by the Vietnamese government on 18 June for the United Nations Human Rights Council to review the implementation of human rights in the territory of Viet Nam stated: The Constitution, the supreme law of the country, guarantees that all citizens enjoy equal political, economic, cultural and social rights, and are equal before the law. Every citizen has the right to participate in the management of the State and the society, the freedoms of religion and belief, the right to free movement and residence in the territory of Viet Nam, the right to complaints and petitions, the right to employment, education and healthcare etc. On that basis, Vietnamese laws enumerate the specific rights in accordance with international human rights standards. As of , there were over press agencies with publications, nearly 15, licensed journalists, 68 radio and television stations at central and provincial levels and land-based digital TV stations, 80 e-newspapers, thousands of news websites and 55 publishers. The people of Viet Nam were provided with greater access to advanced information technology, especially the internet, with about 20 million internet users, accounting for The Constitution recognized fully all human rights Articles 2 and According to a report by the China Internet Information Center , Vietnam has made a number of changes to its constitution, laws, and practical policies in the area of human rights since the Doi Moi , or the economic reform in For instance, the Constitution was amended in to enshrine the protection of "political, civil, economic, cultural and cultural rights" for the first time, and the penal code explicitly banned torture. Internationally, Vietnam was the second signatory of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Recent US reports maintain the same observations and international human rights organizations that share these views include Human Rights Watch [6] and the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization. In , the European Parliament expressed concern about "the growing climate of intolerance in Vietnam towards human rights defenders and members of officially unrecognized religious communities. However, the government supervises the clergies of the sanctioned groups by approving appointments, for example in the interest of "national unity". The official media remained tightly controlled by government censorship and obstruction. At present, Vietnam continues to hold more than political prisoners, who have committed no "crimes" â€” other than to peaceably voice their complaints that their government is seen as becoming increasingly corrupt and unaccountable. Various ethnic minority organizations like the Montagnard Foundation, Inc. Vietnam has settled over a million ethnic Vietnamese on Montagnard lands in the Central Highlands. The Montagnard staged a massive protest against the Vietnamese in , which led the Vietnamese to forcefully crush the uprising and seal the entire area off to foreigners. The Cham in Vietnam are only recognized as a minority, and not as an indigenous people by the Vietnamese government despite being indigenous to the region. Both Hindu and Muslim Chams have experienced religious and ethnic persecution and restrictions on their faith under the current Vietnamese government, with the Vietnamese state confiscating Cham property and forbidding Cham from observing their religious beliefs. Hindu temples were turned into tourist sites against the wishes of the Cham Hindus. In , Vietnamese police in Chau Giang village stormed into a Cham Mosque , stole the electric generator, and also raped Cham girls. The situation of the Cham compared to that of ethnic Vietnamese is substandard, with the Cham lacking water and electricity and living in houses made out of mud. Nguyen Van Lia, aged 72, and Tran Hoai An had briefed foreign diplomats about restrictions on freedom of religion and other human rights violations.

7: Human Rights in Vietnam

Self Immolation in Vietnam: A Victim of Injustice's Agonizing Act In Defiance In the afternoon of July 2, , a man committed self-immolation in the center of Hanoi, Vietnam's capital city, a few steps away from the Central.

At lunch Wednesday with Secretary of State John Kerry, he expressed his desire that Hanoi and Washington deepen their economic and security ties. The United States and Vietnam have come a long way since the end of the Vietnam War, but President Sang should realize that absent significant progress on human rights, his hopes for building a closer relationship with Washington may be dashed. Popular and congressional support in the United States for forging a strategic partnership with Vietnam will hinge, in large measure, on whether the Vietnamese government demonstrates a deeper commitment to freedom of expression, freedom of religion and justice. I was pleased to visit Vietnam last spring on behalf of Amnesty International to launch a human rights dialogue - the first visit by a representative of AI since I saw first-hand a Vietnam that is engaged in a great national discussion of human rights. And I had the opportunity to exchange views with people in and out of government on many sensitive topics, from minority rights to land grabs to policing the blogosphere. Amnesty International looks forward to a follow-up visit to deepen our understanding of the daunting human rights challenges in Vietnam and to identify ways in which the people and government of Vietnam might begin to address them. Pro-democracy activists , bloggers , labor rights advocates, and those calling for reform or protesting about environmental issues are especially at risk. Hanoi also discriminates against members of religious and ethnic minority groups perceived to be opponents of those in charge. In recent months, Vietnam has intensified its clampdown on freedom of expression. The government has sentenced dozens of dissidents to lengthy prison terms since , including 38 this year alone. Amnesty International has designated some of these political prisoners to be "Prisoners of Conscience. He has been on a hunger strike since mid-June and is reported to be in grave health. The authorities use vaguely worded provisions of the national security section of the Penal Code to justify their clampdown on human rights. Article 79 aiming to "overthrow" the state , Article 88 "conducting propaganda" against the state , Article 87 undermining the "unity policy" , and Article "abusing democratic freedoms" to infringe upon the interests of the State , are all used to stifle criticism and detain dissidents. Once arrested, dissidents are often held incommunicado for up to 18 months. Defense attorneys are kept from consulting with their clients until shortly before trial, making it difficult to prepare an adequate defense. Moreover, defendants do not enjoy the slightest presumption of innocence and have no opportunity to call on witnesses to testify on their behalf. In some cases, police beat detainees during interrogation and authorities harass family members and supporters of dissidents simply attempting to observe trial proceedings. The Vietnamese people are dynamic and they are engaged in a broad discussion about their rights - an animated and sometimes raucous debate that includes the prospect of constitutional reforms. The Vietnamese government should foster this discussion and embrace reforms.

8: Vietnam Right Now | Window to Human Rights in Vietnam, Right Now!

Founded by a transnational network of activists and independent civil society organizations, www.enganchecubano.com is the essential web portal on the human rights situation in Vietnam, providing news, analysis and data in real-time and in English on the facts on the ground in a country that is one of the world's worst violator of rights.

9: Civil Rights Defenders – Human Rights in Vietnam

The reports gather human rights developments as well as egregious human rights violations by the government of Vietnam regarding its citizens' fundamental rights. The product of cooperation from many human rights activists in Vietnam and in the Diaspora, those annual reports give a faithful picture the human rights situation in Vietnam.

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