



# Viet Tan Update

*With a network of members inside Vietnam and around the world, the Vietnam Reform Party (Viet Tan) aims to establish democracy and reform the country through peaceful means.*

## Summer of Political Dissent in Vietnam

### Communist Government Targets Members of Bloc “8406”



Gathering of Bloc 8406 members in Saigon

Top row: Le Tri Tue, Pham Ba Hai, Truong Quoc Huy, Tran Thien Loc, Nguyen Ngoc Quang, Nguyen Van Dai, Bach Ngoc Duong.  
Bottom row: Phuong Thy, Nguyen Chinh Ket, Nguyen Hong Quang, Do Nam Hai, Quynh Tram, Tran Quoc Hien, Pham Ngoc Thach.

Since its release on April 8, the 2006 Manifesto on Freedom and Democracy for Vietnam has been a rallying cry for political action by Vietnamese citizens. Thousands of supporters have signed the document as well as subsequent appeals from the “Bloc 8406” (named after the date of the Manifesto), including prominent political activists and members of unsanctioned religious denominations.

The democratic aspirations articulated in the Manifesto have also received extensive support internationally. Notably, 50 members of the US Congress signed an open letter in support as did many founders of Charter 77, including former Czechoslovakia president Vaclav Havel.

The visible potency of the movement has raised alarms within official ranks. In recent

weeks, key participants have been intimidated, harassed and detained for questioning.

Prominent organizers such as Do Nam Hai, Nguyen Khac Toan and Hoang Tien have had their homes searched and mobile phones and computers confiscated to restrict communication.

Other less known citizens have also been targeted. These supporters of the Manifesto—in-

cluding Nguyen Phuong Anh, Vu Hoang Hai, Nguyen Van Dai, Nguyen Ngoc Quang, Le Tri Tue, and Bach Ngoc Duong—are younger, successful professionals. They have been individually summoned to local police stations for interrogation, threatened with violating national security laws, forbidden from traveling abroad, and in some cases physically abused.

The Bloc 8406 has particularly focused on two major events, the APEC summit to be held in Hanoi in November and the National Assembly elections scheduled for July 2007.

Bloc 8406 has initiated a campaign to boycott next year's National Assembly elections unless there are reforms to ensure a free and fair vote. Currently, strict limitations on the ability of non-Communist Party endorsed individuals to stand for election, not to mention prohibitions on the existence of independent political parties, are in force.

Campaign organizers maintain that the Vietnamese Communist Party's refusal to liberalize the political system has resulted in widespread corruption and stagnation. A pluralistic political system is a precondition for peace, stability and long-term economic prosperity.

Not only have Vietnam's democracy activists emphasized the intrinsic link between economic development, good governance and human rights, they are calling on world leaders to express the same connection at the upcoming APEC summit.

While the world's spotlight will be on Vietnam for a week in November, the months before and after the summit are a time when Vietnam's democrats face increasing risk of government persecution.

A favorite tactic of the communist regime is to round up dissidents prior to an international event, use the individuals as bar-

gaining chips or for high-profile amnesties right before the event, and then resume the harassment and arrests after the regime has achieved its immediate goal—whether it be a smooth meeting or granting of trade privileges.

**At this crucial juncture, you can support the Vietnamese democracy movement by:**

- lobbying the international community to support the Bloc 8406 with respect to the message for democracy and the rights of its members to peacefully express their views.
- calling on APEC heads of state to publicly state that Vietnam's full integration into the global economy requires political liberalization in tandem with economic liberalization.

## This August in Vietnam

### State-sponsored Theft

Authorities resorted to theft and economic isolation to deter a young democracy activist. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, Nguyen Phuong Anh, driving a company-provided car with two prominent democracy activists (Nguyen Thanh Giang and Pham Que Duong) was stopped on the streets of Hanoi. They were on their way to Thai Binh to visit the grave site of Gen. Tran Do on the anniversary of the renowned dissident's death. Police insisted Nguyen Phuong Anh acknowledge in writing to committing an unspecified infrac-

tion. When he challenged this request, police drove off with his car without leaving even a receipt for the seizure. Public security have since threatened to retaliate against his company. It has been common practice for authorities to economically isolate dissidents and make no company dare employ them.

### Beating of Democracy Activist

From August 4-8<sup>th</sup>, public security of district 4 in Ho Chi Minh City physically abused Vu Hoang Hai and subjected him to

grueling interrogation sessions. Authorities threatened to charge him with violating national security laws for signing the "2006 Manifesto on Freedom and Democracy for Vietnam."

### Harassment of independent journalists

Since August 12<sup>th</sup>, five prominent writers—Nguyen Khac Toan, Hoan Tien, Nguyen Van Dai, Bach Ngoc Duong, Duong Thi Xuan—have been interrogated on an almost daily basis by security police in Hanoi.



The individuals had intended to publish a magazine called *Freedom and Democracy*. Authorities learned of their plan to produce the first edition on August 15th by eavesdropping on the emails of Bach Ngoc Duong, the layout editor for the magazine.



*Nguyen Khac Toan*

Police searched the homes of Nguyen Khac Toan and Bach Ngoc Duong, confiscating books, computers, and mobile phones.

Nguyen Khac Toan, who served four years in prison for circulating pro-democracy articles over the Internet and is in poor

health, has been detained by police on at least six occasions since his release in January. He has had to replace the sim card in his mobile phone nine times because of disruptions of service by authorities.



*Bach Ngoc Duong*

**Arrests of Chat Room Users**

In the evening of August 18<sup>th</sup>, police arrested brothers Truong Quoc Huy and Truong Quoc Tuan and a friend, Quynh Tram, at an internet cafe in Saigon (Hoa Hao street, district 10) and hauled

them into a public security station for interrogation. The three youths had been reading emails and listening in to a chat room on Paltalk.com. The Truong brothers had been released only six weeks before after being held without trial since October 2005. They were previously accused of inciting the “overthrow of the government” for participating in a Paltalk discussion on democracy. The whereabouts of Truong Quoc Huy are currently unknown while Truong Quoc Tuan is under house arrest.



*Truong Quoc Huy*

**Letter of Complaint (Submission 2)**



*Nguyen Phuong Anh*

To: United Nations Commission on Human Rights; Human Rights Watch; US Congressional Committees reviewing PNTR status for Vietnam; World Trade Organization; Em-

bassies of the United States and European Union in Hanoi; Domestic and international media; Vietnamese people living in Vietnam and abroad.

I, Nguyen Phuong Anh, Director of TNHH SX, TM & XNK Mua Thu Company, a dissident in Vietnam, proclaim before the above organizations and people around the world embracing democracy and peace, matters outlined below relating to the Vietnamese government’s mistreatment of me

and assets belonging to my company.

1. The Vietnamese government, on August 1, 2006, deployed police forces to violate my basic human rights and appropriated assets of my company (including an automobile and items in the vehicle). Until now, they have yet to return any of the items, causing great hardship for my work and the activities of my company. I am in no position to know when my belongings will be returned.



2. The Vietnamese government has intervened to decline my application for a visa to travel abroad and forbid my movement outside Vietnam. They are currently staging plots to detain me at the B14 prison camp. They recently issued a warrant to disconnect my ADSL internet connection (account: autumn-cold) and all communication channels including the phones lines of my company and family, leading to a total impairment of my company and its eventual bankruptcy.

The Vietnamese government is working hard to obtain PNTR status from the United States and accession to the WTO. Yet the government is menacing business people and commercial enterprises thus challenging the sincerity of

whether the government [wants to integrate into the world]. There is no valid grounds for entitlement of such trading status as the Vietnamese government contrives to entice foreigners and devour their investment. Any company with employees inclined towards democratic values will inevitably see itself demolished the way my company has suffered. Even a shared dinner in the companion of individuals with a democratic inclination results in the government forbidding travel abroad (as in the case of businessman Pham Ba Hai).

I call upon the media in Vietnam and overseas, and people who embrace democracy, human rights and freedom to please raise your voice to help us reclaim justice. I also call upon

fellow Vietnamese living abroad to help raise the issue as a means of pressuring the Vietnamese government to return justice to democracy activists which I am one of many. By pressuring the government, future repression can be prevented. I am hanging my hope in your hands to help retrieve my assets as I have been issued a warning letter from the management committee of the company that if appropriated goods are not retrieved and the internet connection ban is continued that I will be dismissed from the company.

Please help me!

Hanoi, August 8, 2006

Nguyen Phuong Anh

## Report on Physical Abuse by Police



*Vu Hoang Hai*

To: All Governmental Authorities  
All Media in Vietnam and Abroad

My name: Vu Hoang Hai

Date of birth: December 12, 1965  
in Saigon

Address: B243B Doan Van Bo  
Street, Ward 18, District 4, Saigon

About 5:00pm on August 4, 2006, I was summoned by the local police to be at the police station on August 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am to be questioned regarding my residential permit (ho khau). At the time, I was busy supervising my house renovation and therefore I put the summons in my wallet without much thought. The next morning, I went to the police station on time as per the notice.

When I arrived at the police station, I asked for a policeman

called Mr. Tien as requested. They asked me to wait for awhile before directing me upstairs. I was very surprised to see lots of people in the room. All were in civilian clothes and appeared quite cold. They were staring at me. They took photos of me and then asked me to sit opposite from them. In front of me was a list of people who had signed the 2006 Democracy Manifesto with my name, Vu Hoang Hai, highlighted in blue and various articles belonging to an organization called Bach Dang Giang Foundation. After being seated, they asked whether I carried any tape recorder with me! I said no; they then ordered me to stand up and examined me. They also took my cell phone to inspect.

The police told me that I had breached national security by setting up Bach Dang Giang Foundation, they said that I am the president of this organization with alias of Trang Thien Long, as well as involved with those that opposed the Socialist Government of Vietnam when I was in a Thailand refugee camp.

After examining my cell phone, they recorded all phone numbers and details of all my recent calls. They ordered me to explain each case. Why did I have this number? When did I have it? For whom? The purpose of each call, especially the numbers belonging to repatriated refugees? Then they confiscated my identity card and their summons notice. I protested this and said that they had abused my basic rights. However, one of the policemen with graying hair and a northern accent came toward me; he swore at me using abusive language, and when I objected he beat me. From then on, he continued to beat me every time my answers were not what he was looking for. I was interrogated from morning until late (more than 18 hours) without any food or water; despite the fact that they did offer it to me, I declined worrying that it may be poisoned. While I was interrogated at the police station, some of the policemen came to my home and told my family that I must cooperate by volunteering any related documents or films; otherwise the entire family would be implicated and also I could be deported from my current residence.

The first day of interrogation was very tense. Whenever I became tired, they would wake me up by yelling and thumping the

table, ordering me to face them and answer their questions. In addition, I suffer from hypertension, and therefore I felt like fainting every time they bashed me. When I signaled them to stop the bashing, they often screamed, *we are even happier if you die.*

While I was being interrogated inside, my wife had to carry my children outside crying for help in the worry that I may die from the worsening hypertension due to the bashing. After the whole day being beaten and psychologically abused, I came home feeling extremely exhausted with aches and pains all over.

The next day (August 6<sup>th</sup>), I was again summoned to the police station to be interrogated. This time, I was not beaten but because of my hypertension, as well as being starved all day, I fainted and passed out. Despite that, the police only allowed me to rest for a short moment before interrogating me again until 8:00pm.

Similarly, they interrogated in the same manner on August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. However, on August 8<sup>th</sup> they started to beat me again. At times, they sweet-talked me but at others, they used obscene and abusive language. Fortunately, by that evening some of those from Bloc 8406 visited and arranged for help from the media and various governmental departments to intervene.

Currently, my life is seriously threatened and my family is constantly being intimidated. I respectively call upon all organizations and media outlets in Vietnam and abroad to immediately intervene, so that my basic rights

are respected; the rights that God has given to all human beings.

I sincerely appreciate all your help.

Saigon, August 9, 2006  
Vu Hoang Hai

**contact@viettan.org**  
**www.viettan.org**

MAIN OFFICE  
2530 Berryessa Rd. #234  
San Jose, CA 95132 - USA  
(408) 347-8830 phone  
(408) 347-8730 fax

ASIA  
P.O. Box 223  
Shiba, Tokyo 105-91 - JAPAN  
(81) 3-3765-5317 phone / fax

EUROPE  
BP 130  
92185 Antony Cedex - FRANCE  
(33) 1-46-86-85-22 phone / fax

AUSTRALIA  
P.O. Box 791  
Bankstown, NSW 2200  
(61) 2-9757-3072 phone / fax