



Index: ASA 41/8162/2018

4 April 2018

In 2017, Vietnamese authorities intensified crackdowns on the peaceful exercise of the human rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association as well as thought, conscience and religion.

Over 2017 and the first quarter of 2018, Amnesty International has compiled information on 97 known prisoners of conscience,¹ of which 88 are male and nine are female.² This constitutes a total increase from previous years despite some releases due to completed sentences.

Authorities primarily targeted human rights defenders, religious followers and peaceful environmental, social and political activists – including individuals expressing themselves online. These individuals have been targeted by the state either for organising protests in criticism of the Vietnamese authorities or for disseminating information alternative to that promoted by the state. Amongst these prisoners of conscience, 40 are activists - political, social and environmental - and 57 are religious followers, of which 37 are from indigenous people's groups. Of individuals with known ages, two are under 25 years, 75 between the ages of 25 to 64 years, with 18 who are 65 years and above.

Vietnamese authorities portray individuals who are peacefully exercising their rights as criminals, however, in reality state legislation and practices flagrantly contravene international human rights law. Many people have been arbitrarily detained, prosecuted in unfair trials on national security and other vaguely worded charges, and handed lengthy prison sentences. Individuals were routinely held incommunicado and in solitary confinement. Many were transferred to prisons distant from their family home as a punitive measure and were tortured and otherwise ill-treated in prison. For prolonged periods, activists have been denied access to a lawyer and their family members did not know of their whereabouts, heightening the risk of torture and other ill-treatment. According to reliable, multi-source reports, prisons in Viet Nam are unsanitary and prisoners are denied adequate access to: medical care, clean water and fresh air.

Of the 97 prisoners of conscience at least two are charged under two articles, with remaining individuals charged under one article, totalling 99 current charges under the 1999 Penal Code. 16 of these individuals are held in pre-trial detention, 41 sentences are less than 10 years in length and 42 sentences are 10 years or more.

Breakdown of current charges of the 97 known prisoners of conscience:

- 44 charges under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for “aiming to overthrow” the state
- 29 charges under Article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code for “undermining the national unity policy”
- 14 charges under Article 88 of the Penal Code for “spreading propaganda against the state”
- 1 charge under Article 89 of the 1999 Penal Code for “disrupting security”
- 2 charges under Article 91 of the 1999 Penal Code for “fleeing abroad or defecting to stay overseas in order to oppose the people’s administration”
- 3 charges under Article 245 of the 1999 Penal Code for “causing public disorder”
- 3 charges under Article 257 of the 1999 Penal Code for "resisting persons in the performance of their official duties"

¹ This list provides information on a selection of prisoners of conscience identified by Amnesty International. The true number of prisoners of conscience is believed to be higher.

² Of the nine female prisoners of conscience: one is 73 years old and eight are between the ages of 25 and 64 years.

- 4 charges under Article 258 of the 1999 Penal Code for "abusing democratic freedoms to infringe upon the interests of the State, the legitimate rights and interests of organizations and/or citizens"
- 1 charge under Article 304 of the 1999 Penal Code for "failing to execute judgement"

Prominent activists who have been released, as well as those not imprisoned, and their family members continued to face restrictions on movement and were subjected to surveillance, harassment and violent assaults; a large number of activists were left without a choice but to flee persecution in Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese authorities continued to grant early release to prisoners of conscience only if they agreed to go into exile.

Amnesty International calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience, as they have been deprived of liberty solely for peacefully exercising their human rights.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN VIET NAM

1 **Pastor A Dao** (m), born 1981, is a member of the Ha Lang minority from the Central Highlands and a protestant pastor of the Montagnard Evangelical Church of Christ. He was arrested on 19 August 2016 after he returned from attending the ASEAN People's Forum/ASEAN Civil Society Conference in Dili, Timor Leste. He was held incommunicado for at least six months. He was tried, convicted and sentenced to **five years imprisonment** on 28 April 2017 under Article 91 ("Fleeing abroad or defecting to stay overseas in order to oppose the people's administration") of the 1999 Penal Code. It is not known where he is held. *Release due August 2021.*

2 **A Hyum also known as Bă Kôl** (m), born 1940, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian and religious activist from Kon Tum province arrested in April 2012. He was tried in May 2013 by Gia Lai Provincial People's Court under Article 87 ("Undermining the national unity policy") of the 1999 Penal Code. He was convicted and sentenced to **eight years imprisonment**. He is reportedly held at Măng Yang prison camp in Gia Lai province. *Release due April 2020.*³

3 **A Tách also known as Bă Hlôl** (m), born 1959, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian and activist from Kon Tum province. He was arrested in April 2012. He was tried in May 2013 under Article 87 ("Undermining the national unity policy") of the 1999 Penal Code by Gia Lai Provincial People's Court, convicted and sentenced to **11 years imprisonment**. He was last reported as being held in Gia Lai province. *Release due April 2023.*⁴

4 **Bùi Văn Thâm** (m), born 1986, is a member of the "traditional" branch of the Hoa Hao Buddhist church which is not recognized by the state. They often face harassment and interference by local security officials when holding religious ceremonies. He was arrested with his father Bùi Văn Trung and other family members on 26 June 2017 in An Phú district of An Giang province. He has been charged under Article 245 of the 1999 Penal Code for "causing public disorder". He was previously imprisoned for 30 months between June 2012 and January 2015 when he was released.⁵ Last known to be held at Chau Doc city detention centre, An Giang province. *Pre-trial detention.*

5 **Bùi Văn Trung** (m), born 1964, is a teacher and member of the "traditional" branch of the Hoa Hao Buddhist church which is not recognized by the state. They often face harassment and interference by local security officials when holding religious ceremonies. He was arrested on 26 June 2017 with other family members after attending a death anniversary ceremony in An Phú district, An Giang province. He has been charged under Article 245 of the 1999 Penal Code for "causing public disorder", along with his son Bui Van Tham (see above). He had previously been imprisoned for four years between October 2012 and his release in October 2016.⁶ Last known to be held at An Phú district police station. *Pre-trial detention.*

6 **Byrk** (m), born 1945, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian and religious activist. He was arrested in May 2012 and tried by Gia Lai Provincial People's Court in May 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **eight years imprisonment** under Article 87 ("Undermining the national unity policy") of the 1999 Penal Code. He is reportedly held in Măng Yang prison camp in Gia Lai province.⁷ *Release due May 2020.*

7 **Chi** (m), born 1984, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian and religious activist. He was arrested in September 2012 and brought to trial in November 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **eight years imprisonment** under Article 87 ("Undermining the

³ Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

⁴ ibid

⁵ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>

⁶ Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>; *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>

⁷ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>

national unity policy”) of the 1999 Penal Code. He was last reported as being held at Gia Lai provincial prison.⁸ *Release due in September 2020.*

8 **Đào Quang Thực** (m), born 1960, is a retired primary school teacher from Da Bac district, Hoa Binh province. He was arrested on 5 October 2017 under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for “aiming to overthrow” the state. He had used Facebook and other social media platforms to highlight corruption and environmental issues. He is detained at Hoa Binh province police prison. *Pre-trial detention.*

9 **Đình Nông also known as Bả Pol** (m), born 1965, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian from Bờ Ngoong commune, Chư Sê district, Gia Lai province in the Central Highlands. He is a member of an independent Protestant church. He was arrested with four others in September 2016 on allegations of “undermining national unity policy” under Article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code. In April 2017, the five were tried by Gia Lai People’s Court; Đình Nông was convicted and sentenced to **eight years imprisonment**. It is not known where he is held. *Release due September 2024.*

10 **Đỗ Thị Hồng** (f), born 1957, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Son” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. She is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. She was convicted and sentenced to **13 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**. She is reportedly held at An Phước Detention Centre, Bình Dương province and to be in poor health.⁹ *Release due February 2025.*

11 **Đoàn Đình Nam** (m), born 1951, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Son” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **16 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.¹⁰ He is reportedly held at Xuyên Mộc prison, Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province and suffers from poor health. *Release due February 2028.*

12 **Đoàn Văn Cư** (m), born 1962, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Son” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **14 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.¹¹ He is reportedly held at Xuyên Mộc prison, Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province. *Release due February 2026.*

13 **Hồ Đức Hòa** (m), born 1974, Catholic social activist, journalist and community organizer arrested in August 2011. He is one of 14 activists from around Vinh City in Nghệ An province who were arrested and charged for their alleged connection with or membership of Viet Tan, an overseas based group peacefully campaigning for democracy in Viet Nam. All were charged under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state). They were tried on 8 to 9 January 2013 by Nghệ An People’s Court; Hồ Đức Hòa was convicted and received a **13 year prison sentence with five years house arrest on release**.¹² He is reportedly held in Nam Hà prison in Hà Nam province. *Release due February 2024.*

14 **Dr Hồ Văn Hải also known as Hồ Hải** (m), born 1964, is a medical doctor and online activist. He has used his blog to advocate for transparency and accountability in relation to the Formosa ecological disaster that began in April 2016, in which as many as 270,000 people, including fisherfolk, have been affected by the deaths of millions of fish. Dr Hải was arrested at his clinic in Thủ Đức district of Hồ Chí Minh City on 2 November 2016. ¹³ Amnesty International understands that Dr Hải is facing charges under Article 88 of the Penal Code, “spreading propaganda against the state”, which carries a prison sentence of between three and 20

⁸ Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

⁹ Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/> ; Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>; Joint Open Letter calling on the Government of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Thích Quảng Độ, Nguyễn Văn Đài and Đỗ Thị Hồng, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6689/2017/en/>

¹⁰ Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/> ; Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

¹¹ ibid

¹² ibid

¹³ Viet Nam: Crackdown on human rights amidst Formosa related activism, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5104/2016/en/>

years. He was convicted and sentenced to **four years imprisonment with 2 years house arrest on release**. Dr Hai is held at Chi Hoa prison, Ho Chi Minh city. *Release due November 2020*.

15 **Hoàng Đức Bình** (m), born 1983, is a blogger and Vice Chairman of the independent Viet Labor Movement. At the time of his arrest he was blogging about the Formosa ecological disaster. After his arrest on 15 May 2017, he was reportedly forced to sign a confession statement by the authorities in Diên Châu district of Nghệ An province. He was charged with "resisting persons in the performance of their official duties" under article 257 of Viet Nam's 1999 Penal Code, and "abusing democratic freedoms to infringe upon the interests of the State, the legitimate rights and interests of organizations and/or citizens" under article 258.¹⁴ In November 2017, Nghệ An security officials announced that the investigation period had ended. *Bình was convicted and sentenced to seven years imprisonment with seven years house arrest on release by the people court of Dien Chau district, Nghe An.*

16 **Hoàng Văn Giang** (m), born 1984, is a dentist and member of the Brotherhood for Democracy Association (*Hội Anh Em Dân Chủ*) from Thanh Hóa province. He was arrested in October 2015 on trumped up allegations of possession of illegal drugs. He was however secretly tried in August 2016 on charges of "conducting propaganda" against the state under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code, convicted and sentenced to **three years imprisonment**. He is reportedly held in Thanh Hóa province. *Release due October 2018.*

17 **Jơnh also known as Chình** (m), born 1952, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in May 2012. He was sentenced to **nine years imprisonment** in May 2013 by Gia Lai Provincial People's Court. He was convicted under Article 87 ("Undermining the national unity policy") of the 1999 Penal Code.¹⁵ He is reportedly held in Gia Lai province. *Release due May 2021.*

18 **Kpă Sinh** (m), born 1959, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in August 2010. He was tried in April 2011, convicted and sentenced to **eight years imprisonment** for breaching Article 87 ("Undermining the national unity policy") of the 1999 Penal Code, plus **three years house arrest on release**.¹⁶ He is reportedly held at Gia Lai prison camp. *Release due August 2018.*

19 **Kpuil Lễ** (m), is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in November 2011. He was tried in June 2012, convicted and sentenced to **eight years imprisonment** under Article 87 ("Undermining the national unity policy") of the 1999 Penal Code.¹⁷ He was last reported being held at Gia Lai prison camp. *Release due November 2019.*

20 **Kpuil Mel** (m), is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in November 2011. He was tried in June 2012, convicted and sentenced to **nine years imprisonment** under Article 87 ("Undermining the national unity policy") of the 1999 Penal Code.¹⁸ He was last reported being held at Gia Lai prison camp. *Release due November 2020.*

21 **Ksor Kam also known as Ama H'Trum** (m), born 1965, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian from Ia Der commune, Gia Lai province, and member of an independent Protestant church. He was arrested in September 2016 with four others on allegations of "undermining national unity policy" under Article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code. In April 2017, they were tried by Gia Lai People's Court; Ksor Kam was convicted and sentenced to **nine years imprisonment**. It is not known where he is held. *Release due September 2025.*

22 **Lê Đình Lượng** (m), born 1965, is an army veteran and Catholic social activist in Yen Thanh district of Nghệ An province. He had protested about the Formosa toxic spill in April 2016 that affected the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people. He was arrested on 24 July 2017 and is being investigated under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for activities aimed at overthrowing the state. He is held at detention center in Nghe An province. *Pre-trial detention.*

23 **Lê Đức Động** (m), born 1983, member of the "Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Sơn" (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code ("aiming to overthrow" the state) by Phú Yên People's Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **12 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.¹⁹ He is

¹⁴ Urgent Action: *Crackdown on Formosa spill activists continues*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6403/2017/en/>

¹⁵ *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

¹⁶ *ibid*

¹⁷ *ibid*

¹⁸ *ibid*

¹⁹ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/> ; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

reportedly held at An Đầm prison, Đại Lãnh, Đại Lộc, Quảng Nam province. *Release due February 2024.*

24 **Lê Duy Lộc** (m), born 1956, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Sơn” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **17 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.²⁰ He is reported held at Section 6, Thanh Chương prison, Nghệ An Province. *Release due February 2029.*

25 **Lê Thanh Tùng** (m), born 1968, is a journalist and member of an internet based pro-democracy group Bloc 8406 and has previously been a prisoner of conscience. He was arrested around [should be either (1) “on 14 or 15” or (2) “around 15”] 14 or 15 December 2015 in Gia Lai province of the Central Highlands. His house in Hà Nội was searched by police on 24 December 2015, who removed personal items. Lê Thanh Tùng was released in June 2015, six months before completing a four year prison term imposed in August 2012 for “conducting propaganda” under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code. Since his release he is reported to have continued to advocate for democracy and to be part of Bloc 8406, formed by another former prisoner of conscience, Trần Anh Kim who has also been arrested (see below). On 16 December 2016, both men were tried by a court in Thái Bình province under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state). Lê Thanh Tùng was convicted and sentenced to **12 years imprisonment with four years house arrest on release**.²¹ Moved to Prison No 5, Thanh Hoa province in August 2017, *Release due December 2027.*

26 **Lê Thu Hà** (f), born 1982, is a human rights activist arrested on 16 December 2015. She is the secretary of the independent organization founded by human rights lawyer Nguyễn Văn Đài, the Brotherhood of Democracy Association (*Hội Anh Em Dân Chủ*); he was arrested the same day.²² Lê Thu Hà was previously arrested on 23 September 2015 with four other staff members of the independent Lương Tâm (Conscience) TV which was set up in August 2015 to broadcast short video clips on YouTube about human rights issues in Viet Nam. She was an English translator for the broadcasts. Hà Nội security police held the five for questioning until late in the evening. Subsequently, the authorities confiscated Lê Thu Hà’s passport as she was about to fly from Hà Nội to Hồ Chí Minh City where she was planning to board an onward flight abroad. She was previously charged under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code with “conducting propaganda” against the state and is held in B14 prison in Hà Nội. On 23 August 2017, the lawyer of Nguyễn Văn Đài was informed that Đài had also been charged under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) and could be held in pre-trial detention for an additional 20 months. Subsequently, Lê Thu Hà will also be tried under Article 79. *Pre-trial detention*

27 **Lê Trọng Cự** (m), born 1966, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Sơn” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **12 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.²³ He is reportedly held at An Đầm prison, Đại Lãnh, Đại Lộc, Quảng Nam province. *Release due February 2024.*

28 **Lê Xuân Phúc** (m), born 1951, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Sơn” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **15 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.²⁴ He is reportedly held at Xuyên Mộc prison, Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province. *Release due February 2027.*

29 **Lương Nhật Quang** (m), born 1987, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Sơn” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú

²⁰ ibid

²¹ *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>; *Viet Nam: Incommunicado detention of human rights lawyers and trial of pro-democracy activists shows disdain for international human rights law*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5377/2016/en/>

²² *Urgent Action: Human rights activist held, at risk of torture*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/3126/2015/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

²³ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

²⁴ ibid

Yên People's Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **12 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.²⁵ He is reportedly held at Xuyên Mộc prison, Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province. *Release due February 2024.*

30 **Lưu Văn Vĩnh** (m), born 1967, a handyman, electrician, plumber and pro-democracy activist from Hải Dương province was arrested in Hồ Chí Minh City on 6 November 2016. He is being held for investigation under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code ("aiming to overthrow" the state) for alleged links to the "Coalition of Self-Determination [for] Vietnamese People" ("Liên Minh Dân Tộc Việt Nam").²⁶ The Coalition seeks political reform and an end to the monopoly of the ruling Communist Party of Viet Nam. He had taken part in peaceful protests about the Formosa ecological disaster in April, and in anti-China demonstrations. He was last reported held incommunicado at 4 Phan Dang Luu detention center, Phú Nhuận district in Hồ Chí Minh City. He has been in pre-trial detention without any formal charge. *Pre-trial detention.*

31 **Ngô Hòa** (m), born 1943, pro-democracy activist and former army officer was arrested in February 2013. He was accused of writing critical articles on the internet and of supporting Bloc 8406, an internet based pro-democracy group. He was tried by Phú Yên Provincial People's Court in September 2013, convicted and sentenced to **15 years imprisonment** under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code ("aiming to overthrow" the state) with five years house arrest on release.²⁷ He is reportedly held at Tuy Hoà prison, Phú Yên province. *Release due February 2028.*

32 **Ngô Thị Minh Ước** (f), born 1959, a land rights activist from Tiền Giang province was arrested with two others on 7 July 2014 while protesting outside the US diplomatic mission in Hồ Chí Minh City. On 30 March 2016, they were found guilty by Hồ Chí Minh City People's Court of "conducting propaganda" against the state under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code. They were accused of waving the flag of the former Republic of Vietnam and chanting anti-government slogans in protest of land confiscations. They were reported to have frequently taken part in protests. Ngô Thị Minh Ước was convicted and sentenced to **four years imprisonment with three years house arrest on release**; she was also given a **three month sentence** by a separate court in Bình Phước province.²⁸ The place where she is held is not known. *Release due October 2018.*

33 **Nguyễn Bắc Truyền** (m), born 1968, is a follower of Hoa Hao Buddhism who monitored and reported on the harassment of religious minorities. He had previously been a prisoner of conscience. Following his arrest on 30 July 2017, his whereabouts remained unknown for around three weeks.²⁹ He is charged under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for "aiming to overthrow" the state. The authorities allege that he is involved with the independent Brotherhood for Democracy Association. He has medical conditions which require medication; as he is held incommunicado it is not known if the prison authorities are providing this. He is detained at B14 prison in Ha Noi. *Pre-trial detention.*

34 **Nguyễn Bình** (m), born 1986, member of the "Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Sơn" (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code ("aiming to overthrow" the state) by Phú Yên People's Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **12 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.³⁰ He is reportedly held at An Đầm prison, Đại Lãnh, Đại Lộc, Quảng Nam province. *Release due February 2024.*

35 **Nguyễn Danh Dũng** (m), born 1987, a blogger from Thanh Hóa province, was arrested on 16 December 2016. He is accused of posting videos critical of government officials on social media, including YouTube and Facebook. He is held for investigation under Article 258 of the 1999 Penal Code for "abusing democratic freedoms". He is held at detention center in Thanh Hoa province. *Pre-trial detention.*

²⁵ ibid

²⁶ Viet Nam: Crackdown on human rights amidst Formosa related activism, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5104/2016/en/>; Urgent Action: Activists held incommunicado at risk of torture, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5190/2016/en/>

²⁷ Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

²⁸ Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

²⁹ Viet Nam: Four peaceful activists arbitrarily arrested in connection with long detained human rights lawyer, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6855/2017/en/>; Urgent Action: Missing human rights defender at risk of torture, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6964/2017/en/>; Viet Nam: Civil society organizations call for the immediate and unconditional release of Nguyễn Bắc Truyền, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/7411/2017/en/>

³⁰ Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

36 **Nguyễn Đặng Minh Mẫn** (f), born 1985, a Catholic social activist, was arrested in August 2011. She is one of 14 activists from around Vinh City in Nghệ An province who were arrested for their alleged connection with or membership of Viet Tan, an overseas based group peacefully campaigning for democracy in Viet Nam. All were charged under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for “aiming to overthrow” the state. They were tried on 8 to 9 January 2013 by Nghệ An People’s Court; Nguyễn Đặng Minh Mẫn was convicted and received an **eight year prison sentence with five years house arrest on release**.³¹ She is reportedly detained in Prison No 5, Yên Định, Thanh Hóa province. She had undertaken hunger strike twice in 2014 and 2015 in protest at the use of solitary confinement and abusive treatment in prison. *Release due August 2019*.

37 **Nguyễn Đình** (m), born 1968, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Sơn” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried and convicted under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was sentenced to **14 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.³² He is reportedly held at K2 prison, Xuân Lộc, Đồng Nai Province. *Release due February 2026*.

38 **Nguyễn Hoàng Quốc Hùng** (m), born 1981, a labour organizer and member of “Victims of Injustice” (*Dân Oan*). He was arrested in February 2010 with two colleagues after handing out leaflets at a shoe factory in Trà Vinh province where workers were striking for better pay and conditions. In October 2010, he was convicted and sentenced to **nine years imprisonment** by a court in Trà Vinh province under Article 89 (Disrupting security) of the 1999 Penal Code. He was beaten during pre-trial detention but he refused to plead guilty to the charges against him.³³ He is reportedly held at Xuyên Mộc prison, Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province. *Release due February 2019*.

39 **Nguyễn Hữu Quốc Duy** (m), born 1985, is an online activist. He was arrested in November 2015 for posting articles on Facebook critical of government policies and supporting his cousin Nguyễn Hữu Thiên An, arrested three months earlier. On 23 August 2016 he was tried and convicted under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code for “conducting propaganda” against the state by a court in Nha Trang, Khánh Hòa province;³⁴ he received a three year sentence upheld on appeal in December 2016. His cousin was tried at the same time. Nguyễn Hữu Quốc Duy’s family reports that he has been held incommunicado since his arrest. Transferred in February 2017 from a prison in Khánh Hòa province to An Đầm prison in Quảng Nam province. *Release due November 2018*.

40 **Nguyễn Hữu Vinh** also known as **Anh Ba Sàm** (m), born 1956, co-founded the popular Ba Sàm blog in 2007 which carried articles critical of the government and on China’s policies in the disputed South China Sea/East Sea. He was arrested in May 2014 with his assistant Nguyễn Thị Minh Thúy (see below) on charges of “abusing democratic freedoms” under Article 258 of the 1999 Penal Code. They were held in pre-trial detention for almost two years before being tried on 23 March 2016 by Hà Nội People’s Court; Nguyễn Hữu Vinh was convicted and sentenced to **five years imprisonment**, upheld on appeal on 22 September 2016. He is serving his prison term at Prison no. 5 in Thanh Hoa province.³⁵ *Release due May 2019*.

41 **Nguyễn Kỳ Lạc** (m), born 1951, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Sơn” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **16 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.³⁶ He is reportedly detained at K2 prison, Xuân Lộc, Đồng Nai Province. *Release due February 2028*.

42 **Nguyễn Nam Phong** (m), born 1980, member of Van Thai parish in Nghe An province. He was active in trying to help local communities during the Formosa ecological disaster. On 28 November 2017, Phong was arrested and tried under Article 257 of the

³¹ ibid

³² ibid

³³ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

³⁴ *Viet Nam: Conviction of youth activists highlights authorities’ retrograde attitude to human rights*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4725/2016/en/>

³⁵ *Urgent Action: Demand release of blogger and assistant*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/2801/2015/en/>; *Viet Nam: Convictions of Nguyễn Hữu Vinh and Nguyễn Thị Minh Thúy are an outrageous contravention of freedom of expression*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/3702/2016/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

³⁶ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

1999 Penal Code (“resisting persons in the performance of their official duties”). Nguyen Nam Phong was convicted and sentenced to **two years imprisonment** by the People’s Court of Dien Chau district, Nghe An. *Release due November 2019.*

43 **Nguyễn Ngọc Cường** (m), born 1956, land rights activist in Đồng Nai province arrested in April 2011 with his son and daughter-in-law (both released). They were accused of distributing anti-government leaflets and creating an internet forum. They were tried in October 2011 for “conducting propaganda” against the state under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code; Nguyễn Ngọc Cường was convicted and sentenced to **seven years imprisonment**.³⁷ **His son, Nguyễn Ngọc Tường Thi was convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment (released) and his daughter-in-law, Phạm Thị Bích Chi was convicted and sentenced to one year and six month suspended sentence (expired).** He is reportedly held at Xuyên Mộc prison, Đồng Nai Province. *Release due April 2018.*

44 **Nguyễn Ngọc Như Quỳnh** also known as **Mẹ Nấm (Mother Mushroom)** (f), born 1979, is a well-known blogger and human rights defender. She was arrested in her home town of Nha Trang, **Khánh Hòa** province, South Central Coast area of Viet Nam on 10 October 2016 as she was accompanying the mother of an activist trying to visit him in a local prison. The authorities accused her of “causing detriment to national security and social safety and order” for her critical Facebook postings. She was tried and convicted by the People's Court of Khánh Hòa on 29 June 2017 for “conducting propaganda” against the state under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code; she was sentenced to **10 years imprisonment**.³⁸ She is in poor health and has been denied health supplements provided by her family. She is held at Prison no. 5 in Thanh Hoa province. *Release due October 2026.*

45 **Nguyễn Trung Tôn** (m), born 1972, is a Protestant pastor who has written about and promoted freedom of religion in Viet Nam. He was arrested on 30 July 2017 with two other members of the Brotherhood for Democracy Association (*Hội Anh Em Dân Chủ*). He is accused of “carrying out activities “aiming to overthrow” the state under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code.³⁹ He was previously imprisoned as a prisoner of conscience for two years between 2011 and 2013 for his writings. He and his family have faced harassment by the authorities and unidentified assailants for many years. Nguyễn Trung Tôn suffers from kidney and prostate problems for which he takes medication. In addition, he has badly injured knees after he was abducted and beaten by unknown men in February 2017. He is held incommunicado at B14 Prison, Hà Nội. *Pre-trial detention.*

46 **Nguyễn Văn Đài** (m), born 1969, is a human rights lawyer and activist. He had previously been held as a prisoner of conscience. He founded the dissident Committee for Human Rights in Viet Nam in 2006 – now called the Vietnam Human Rights Centre – and was one of the original signatories to Bloc 8406, an internet based pro-democracy group. He is the co-founder of the Brotherhood for Democracy Association (*Hội Anh Em Dân Chủ*). He was arrested on 16 December 2015 on his way to meet with European Union (EU) officials who were in Hà Nội for the EU-Viet Nam human rights dialogue that took place on 15 December. Ten days earlier he and colleagues were assaulted by 20 men in plain clothes after delivering a small human rights workshop. He was initially held in pre-trial detention under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code for “conducting propaganda” against the state. He is detained at B14 prison in Hà Nội, where he has been denied access to his family and lawyer.⁴⁰ On 23 August 2017, the Supreme People’s Procuracy informed his lawyer that Nguyễn Văn Đài has been additionally charged under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for “aiming to overthrow” the state and that his pre-trial detention could be extended for a further 20 months. *Pre-trial detention.*

47 **Nguyễn Văn Điển** (m), born 1983, was arrested on 2 March 2017 in the apartment in Đống Đa district of Hà Nội that he shared with Vũ Quang Thuận (see below), who was also arrested. They were accused of spreading “harmful” video clips on social media. They are members of the *Chan hung Nuoc Viet* (Reviving Vietnam Campaign), and in the months before their arrest, they had posted videos critical of government officials and policies. Both are charged under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code for “conducting propaganda” against the state. He was convicted and sentenced to **six years and six months imprisonment with 4 years house arrest on release.** He is held at Prison no.1 in Hanoi. *Release due September 2023.*

48 **Nguyễn Văn Đức Độ** (m), born 1975, is an electrician and pro-democracy activist from Huế city. He was arrested in Hồ Chí Minh City on 6 November 2016. He continues to be investigated under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow”

³⁷ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

³⁸ Urgent Action: *Ten years in prison for human rights defender*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6706/2017/en/>; *Viet Nam: Vietnamese human rights blogger should be immediately and unconditionally released*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6616/2017/en/>

³⁹ *Viet Nam: Four peaceful activists arbitrarily arrested in connection with long detained human rights lawyer*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6855/2017/en/>; Urgent Action: *Activists held incommunicado may face life in prison*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/7059/2017/en/>

⁴⁰ Urgent Action: *Human rights lawyer arrested, at risk*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/3098/2015/en/>; *Joint Open Letter calling on the Government of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Thích Quảng Độ, Nguyễn Văn Đài and Đỗ Thị Hồng*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6689/2017/en/>

the state) on allegations of links to the “Coalition of Self-Determination [for] Vietnamese People” (“Liên Minh Dân Tộc Việt Nam”).⁴¹ The Coalition seeks political reform and an end to the monopoly of the ruling Communist Party of Viet Nam. He had taken part in peaceful protests about the Formosa ecological disaster in April, and in anti-China demonstrations. He was last reported detained at 4 Phan Dang Luu detention center, Phú Nhuận district of Hồ Chí Minh City. *Pre-trial detention*.

49 **Nguyễn Văn Hóa** (m), born 1995, is a blogger from Kỳ Anh district, north central Viet Nam. He was arrested on 11 January 2017 on his way to a court in connection with the Formosa ecological disaster. Subsequently, his family were informed by the Hà Tĩnh police that he was being detained under Article 258 of the 1999 Penal Code for “abusing democratic freedoms to infringe upon the interests of the State and the rights and legitimate interests of organizations and citizens”, a provision commonly used against peaceful activists.⁴² However, on 27 November 2017, he was tried by the People’s Court of Hà Tĩnh province, convicted and sentenced to **seven years imprisonment** under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code for “conducting propaganda” against the state, with **three years house arrest on release**. He is held at Cầu Đông prison, Hà Tĩnh province. *Release due January 2024*.

50 **Nguyễn Văn Oai** (m), born 1981, a Catholic social activist, was arrested on his way home from a fishing trip in Hoàng Mai town, Nghệ An province in central Viet Nam late on the evening of 19 January 2017. The next day his family were informed that he was accused of resisting officials on duty and violating his probation. Nguyễn Văn Oai was serving a three year probation period following his release in August 2015 at the end of a four year prison sentence as prisoner of conscience. He is a co-founder of the Association of Catholic Former Prisoners of Conscience and a member of Viet Tan, an overseas group advocating for peaceful political change in Viet Nam.⁴³ He is an engineer who was previously arrested in August 2011 and tried and convicted in January 2013 under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for activities “aiming to overthrow” the state; he was then sentenced to four years imprisonment with three years house arrest on release. Nguyễn Văn Oai was tried on 18 September 2017 by a court in Hoàng Mai town, Nghệ An province. He was convicted under Article 257 of the 1999 Penal Code (“Resisting persons in the performance of their official duties”) and under Article 304 (“Failing to execute judgements²) and sentenced to **three and two years imprisonment respectively**. He is held at Gia Trung prison in Gia Lai province. *Release due January 2022*.

51 **Nguyễn Văn Thiện** (m), born 1961, is a former soldier from Liêm Càn village, Thanh Liêm district, Hà Nam province. He was a victim of a land-grab who made numerous allegations about corrupt officials and abuse of land rights. He was arrested on 6 August 2014 when he tried to lodge a written complaint at the local People’s Committee office about corrupt village officials. He was tried in July 2015 by a court in Thanh Liem, convicted and sentenced to **four years imprisonment** under Article 245 of the 1999 Penal Code for “disturbing public order”. The sentence was upheld on appeal in October 2015. It is not known where he is held. *Release due August 2018*.

52 **Nguyen Van Tuc** (m), born 1964, is a pro-democracy activist arrested on 1 September 2017 in Dong Hung district, Thai Binh province. He is one of several members of the Brother for Democracy Association who have been arrested. He had been previously imprisoned in September 2008 as a prisoner of conscience and released in 2012. He has been charged under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for “aiming to overthrow” the state. His current location is not known. *Pre-trial detention*.

53 **Nguyễn Việt Dũng** (m), born 1986, founder of the unsanctioned Republican Party of Vietnam was arrested on 27 September 2017 in Nghe An province. He has been charged under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code for “conducting propaganda” against the state. He is a former prisoner of conscience previously sentenced in 2015 to 15 months imprisonment, reduced to 12 months on appeal, for his peaceful activism and released in April 2016.⁴⁴ He is held at detention center in Nghe An province. His trial is currently scheduled for 12 April 2018. *Pre-trial detention*.

54 **Nhi also known as Bả Tiêm** (m), born 1958, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in December 2008 for exercising his right to freedom of expression and religion. He was tried in September 2009, convicted and sentenced to **10 years imprisonment** under Article 87 (“Undermining the national unity policy”) of the 1999 Penal Code.⁴⁵ He was last reported being held in Gia Lai

⁴¹ Viet Nam: Crackdown on human rights amidst Formosa related activism, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5104/2016/en/>; Urgent Action: Activists held incommunicado at risk of torture, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5190/2016/en/>

⁴² Urgent Action: Three human rights defenders held incommunicado, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5559/2017/en/>

⁴³ Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/> ; Urgent Action: Three human rights defenders held incommunicado, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5559/2017/en/>

⁴⁴ Viet Nam: Immediately and unconditionally release democracy activist Nguyễn Việt Dũng, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/3093/2015/en/>

⁴⁵ Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

provincial prison. *Release due December 2018.*

55 **Noh (m)**, born 1959, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in August 2008. He was tried in September 2009, convicted and sentenced to **12 years imprisonment** under Article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code for “undermining the national unity policy”.⁴⁶ He was last reported being held in Gia Lai provincial prison. *Release due August 2020.*

56 **Phạm Thị Phượng (f)**, born 1945, is a former member of the banned Vietnam Populist Party (*Đảng Vì Dân Việt Nam*), and an army officer under the former regime of South Viet Nam. She was arrested in April 2010, tried, convicted and sentenced to **11 years imprisonment** under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for activities “aimed at overthrowing” the state.⁴⁷ She is reportedly held at An Phước Detention Centre, Bình Dương province. *Release due April 2021.*

57 **Phạm Văn Trội (m)**, born 1972, is a writer, activist, and member of the Brotherhood for Democracy Association (*Hội Anh Em Dân Chủ*). He has provided advice to workers and land grab victims and written about human rights and democracy. He was arrested on 30 July 2017 under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for activities “aimed at overthrowing” the state.⁴⁸ He was previously imprisoned as prisoner of conscience for four years, from September 2008 to 2012. He has stomach ulcers for which he takes medication. He is held incommunicado at B14 Prison, Hà Nội. *Pre-trial detention.*

58 **Phan Kim Khánh (m)**, born 1993, is an International Relations student and freelance journalist. He was arrested on 21 March 2017, tried and convicted on 25 October 2017 under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code (“conducting propaganda” against the state). The allegations against him included that he administered two anti-corruption blogs and other social mediate sites, and that he was in touch with “overseas reactionaries” including former prisoner of conscience Nguyễn Văn Hải (also known as blogger Điếu Cày) who was released into exile in the US. He was sentenced to **six years imprisonment with four years house arrest on release.** Khanh is being imprisoned at Nam Ha prison, Ha Nam province. *Release due March 2023.*

59 **Phan Thanh Tường (m)**, born 1987, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Son” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (for “aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **10 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release.**⁴⁹ He is reportedly held at Section 2, Xuân Lộc District, Đồng Nai Province. *Release due February 2022.*

60 **Phan Thanh Ý (m)**, born 1948, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Son” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (for “aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **14 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release.**⁵⁰ He is reportedly held at Xuyên Mộc prison, Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province. *Release due February 2026.*

61 **Phan Văn Thu (m)**, born 1948, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Son” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted sentenced to **life imprisonment.**⁵¹ He is reportedly held at An Phước Prison in Phú Giáo District, Bình Dương Province. *No release date.*

62 **Puih Bop also known as Ama Phun (m)**, born 1959, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian from Ia Der commune, Ia Grai district in Gia Lai province, and member of an independent Protestant church. He was arrested in September 2016 with four others on allegations of “undermining national unity policy” under Article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code. In April 2017, they were tried by Gia

⁴⁶ ibid

⁴⁷ ibid

⁴⁸ *Viet Nam: Four peaceful activists arbitrarily arrested in connection with long detained human rights lawyer*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6855/2017/en/>; *Urgent Action: Activists held incommunicado may face life in prison*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/7059/2017/en/>

⁴⁹ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

⁵⁰ ibid

⁵¹ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

Lai People's Court; Puih Bop was convicted and sentenced to **nine years imprisonment**. It is not known where he is held. *Release due September 2025*.

63 **Rah Lan Blom** (m), born 1976, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian from Ploi Kua village in Gia Lai province. He was arrested in August 2010 and sentenced in April 2011 under Article 87 ("Undermining the national unity policy") of the 1999 Penal Code to **nine years imprisonment with three years house arrest on release**.⁵² He was last reported being held at An Phước prison camp, Bình Dương province. *Release due August 2019*.

64 **Rah Lan Mliih** (m) born 1966, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian from the village of Ploi Phun in Gia Lai province. He was arrested in August 2010 and sentenced in April 2011 to **nine years imprisonment with three years house arrest on release**. He was convicted under Article 87 ("Undermining the national unity policy") of the 1999 Penal Code.⁵³ He was last reported being held in Gia Lai province. *Release due August 2019*.

65 **Rmah Hlach also known as Ama Blut** (m), born 1968, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian. He was arrested in July 2009 and sentenced to **12 years imprisonment with three years house arrest on release** under Article 87 ("Undermining the national unity policy") of the 1999 Penal Code. He was last reported being held at Ba Sao prison camp, Hà Nam in Nam Hà province. *Release due July 2021*.

66 **Rơ Lan Jú also known as Ama Suit** (m), born 1968, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian. He was arrested in March 2009 and tried in July 2009. He was tried, convicted and sentenced to **nine years imprisonment** under Article 87 ("Undermining the national unity policy") of the 1999 Penal Code. He was last reported being held at Gia Lai prison camp. *Release due March 2018*.

67 **Rơ Lan Kly also known as Ama Blan** (m), born 1962, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian from Bar Maih commune, Chư Sê district in Gia Lai province of the Central Highlands. He is a member of an independent Protestant church. He was arrested in September 2016 with four others on allegations of "undermining national unity policy" under Article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code. In April 2017, they were tried by Gia Lai People's Court; Rơ Lan Kly was convicted and sentenced to **eight years imprisonment**. It is not known where he is held. *Release due September 2024*.

68 **Rơ Mah Đaih also known as Ama Pôn** (m), born 1989, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian from Ia Kha township, Ia Grai district, Gia Lai province in the Central Highlands. He is a member of an independent Protestant church. He was arrested in September 2016 with four others on allegations of "undermining national unity policy" under Article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code. In April 2017, they were tried by Gia Lai People's Court; Rơ Mah Đaih was convicted and sentenced to **10 years imprisonment**. It is not known where he is held. *Release due September 2026*.

69 **Ro Mah Klit** (m), born 1946, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian. He was arrested in August 2010 and tried in April 2011 under Article 87 (Undermining the national unity policy) of the 1999 Penal Code. He was convicted and sentenced to **eight years imprisonment with three years house arrest on release**.⁵⁴ He is reportedly held in Gia Lai province. *Release due August 2018*.

70 **Rơ Mah Pró** (m), born 1964, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian from the village of Ploi Khop in Gia Lai province. He was arrested in August 2010. He was convicted under Article 87 ("Undermining the national unity policy") of the 1999 Penal Code and sentenced in April 2011 to **nine years imprisonment and three years house arrest on release**.⁵⁵ He was last reported being held in Gia Lai province. *Release due August 2019*.

71 **Rôh** (m), born 1962, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian. He was arrested in August 2008 and tried in September 2009. He was convicted and sentenced to **10 years imprisonment** under Article 87 ("Undermining the national unity policy") of the 1999 Penal Code.⁵⁶ He was last reported being held in Gia Lai provincial prison. *Release due August 2018*.

72 **Rurn** (m), born 1971, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian. He was arrested in August 2012 and tried in November 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **nine years imprisonment** under Article 87 ("undermining the unity policy") of the 1999 Penal Code.⁵⁷

⁵² Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

⁵³ ibid

⁵⁴ ibid

⁵⁵ ibid

⁵⁶ Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asabid41/4389/2016/en/>

⁵⁷ ibid

He was last reported being held in Gia Lai province. *Release due August 2021.*

73 **Siu Ben also known as Ama Yon** (m), born 1975. He is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in March 2009. He was tried, convicted and sentenced to **12 years imprisonment** in July 2009 under Article 87 (“Undermining the national unity policy”) of the 1999 Penal Code.⁵⁸ He was last reported being held at Gia Lai prison camp. *Release due March 2021.*

74 **Siu Brom** (m), born 1967, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian from Ploi Ngol Grong village in Gia Lai province. He was arrested in August 2010 and tried in April 2011. He was convicted under Article 87 (“Undermining the national unity policy”) of the 1999 Penal Code and sentenced to **10 years imprisonment with three years house arrest on release**.⁵⁹ He was last reported being held in Gia Lai province. *Release due August 2020.*

75 **Siu Hlom** (m), born 1967, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian from Plou Kuao village in Gia Lai province. He was arrested in August 2010, tried, convicted and sentenced to **12 years imprisonment in April 2011** under Article 87 (“Undermining the national unity policy”) of the 1999 Penal Code, with **three years house arrest on release**.⁶⁰ He was last reported being held at Gia Lai prison camp. *Release due August 2022.*

76 **Siu Korch** (m), born 1985, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in July 2009. In January 2010 he was tried, convicted and sentenced to **nine years imprisonment with three years house arrest on release** under Article 87 (“Undermining the national unity policy”) of the 1999 Penal Code.⁶¹ He was last reported being held at Gia Lai prison camp. *Release due July 2018.*

77 **Siu Nheo** (m), born 1955, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in August 2010. He was tried in April 2011 convicted under Article 87 (“Undermining the national unity policy”) of the 1999 Penal Code and sentenced to **10 years imprisonment with three years house arrest on release**.⁶² He was last reported being held at Gia Lai prison camp. *Release due August 2020.*

78 **Siu Thái also known as Ama Thương** (m), born 1978, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in April 2011. He was tried in December 2011, convicted and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment under Article 87 (“Undermining the national unity policy”) of the 1999 Penal Code.⁶³ He was last reported being held in Gia Lai province. *Release due April 2021.*

79 **Tạ Khu** (m), born 1947, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Son” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **16 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.⁶⁴ He is reportedly held at Xuyên Mộc Prison, Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu province. *Release due February 2028.*

80 **Venerable Thạch Thuở** (m), born 1985, is a Khmer Krom Buddhist monk and deputy abbot of Serei Ta Sek Temple in Sóc Trăng province. He was arrested in May 2013 and charged under Article 91 of the 1999 Penal Code (“Fleeing abroad to oppose the people’s administration”). In March 2013 local authorities and Buddhist officials ordered Thạch Thuở and two other Khmer Krom monks to defrock or face imprisonment, alleging that the three were spreading “fabricated information” abroad about human rights violations in Viet Nam, through interviews with foreign media and contact with the Khmer Krom Federation, a US-based advocacy group. He attempted to flee Viet Nam to seek political asylum. In pre-trial detention, Thạch Thuở was beaten by police but refused to confess to any crimes. He was tried in September 2013, convicted and sentenced to **six years imprisonment**.⁶⁵ He is currently held at Xuân Lộc Prison in Đồng Nai Province. *Release due May 2019.*

81 **Thích Quảng Độ** (m), born 1928, is the Patriarch of the banned Unified Buddhist Church of Viet Nam (UBCV). He is a leading

⁵⁸ ibid

⁵⁹ ibid

⁶⁰ ibid

⁶¹ ibid

⁶² ibid

⁶³ ibid

⁶⁴ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

⁶⁵ *Prisons within prisons: Torture and ill-treatment of prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4187/2016/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

advocate of religious freedom, human rights and democracy. He has been confined to the Thanh Minh Zen monastery in Hồ Chí Minh City since October 2003, when security officials told him that he had been placed in administrative detention for an indefinite period. He has protested peacefully against repressive government policies in Viet Nam since the 1950s and has spent almost three decades either in prison, detained without trial or under house arrest in “internal exile”.⁶⁶ *Indefinite house arrest.*

82 **Trần Anh Kim** (m), born 1949, is a writer and former army officer. He was arrested in September 2015 for investigation under Article 79 of the Penal Code for activities “aiming to overthrow” the state). It is believed to be in connection with a group that he was about to launch named “Raising the flag of democracy” (*Lực Lượng Quốc Dân Dựng Cờ Dân Chủ*). Trần Anh Kim, a supporter of Bloc 8406 – an internet based pro-democracy group - had previously been a prisoner of conscience, sentenced in December 2009 to five and a half years imprisonment with three years house arrest on release for his peaceful activities protesting about injustice and government corruption; he was released in January 2015 and re-arrested eight months later. Trần Anh Kim was brought to trial with another member of his group, Lê Thanh Tùng, on 16 December 2016 by a court in Thái Bình province. He was convicted and sentenced to **13 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.⁶⁷ Moved to Prison No 5, Thanh Hoa province in August 2017. *Release due September 2028.*

83 **Trần Hoàng Phúc** (m), born 1994, is a pro-democracy and environmental activist. He was a member of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) set up by US President Obama. He was arrested on 29 June 2017 at his apartment in Ha Noi on allegations of “conducting propaganda” against the state under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code. He is a member of the *Chan Hung Nuoc Viet* (Reviving Vietnam) campaign, and is alleged to have made and shared videos critical of the government. He was convicted and sentenced to **six years imprisonment with four years house arrest** on release. He is held at Prison no. 1 in Hanoi. *Release due June 2023.*

84 **Trần Huỳnh Duy Thức** (m), born 1966, is an entrepreneur, blogger and human rights defender, and co-author of “The Path of Viet Nam” (*Phong Trào Con Đường Việt Nam*), which makes recommendations on governance reform. He was arrested in May 2009 and tried by Hồ Chí Minh City People’s Court on 20 January 2010 with three co-defendants on charges of “aiming to overthrow” the state under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code. He was convicted and sentenced to **16 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**. He alleged that he was tortured during pre-trial detention in an attempt to make him “confess” to the charges against him; he refused. He was moved from Xuyên Mộc prison camp in Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu province to Prison No 6 in Nghệ An province on 5 May 2016, where he has reportedly been held. The transfer was possibly connected with his refusal to agree to be relocated to the United States as a condition for early release. He carried out a two week hunger-strike during May to June 2016 to demand rule of law and a referendum on Viet Nam’s political system. *Release due May 2025*.⁶⁸

85 **Trần Phi Dung** (m), born 1966, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Sơn” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **13 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.⁶⁹ He is reportedly held at Prison Z30A, Section 2, in Xuân Lộc District, Đồng Nai Province. *Release due February 2025.*

86 **Trần Quân** (m), born 1984, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Sơn” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **12 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.⁷⁰ He is

⁶⁶ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>; *Joint Open Letter calling on the Government of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Thích Quảng Độ, Nguyễn Văn Đài and Đỗ Thị Hồng*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6689/2017/en/>

⁶⁷ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>; *Viet Nam: Incommunicado detention of human rights lawyers and trial of pro-democracy activists shows disdain for international human rights law*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5377/2016/en/>

⁶⁸ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>; *Prisons within prisons: Torture and ill-treatment of prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4187/2016/en/>; *Viet Nam: Open Letter on prisoner of conscience Trần Huỳnh Duy Thức*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6234/2017/en/>

⁶⁹ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

⁷⁰ *ibid*

reportedly held at Prison Z30A, Section 2, in Xuân Lộc District, Đồng Nai Province. *Release due February 2024.*

87 **Trần Thị Nga** (f), born 1977, is a member of the independent Vietnamese Women for Human Rights group. She was arrested at her home in Phú Lý, Hà Nam province in northern Viet Nam on 21 January 2017. According to state controlled media, she was “caught posting video clips and documents containing anti-state propaganda on the internet”. On 25 July 2017, Trần Thị Nga was tried by the People's Court of Hà Nam province and convicted of “conducting propaganda” against the state under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code. She was sentenced to **nine years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.⁷¹ Before her arrest, Trần Thị Nga had been subjected to harassment, intimidation and police beatings for her advocacy on human rights, including land and labour rights, and for participation in environmental and anti-China protests. She is held at Hà Nam provincial prison. *Release due January 2026.*

88 **Trần Thị Thúy** (f), born 1971, member of the independent Hoa Hao Buddhist church and land rights activist. She was arrested in August 2010 and tried by Ben Tre Provincial People's Court with six other defendants on 30 May 2011. They were charged under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for activities “aiming to overthrow” the state on accusations of links to Viet Tan, an overseas based group peacefully advocating for democracy in Viet Nam. Trần Thị Thúy was convicted and sentenced to **eight years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**. She is in poor health and has been denied medical treatment unless she “confesses” to the charges for which she was convicted.⁷² She is held at An Phước Detention Centre, Bình Dương province. *Release due August 2018.*

89 **Trần Thị Xuân** (f), born 1976, is a Catholic activist and member of the Brotherhood for Democracy Association (Hội Anh Em Dân Chủ). She was arrested at her home in Hà Tĩnh province on 17 October 2017 for investigation under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for “aiming to overthrow” the state. She had taken part in protests relating to the Formosa toxic spill in April 2016, and worked with youth in her parish. According to official media, she is alleged to have posted articles and photos critical of the government on the internet. It is not known where she is held. *Pre-trial detention.*

90 **Trương Minh Đức** (m), born 1960, is a former journalist. Prior to his arrest he worked as an administrator for the Brotherhood for Democracy (Hội Anh Em Dân Chủ) and as an advocate in the Viet Labour movement, educating workers about their human rights. He was arrested on 30 July 2017 on accusation of “carrying out activities aiming to overthrow” the state under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code.⁷³ He was previously imprisoned as a prisoner of conscience for five years from 2007 to 2012, and since then he and his family had faced frequent harassment from the authorities and plain clothed individuals. He has a heart disease and high blood pressure. Following a stroke in mid-May, he needs daily access to a number of medications in order to safely control his condition and help prevent another stroke or a heart attack. He is held incommunicado at B14 Prison, Ha Noi. *Pre-trial detention.*

91 **Từ Thiện Lương** (m), born 1950, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Sơn” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People's Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **16 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.⁷⁴ He is reportedly held at An Đầm prison, Đại Lãnh, Đại Lộc, Quảng Nam province. *Release due February 2028.*

92 **Võ Ngọc Cư** (m), born 1951, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Sơn” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People's Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **16 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release**.⁷⁵ He is

⁷¹ Urgent Action: *Female activist sentenced to nine years in prison*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6833/2017/en/>

⁷² *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>; *Prisons within prisons: Torture and ill-treatment of prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4187/2016/en/>; Urgent Action: *Growing health fears for prisoner of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5727/2017/en/>

⁷³ *Viet Nam: Four peaceful activists arbitrarily arrested in connection with long detained human rights lawyer*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6855/2017/en/>; Urgent Action: *Activists held incommunicado may face life in prison*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/7059/2017/en/>

⁷⁴ *Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>; *Viet Nam: List of prisoners of conscience*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4389/2016/en/>

⁷⁵ *ibid*

reportedly held at Xuyên Mộc prison, Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu province. *Release due February 2028.*

93 **Võ Thành Lê** (m), born 1955, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Son” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **16 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release.**⁷⁶ He is reportedly held at Xuyên Mộc prison, Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu province. *Release due February 2028.*

94 **Võ Tiết** (m), born 1952, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Son” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **16 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release.**⁷⁷ He is reportedly held at Prison Z30A, Section 2, in Xuân Lộc District, Đồng Nai Province. *Release due February 2028.*

95 **Vũ Quang Thuận** (m), born 1966, was arrested on 2 March 2017 in the apartment in Đống Đa district of Hà Nội that he shared with Nguyễn Văn Điển (see above), who was also arrested. They were accused of spreading “harmful” video clips on social media. They are members of the *Chan Hung Nuoc Viet* (Reviving Vietnam) campaign, and in the months before their arrest, they had posted videos critical of government officials and policies. Both are charged under Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code for “conducting propaganda” against the state. Vu Quang Thuan was convicted and sentenced to eight years imprisonment and five years house arrest on release. He is held at Prison no. 1 in Hanoi. *Pre-trial detention.*

96 **Vương Tấn Sơn** (m), born 1953, member of the “Council for the Laws and Public Affairs of Bia Son” (*Hội đồng Công luật Công án Bia Sơn*), a peaceful religious group dedicated to protecting the environment in Phú Yên Province. He is one of 22 Council members arrested in February 2012 and tried under Article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (“aiming to overthrow” the state) by Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **17 years imprisonment with five years house arrest on release.**⁷⁸ He is reportedly held at Xuyên Mộc prison, Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province. *Release due February 2029.*

97 **Vũ Văn Hùng** (m), born 1967, member of the Brotherhood for Democracy Association (*Hội Anh Em Dân Chủ*). He was arrested on 30 July 2017 on suspicion of “intentionally inflicting injury on or causing harm to the health of other persons” under Article 134 of the 2015 Penal Code. Hùng had been arrested and convicted under Article 88 (“conducting propaganda” against the state) of the 1999 Penal Code in 2009 and spent 3 years in prison with 3 years house arrest on release. He is held at Prison no. 2 in Hanoi. *Pre-trial detention.*

⁷⁶ ibid

⁷⁷ ibid

⁷⁸ ibid