



7

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL
CONSEJO MUNDIAL DE LA PAZ
CONSEIL MONDIAL DE LA PAIX
10 OTHONOS ST. 10557 ATHENS GREECE
TEL: +30-210- 3316326 FAX: +30-210-3251576
www.wpc-in.org, e-mail: wpc@otenet.gr

Statement of the World Peace Council (WPC) regarding the Universal Periodical Review of Human Rights in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

To the attention of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR)

To whom it may concern

The WPC supports the just causes of the peoples and their right to define and determine their fortunes since its foundation in 1949. Throughout the history of the Vietnamese people in the 20th century, we have witnessed the consecutive colonial and aggressive invasion and occupation of Vietnam by foreign imperialist forces and the struggle of the people of Viet Nam for its liberation and national sovereignty, based on the democratic wishes of its people and reflected in the constitutions of the SR Vietnam.

The defense of the Human Rights is a basic principle of the WPC, part of its character and constitution. As an International Non-governmental Organisation with Consultative status at the UN, accredited to the Human Rights Council in Geneva we want to stress on the following facts and aspects:

The 1992 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, civil rights was harmoniously and implemented through programs on the establishment of laws and ordinances as well as policies toward the implementation of these legal documents.

We explicitly want to mention in this context the Amended Labour Code (2012), Amended and supplemented Law on Lawyers (2012), Amended Law on Publication (2012).

In 2013, the National Assembly held the first-ever confidence vote on the performance of top leaders of the State and Government, showing the decisive voice of the National Assembly in State management.

The State of Viet Nam attaches importance to the guarantee of the right to State and society management directly and indirectly through the selection of their representatives. 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 right to petition and complain of the people is respected and protected. The handling of people's petitions and complaints has improved a great deal. The law also provides for the compensation of material and mental losses of petitioners.

Viet Nam has improved and broadened educational and training programs in human rights for employees working at government agencies. Many seminars and workshops have been organized with the participation of representatives from a wide range of ministries, research and training centres, such as Human rights research institute (at the Ho Chi Minh academy for politics and public administration), Legal Department of the Hanoi National University, etc. Classes on human rights issues are also conducted on a frequent basis. These efforts have provided the employees working at government agencies with basic knowledge on human rights. Viet Nam has also enhanced education on human rights for local officials to improve awareness, capability and efficiency in handling human rights issues at local level.

Viet Nam is a multi-religion country with all the major religions in the world (Buddhism, Catholic, Protestant, Muslim...); The consistent policy of Viet Nam is to respect and facilitate the exercise of the right to freedom of religion and belief by all the people, uphold the solidarity and harmony among religions, guarantee the equality and non-discrimination as well as protect activities of religious groups by law. The country has the second biggest Catholic community in Southeast-Asia. 95% of all the people have belief (including 22.3 million being followers of religions, accounting for 1/5 of the population); there are 25 thousand of worshipping places.

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 March 2013, there are 812 print newspapers and 1,084 publications (compared to 676 and 700 respectively in 2009); nearly 17,000 registered journalists; 01 national news agency, 67 radio and television stations; 101 TV channels and 78 broadcasting channels, 74 electronic newspapers and magazines; 336 social networks and 1,174 registered e-portals (compared to 46 e-newspapers and 287 e-portals in 2011). The Voice of Viet Nam (VOV) Radio Station broadcasts throughout 99.5% of Viet Nam's territory and many other countries via satellite. Today, the VOV reaches more than 90% of all households in Viet Nam in comparison with 85% in 2008.

The democratic nature and transparency of the State is strengthened through the critiques from the press, media and feedbacks of all the people. Viet Nam's press and media have become a forum for exchanges regarding the supervision of the State's activities, thus contributing greatly to the fight against corruption and wrongdoings in Viet Nam.

Viet Nam ratified the ILO Convention 186 on Maritime Employment on the 8th of May 2013 and this Convention will come into effect for Viet Nam on the 8th of May 2014. Viet Nam is taking the final legal steps to sign and ratify the Convention Against Torture (CAT).

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 Racial Discrimination (CERD); Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Viet Nam is the second country in the world and the first in Asia to sign