



All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation

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To
The UN High Commissioner
Human Right Commission

Sub: Concerning the promotion, implementation and protection of human rights in Vietnam

Dear Sir,

All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation is the oldest and biggest solidarity organization of India. From its inception it has supported the just struggle of Vietnamese people with this hope that one day Vietnam will be an independent country that will respect the great values of human rights, right of national self-determination, right to determine its own destiny and right to live in dignity and will be law abiding society. Today we can say that our support to the Vietnamese people has been vindicated.

Today AIPSO proudly acknowledges that the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people respect the great values of human rights, right of national self-determination, right to determine its own destiny and right to live in dignity. The 1992 Constitution itself asserts that the nation is a state of the people, from the people, for the people. The Constitution (amended in 2001) ensures people's equal rights in all political, economic, social areas as well as before the law; the right to freedom of religion and belief; the right to freedom of movement and residence within Viet Nam; the right to complain and denounce; right to work, study and enjoy health care... regardless of their sex, social status, belief, religion. The improvement of the legal system on human rights and civil rights was harmoniously and implemented through programmes on the establishment of laws and ordinances as well as policies toward the implementation of these legal documents.

AIPSO notes that since 2009, the Vietnamese National Assembly has enforced and amended many laws with a view to creating strong legal foundation for respecting and enforcing human rights. Law on State Compensation Liability (2009), Law on the Elderly (2010), Law on the Disabilities (2010), Law on Adoption (2010), Law on Complaints (2011), Law on Denouncement (2011), Law on Human Trafficking Prevention and Combat (2011), Law on Trade Union (2012), Law on Handling of Administrative Violations (2012), Law on Legal Information Dissemination and Education (2012) are some of the statutes that protect human rights.

The legal system of Viet Nam has also been consolidated and improved in line with socio-economic development, in which the economic development must go harmoniously with the development of every aspect of society to improve people's lives. Also, measures have been taken to promote the capacity of governmental agencies to better enforce law and ensure people's rights and interests. At the same time, Viet Nam constantly promotes the supervising mechanism among governmental agencies, particularly the role of the National Assembly in law-making and supervision in order to increase efficiency, transparency and democracy of national institutions. According to the

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above-mentioned regulations, the President, the Chairman of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, Ministers and other members of the Government, the Chief Justice of the People's Supreme Court, the Head of the Supreme People's Procuracy have a demand for accountability to the National Assembly, response to questions of members of the National Assembly at the session on all issues that concern voters. The interpellations are live broadcast on the National Television. Since 2009, executive supervising role of the National Assembly has become more efficient and been highly appreciated at home and abroad.

Viet Nam's very high election turn out at the elections for the XIII National Assembly in May 2011 shows that the people are very well aware of their right and the role of the National Assembly in exercising the right to state and society management of the people. The judicial monitoring role of the National Assembly has also been more effective. Also, the right to petition and complain of the people is respected and protected.

The right to assembly of the people is protected through important legal document and sub-law documents, including Article 69 of the 1992 Constitution and Decree 88/2003/ND-CP on 30 of July 2003 of the Government on the organization, operation and management of associations. In Viet Nam, there are now about 450 associations operating nation-wide, provinces and cities (there were only 115 in 1990); there are 18 trade unions and 6000 local-level organizations and thousands of associations and clubs in all areas of the society.

Viet Nam is a multi-religion country with all the major religions in the world (Buddhism, Catholic, Protestant, Muslim...); the country has the second biggest Catholic community in Southeast-Asia. The consistent policy of Viet Nam is to respect and facilitate the exercise of the right to religion and belief by all the people, while upholding the solidarity and harmony among religions and guaranteeing the equality and non-discrimination, as well as protecting activities of religious activities through the law. The 2011 Holy Year of the Catholic Church was a great success. At the closing ceremony, there were 1000 priests, 2000 dignitaries and 500,000 believers. The year 2011 was also the 100th anniversary of Protestantism in Viet Nam with many big activities held in Ha Noi, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh city with the participation of many followers from all over the country.

The right to freedom of press and information of the Vietnamese people has been reflected through the fast and diverse development of the mass media. By 2012, there are about 786 print newspapers (compared to 676 in 2009), 1016 publications (compared to 1003 in 2011), 18,000 registered journalists, 68 radio and television stations at the national and provincial level, 01 national news agency, 300 e-news papers and thousands of e-portals on the internet. The number of registered social networks was 227. The Vietnamese people have access to 75 international television channels. The democratic nature and transparency of the State is strengthened through the critiques from the press, media and feedbacks of all the people.

The Viet Nam Fatherland Front is the Union for all segments of society and plays a big role in monitoring activities of the State and elected representatives. The Fatherland Front is also involved in critiquing policies and documents issued by the State before approval. The people are also involved directly in decision-making through elections, self-nomination, questioning, petitions and complaints, etc.

After 25 years of 'Doi moi', significant achievements in the cause of socio-economic development in Viet Nam have been concluded. Vietnamese Government is conducting its Socio-

Economic Development Strategy for 2011-2020, focusing on sustainable development, significant progresses in poverty alleviation, reform of education and training, establishment of an advanced culture rich in features of national identity, protection of and care for people's health, job creation and unemployment reduction, development of social security system, and establishment of sustainable social structure. Nam. After 25 year of "Doi moi", the rate of households under national poverty threshold, which was 60% in 1990, has been reduced to 9.5% in 2011..

In Viet Nam, the state sees investment for education and training as development investment. Education budget increases annually, currently making 20% total public expenditure. Proper care is given to the mobilisation of resources from the society for education and training, especially in underprivileged or remote areas or areas of ethnic minority. As of 2010, universalization at secondary school level has been achieved in all provinces and cities.

Viet Nam consistently makes efforts to facilitate every people in enjoying their rights to health, with priority given to women, children and people of ethnic minorities. It is robustly implementing the National Target Programme on Job Creation in the period 2006-10, focusing on loans delivery to create jobs through National Fund for Employment and Supporting Projects, aiming at boosting successful job application of labours. During 5 year of the programme, 8 million labours in the country have found job; urban unemployment rate fell to 4.5%. Since 1 January 2009, Viet Nam has officially applied unemployment insurance policy, delivering maximum support for labour in their job-finding.

Housing development policies and programmes have been designed for people with low income, especially for those working in industrial zones, students, the poor in rural or urban areas, etc. An Amended Law on Housing is being studied and drafted, aiming at adoption in 2014. This law will focus on policies that provide assistance for poor people (in both rural and urban areas), people with low income and other beneficiaries of priority such as workers at industrial zones, students, training centres.

The law and policies of Viet Nam, comprising of 54 ethnic groups living side by side with each other, of which the Kinh group accounts for the majority (85.7%), consistently follow the principles of equality, unity, respect and mutual support for shared progress among ethnicities. In the past 10 years, the National Assembly has issued 151 laws, of which 38 are directly related to the rights and obligations of ethnic minorities. Ethnic minorities are encouraged to participate in the political system, social administration and public management. The proportion of ethnic minorities in the political system is increasing. There also has been important development in the field of education in ethnic minority areas. All ethnic minority and mountainous areas have colleges, vocational schools and professional training centres in the areas of agriculture, economic management, finance, education, health. University graduates are found in all 53 ethnic minorities.

Further, Viet Nam is party of almost all core international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); International Convention on the Elimination of Radical Discrimination (CERD); Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Viet Nam is th second country in the world and the first in Asia to sign the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The country has also ratified 17 conventions of the Interational Labour Organization (ILO), including those related to gender equality, rights of the child. It is noteworthy that Viet Nam decided to join the two core covenants in the context of socio-economic difficulties in

the early 1980s. The participation to these covenants could create more burdens for Viet Nam due to its socio-economic weakness, but also is the manifestation of the aspiration and determination of Viet Nam in the protection and promotion of the human rights.

At the regional level, Viet Nam and other ASEAN member established the ASEAN Intergovernmental Committee on Human Rights (AICHR), the ASEAN Committee on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). Viet Nam also worked as Chair of ACWC on 2010. Right after its establishment, AICHR has negotiated the ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights which was submitted to and adopted by the 21th ASEAN Summit on November 2012. Viet Nam actively participates to the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT), strictly coordinates with UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNODC, IOM, UNIAP, WV and signs bilateral agreements with Laos, Cambodia, China, Malaysia... in order to strengthen the effectiveness of activities combating human trafficking in the region.

All these shows that Vietnam is moving forward in right direction to fulfill its all obligations towards its people and to the international community. The All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation hopes that Vietnam's journey towards a just and equitable society should be supported by all.

With regards,

Yours truly



Pallab Sengupta
General Secretary