

Khmer Krom Rights in Vietnam



Khmer Kampuchea Krom for Human Rights and Development
Association (KKKHRDA)

Situation in Vietnam

Issue I: *Cultural, belief and religion*

Implementation of the previous recommendation

- ▶ Continue its efforts to preserve the languages and culture of ethnic minorities. (Nepal and India)
- ▶ Further increase the use of ethnic languages in schools and the mass media. (Philippines)

New Developments

- ▶ There is preserving the Khmer language and their culture but that is only in the Buddhist temples but by Khmer Krom Buddhism themselves and some culture are mixed with the Vietnamese culture (Not original Khmer culture)
- ▶ There is only a few of Khmer language program include into the public schools but there is not allowed to speak Khmer language in public schools.

Situation in Vietnam

Issue I: *Cultural, belief and religion*

Implementation of the previous recommendation

- ▶ In accordance with article 70 of the Constitution, the Government speed the process for the local registration of churches and religious organizations as mandated under the framework on religion and allow for an equitable resolution of property disputes as required under the Constitution and the Prime Minister's decree on religious property, and recognize the United Buddhist Church of Viet Nam and allow it to function independently of the Vietnamese Buddhist Sangha. (United States)

New Developments

- ▶ The government restricts religious practice through legislation, registration requirements, harassment, and surveillance. Example the case happen at Vinh Long (Long Ho) province.
- ▶ Religious ceremonies are required to gain approval from and inform with the local authorities as well as operate under government-controlled management boards.

Recommendations

Issue I: *Cultural, belief and religion*

- ▶ Promote and respect the rights of Khmer-Krom people about their religious beliefs, religious worship, self-administration of religious affairs. The rights of members of a religious minority to profess or practice their own religion with other members of their group including the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
- ▶ Implementation in accordance with ICCPCR, UDHR, The Vietnam Constitution 2013 states “Freedom of religion.” The Article 3 and Article 6 of the Decision No. 82/2010 / NĐ-CP of Vietnam and the Article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Situation in Vietnam

Issue II: *Rights to Education*

Implementation of the previous recommendation

- ▶ Take supplementary measures to support access of minority children to education by helping them maintain and develop their traditions and languages (Morocco)
- ▶ Take more adequate measures to provide education to ethnic minorities (South Sudan)
- ▶ Improve its efforts on educational reform towards a comprehensive education policy with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, including children, person with disabilities and minorities (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Situation in Vietnam

Issue II: *Rights to Education*

New Developments

- ▶ Khmer language is still not officially used.
- ▶ Khmer Krom children must study in Vietnamese language schools and speak Vietnamese in Vietnamese public schools.
- ▶ If they want to learn the Khmer alphabet, they have to study at the Buddhist pagodas. Despite the system of Buddhist education organized by the Khmer Theravada Buddhist Monks Association, the Vietnamese government did not recognize it universally.
- ▶ The study of Khmer history and geography is not allowed to study, otherwise it will face all legal consequences.
- ▶ All the study curriculums must be inspected and approved by the Vietnamese authorities, otherwise it is strictly prohibited.

Recommendations

Issue II: *Rights to Education*

- ▶ Ensure to establish the curriculum in the field of culture, civilization, Khmer traditions and customs for the Khmer Krom people available in public schools and in Buddhist monasteries in accordance with article 11 of UNDRIP.
- ▶ Implement according to the Decision on Vietnamese Ethnic Cooperation in accordance with the Government Organization Law and in accordance with Article 5, Article 7 and Article 10 of the Vietnamese Education Law and Decree No. 24/2014 / TT-BGDĐT. Article 13 states “Development and preservation of the culture, traditions, language and literature of ethnic minorities.” and in accordance with Article 5, Article 7 and Article 10 of the Vietnamese Education Law and Circular No. 24/2014 / TT-BGDĐT.

Situation in Vietnam

Issue III: *Right to access information and Freedom of Expression*

Implementation of the previous recommendation

- ▶ Take the necessary steps to ensure that citizens can fully enjoy the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of religion (Argentina);
- ▶ Protect civil and political rights, especially freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Luxembourg);
- ▶ Adopt legislative changes to guarantee the protection and free exercise of freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Spain);

Situation in Vietnam

Issue III: *Right to access information and Freedom of Expression*

New Development

- ▶ Under the control of the Vietnamese government, the Khmer Krom did not have rights to access information, as there was surveillance by the Vietnamese intelligence agencies when the Khmer Krom provided information on human rights abuses to the international press, international NGOs, they are often monitored and some are summoned by local police authorities for questioning and other restrictions on the exercise of freedom of expression on social media.
- ▶ At least about 20 cases in 2023, Khmer Krom Human Rights Activists are summoned, interrogated, arrested, detained and charged by court and some of those are still in prison.

Recommendations

Issue III: *Right to access information and Freedom of Expression*

- ▶ Fully respect and ensure that Khmer Krom people enjoy their rights, including the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly accordance with the article 19 of ICCPCR.
- ▶ Release anyone currently being held for peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of religion and belief, expression, assembly and association.

Thank you!