



# PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN VIET NAM

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INTERNATIONAL



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**Cover photo:** Thanh Xuân Prison in Hà Nội  
Photo by Reuters

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## INTRODUCTION

Over the past year, the Vietnamese authorities have intensified their crackdown on the exercise of the human rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, association, thought, conscience, and religion.

Amnesty International has identified 128 prisoners of conscience in Vietnam, of which 111 are male and 17 are female.<sup>1</sup> This total, based on information compiled in 2018 and the first quarter of 2019, represents an increase in the number of prisoners documented in previous years, even though around ten prisoners named on previous prisoner lists have been released, either because they completed their sentences or were forced into exile.

The Vietnamese authorities portray individuals who are peacefully exercising their human rights as criminals; however, it is the government that flagrantly contravenes international human rights law and its own constitution. Many people have been arbitrarily detained, prosecuted in unfair trials on national security and other vaguely-worded charges, and handed lengthy prison sentences. Individuals have been routinely held incommunicado and in solitary confinement. Many were transferred to prisons distant from their families as a punitive measure and were tortured and otherwise ill-treated in prison. For prolonged periods, human rights defenders and activists have been denied access to legal counsel and their family members have not been informed of their whereabouts, heightening the risk of torture and other ill-treatment. According to credible reports, prisons in Viet Nam are unsanitary and prisoners are denied adequate access to medical care, clean water, and fresh air.

Some of the prisoners named on this list were arrested and prosecuted for their individual activities; others took part in large protests or other forms of collective action that apparently angered the authorities. The largest such protests took place in June 2018, when hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese across the country took to the streets to protest two draft laws, one establishing a special economic zone and the other relating to cybersecurity. The Vietnamese authorities, especially officials in Ho Chi Minh city, responded to the protests by carrying out mass arrests. In the following months, hundreds of people were arrested and detained based on their participation in the protests.

Importantly, 2018 is the year that a new penal code officially took effect in Vietnam. Like the previous penal code, the new code offers the authorities a range of overly broad, unclear, and vague provisions, under which they have wide discretion to arrest and prosecute human rights defenders, activists, and other perceived critics of the government. At least 34 people on this list were prosecuted under provisions from the new penal code over the past year. Many activists have been charged under article 117 of the code, which prohibits “making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing materials and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.” Other frequently-used provisions include article 118, which prohibits “disrupting national security,” and article 331, which prohibits “abusing democratic freedom to violate the interests of the state.”

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<sup>1</sup> This list provides information on prisoners of conscience whose cases Amnesty International has been able to verify and document. Given the serious obstacles to such investigations, the true number of prisoners of conscience is believed to be higher.

Many prisoners of conscience have been convicted of such crimes, but have refused to accept the court's verdict, asserting their human rights or challenging the court's understanding of the facts. As a result, they frequently face harassment and ill-treatment from security officials in prison. They are often warned to admit their "crimes" or face retribution for failing to cooperate.

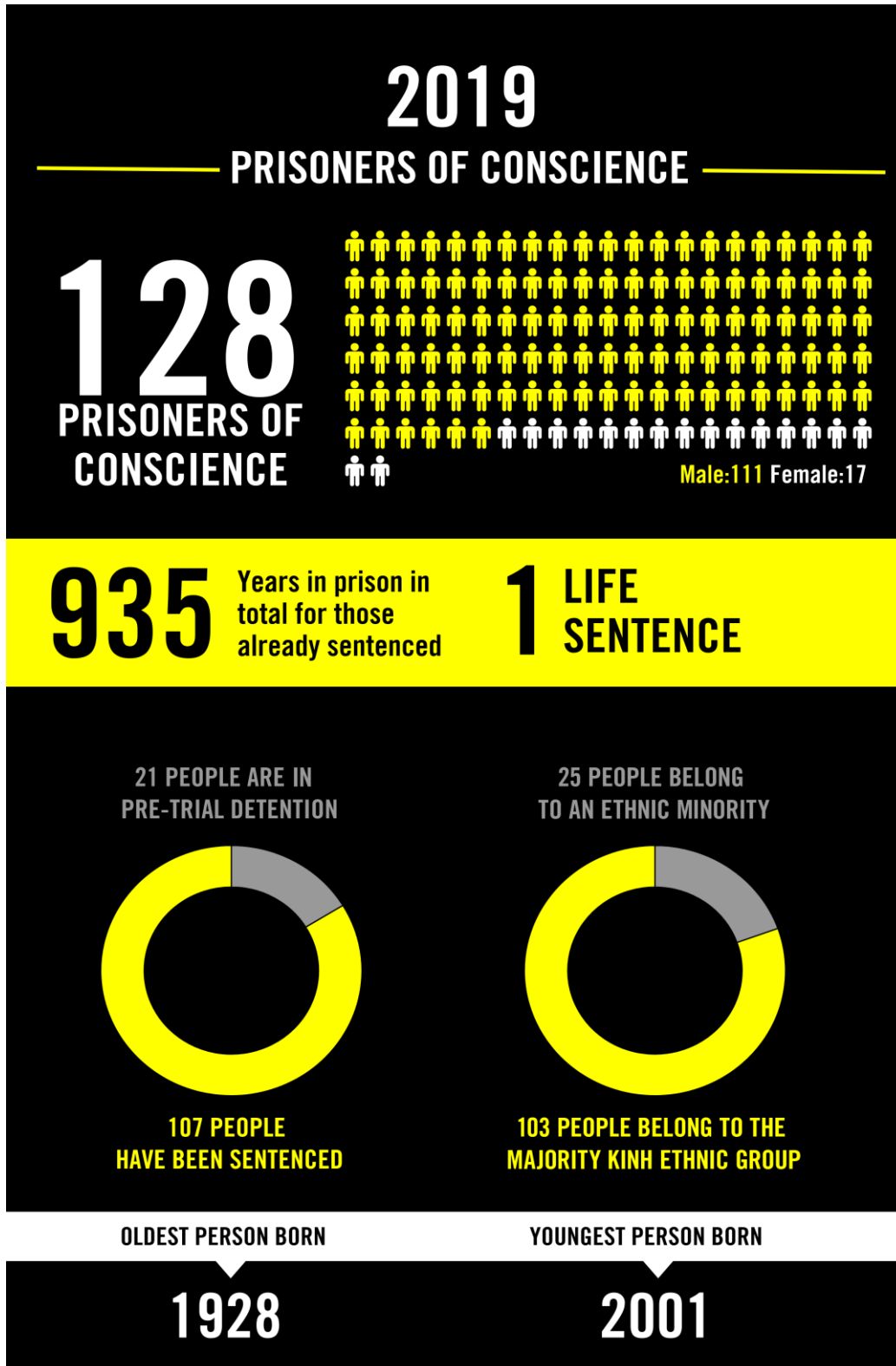
Prominent human rights defenders and activists, including those who have been released, have continued to face restrictions on movement and have been subjected to surveillance, harassment, and violent assaults, as have their family members, in some instances. Given this persecution, large number of human rights defenders and activists have been forced to flee the country. In addition, the Vietnamese authorities have continued to grant early release to some prisoners of conscience if they agree to go into exile.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

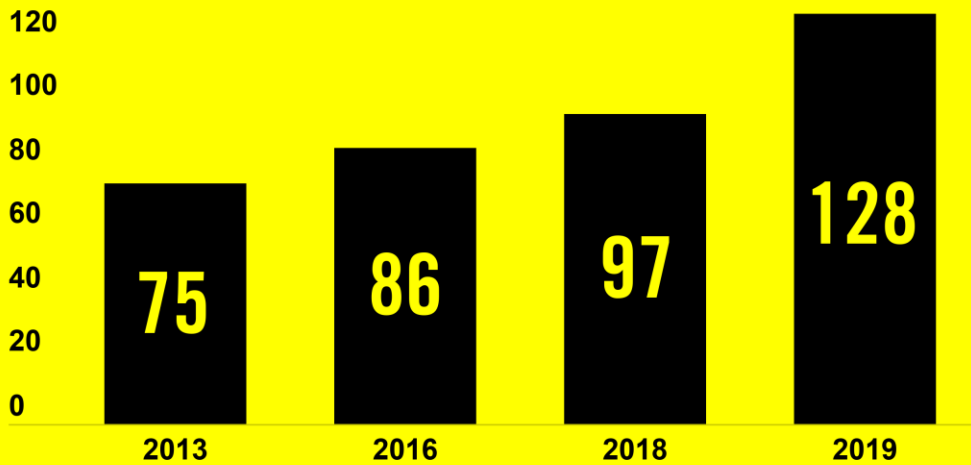
To the government of Viet Nam:

- Immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience, and quash their convictions, which are solely based on their peaceful exercise of their human rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, as well as thought, conscience and religion;
- Pending their release, ensure that prisoners of conscience are protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and are allowed access to their family, a lawyer of their choice, and adequate medical care; and are treated in full accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules);
- Put an immediate end to all forms of harassment, prosecution, and punishment of prisoners of conscience on the basis of their peaceful human rights work and activism; and
- Respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, as well as thought, conscience and religion.

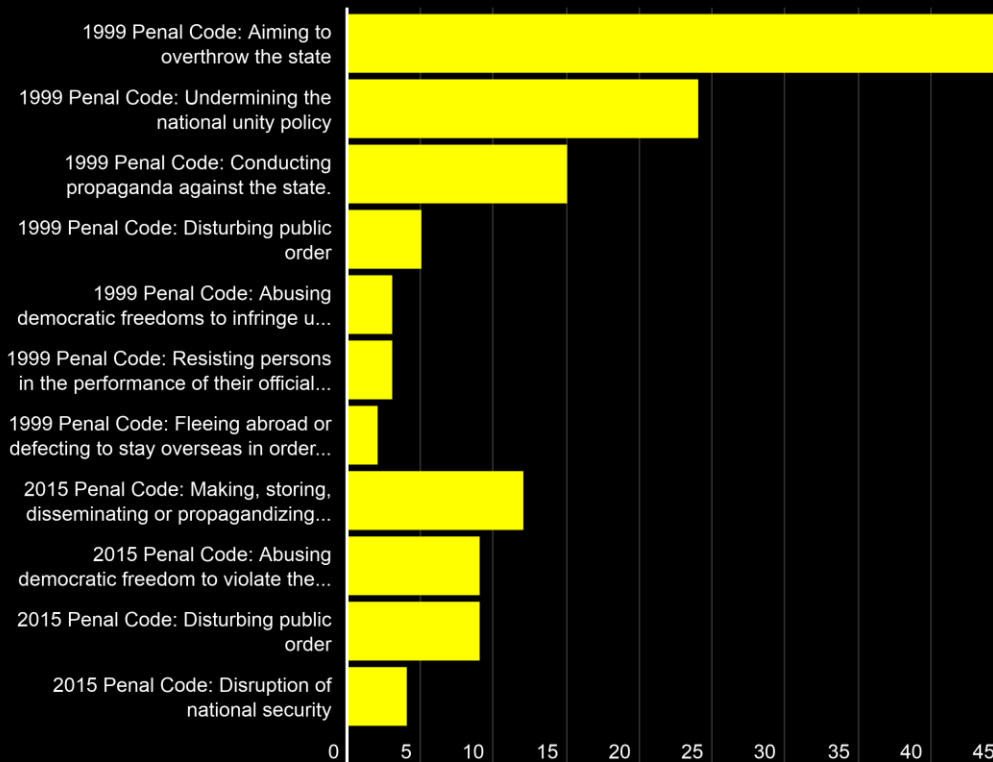
Breakdown of the cases of the 128 known prisoners of conscience:



## NUMBER OF PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE BY YEAR



## NUMBER OF PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE BY CHARGES



# PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN VIET NAM

1 **Pastor A Dao** (m), born in 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 of imprisonment** on 28 April 2017 under article 91 of the 1999 Penal Code (which prohibits "fleeing abroad or defecting to stay overseas in order to oppose the people's administration"). He is being held at Gia Trung prison, in Gia Lai province. *Release due August 2021.*

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

3 **A Tách, also known as Bã Hlôl** (m), born in 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 of the 1999 Penal Code (which prohibits "undermining the national unity policy") before the Gia Lai Provincial People's Court. He was convicted and sentenced to **11 years of imprisonment**. He was last reported as having been held at a prison in Gia Lai province. *Release due April 2023.*

4 **Bùi Hiếu Võ** (m), born in 1962, is a mechanic from Hồ Chí Minh City who used Facebook to express his opinions on political and economic issues. He was arrested in March 2017 under article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code for "conducting propaganda against the state." Convicted of that crime on 9 May 2018, he was sentenced to **four and a half years in prison**. It is not known where he is currently held. *Release due September 2021.*

5 **Bùi Mạnh Đồng** (m), born in 1978, is from Cần Thơ city, in southern Vietnam. He was arrested on 1 September 2018, and was tried on 27 September, just 26 days after his arrest. He was convicted in Thot Not District People's Court of "abusing democratic freedom" under article 331 of the 2015 Penal Code and sentenced to **two and a half years in prison**. It is not known where he is currently held. *Release due March 2021.*

6 **Bùi Thị Bích Tuyền** (f), born in 1982, is a Hoa Hao Buddhist follower and religious freedom activist in An Giang province. Arrested on 13 November 2017, she was tried in the An Phú District People's Court on 9 February 2018 and convicted of "disturbing public order" under article 245 of the 1999 Penal Code. She sentenced to **three years in prison** and is serving her sentence at the An Phú district detention center, in An Giang province. *Release due February 2021.*

7 **Bùi Văn Thâm** (m), born in 1986, is a member of the "traditional" branch of the Hoa Hao Buddhist church, which is not recognized by the state. Members of this branch 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, 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, from June 2012 to January 2015. On 9 February 2018, he was tried by An Phú People's Court, convicted and sentenced to **six years in prison**. He was last known to be held at Chau Doc city detention centre, in An Giang province. *Release due 26 June 2023*.

8 **Bùi Văn Trung** (m), born in 1964, is a teacher and member of the “traditional” branch of the Hoa Hao Buddhist church, which is not recognized by the state. Members of this branch 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, from October 2012 to October 2016. On 9 February 2018, he was tried by An Phú People's Court, convicted and sentenced to **six years in prison**. He was last known to be held at Châu Đốc city detention centre. *Release due 26 June 2023*.

9 **Byrk** (m), born in 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 of imprisonment** under article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code (which prohibits “undermining the national unity policy”). He is reportedly being held in Măng Yang prison camp, in Gia Lai province. *Release due May 2020*.

10 **Chi** (m), born in 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 of imprisonment** under article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code (which prohibits “undermining the national unity policy”). He was last known to be held at Gia Lai provincial prison. *Release due in September 2020*.

11 **Đào Quang Thục** (m), born in 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. On 17 January 2019, he was tried and convicted of this offense before the Hòa Bình People's Court and sentenced to **13 years in prison and five years of house arrest**. He is currently being held at the Hoa Binh police detention centre. *Release due 5 October 2030*.

12 **Đình Nông, also known as Bã Pol** (m), born in 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 of imprisonment**. It is not known where he is held. *Release due September 2024*.

13 **Đỗ Thị Hồng** (f), born in 1957, is a 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. She 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. She was convicted and sentenced to **13 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. She is reportedly being held at the An Phước Detention Centre, in Bình Dương province, and is believed to be in poor health. *Release due February 2025*.

14 **Đỗ Thế Hóa** (m), born in 1968, is a jeweller and a member of the Constitution Group (Nhóm Hiến Pháp), an unregistered political grouping that advocates for the civil and political rights guaranteed in Vietnam's constitution. He was arrested on 1 September 2018 under article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code for “making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing materials and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.” He is currently being held at the Hồ Chí Minh City Police Detention Center. *Pre-trial detention*.



15 **Đỗ Công Dương** (m), born in 1964, is a citizen journalist from Bắc Ninh province. He used his social media channels to cover land disputes in the province, especially the land confiscation campaign conducted by state authorities. On 24 January 2018, he was arrested while filming a land confiscation incident in his town. He was accused of violating two provisions of the 2015 Penal Code: article 318, which prohibits “disturbing public order,” and article 331, which prohibits “abusing democratic freedom to violate the interest of the state.” He was prosecuted in two separate trials before the Từ Sơn Town People’s Court. In his first trial, on 17 September 2018, he was convicted of violating article 318, 2015 Penal Code and sentenced to **four years in prison**. In his second trial, on October 12, 2018, he was convicted of violating article 331, 2015 Penal Code and sentenced to **five years in prison**. In all, he faces **nine years’ imprisonment** for the two convictions. He is currently serving his sentence at the Bắc Ninh Provincial Police Detention Center. *Release due January 2027.*

16 **Đoàn Đình Nam** (m), born in 1951, is a 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 was 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 **16 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at Xuyên Mộc prison, in Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province, and suffers from poor health. *Release due February 2028.*

17 **Đoàn Thị Hồng** (f), born in 1983, is a member of the Constitution Group (Nhóm Hiến Pháp), an unregistered political grouping that advocates for the civil and political rights guaranteed in Vietnam’s constitution. On 2 September 2018—two months after participating in a 10 June street protest against the draft law on Special Economic Zones—she disappeared. Nineteen days later, public security officials in Hồ Chí Minh city informed her family that they were detaining her at the Hồ Chí Minh City Police Detention Center. The authorities also told her lawyer that she had been arrested on charges of “disruption of national security” under article 118 of the 2015 Penal Code. She is currently being held at the Hồ Chí Minh City Police Detention Center. *Pre-trial detention.*

18 **Đoàn Khánh Vinh Quang** (m), age 43, is a blogger from Can Tho province who used social media to express peaceful opinions. He was arrested on 1 September 2018 and tried three weeks later, on 24 September, before the Ninh Kiều District People’s Court. Convicted of “abusing democratic freedom to violate the interests of the state” under article 331 of the 2015 Penal Code, he was sentenced to **two years and three months in prison**. It is not known where he is currently being held. *Release due December 2020.*

19 **Đoàn Văn Cư** (m), born in 1962, is a 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 was 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) before the Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **14 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at Xuyên Mộc prison, in Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province. *Release due February 2026.*

20 **Dương Thị Lanh** (f), born in 1983, is a businessman from Đắk Nông province who used Facebook to express her political opinions. In June 2018, she took to the streets in Hồ Chí Minh city to protest the proposed draft law to create a special economic zone. She was arrested in Dak Nông province on 30 January 2019 under article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code for “making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing materials and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.” She is currently being held at the Đắk Nông Police Detention Center. *Pre-trial detention.*

21 **Hà Văn Nam** (m), born in 1981, is a driver from Hà Nội. He was one of the leading activists of a peaceful movement that is challenging the corruption and injustice faced by drivers across the country. Because of his prominence as an activist, he has often faced harassment and intimidation by government

officials, and physical assault from unknown assailants, and has suffered serious injuries.<sup>2</sup> On 5 March 2019, security officials from Bắc Ninh province—where Hà Văn Nam and other activists had previously carried out a peaceful protest—came to his house and arrested him. He was charged under article 318 of the 2015 Penal Code, which prohibits “disturbing public order.” He is currently being held at the Bắc Ninh Provincial Police Detention Center. *Pre-trial detention.*

22 **Hồ Đình Cương** (m), born in 1975, is a tailor in Hồ Chí Minh city. He is also a member of the Constitution Group (Nhóm Hiến Pháp), an unregistered political grouping that advocates for the civil and political rights guaranteed in the Vietnamese constitution. The authorities arrested him on 4 September 2018, and accused him of “making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing materials and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,” a violation of article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code. He is currently being held at the Hồ Chí Minh City Police Detention Center. *Pre-trial detention.*

23 **Hồ Đức Hòa** (m), born in 1974, is a Catholic social activist, journalist, and community organizer. He was one of 14 activists from around Vinh City, in Nghệ An province, who were arrested in August 2011 and prosecuted on the basis of their alleged connection with or membership in Viet Tan, an overseas-based group peacefully campaigning for democracy in Viet Nam. All of the defendants 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 before the Nghệ An People’s Court; Hồ Đức Hòa was convicted and received a **13-year prison sentence followed by five years of house arrest.**<sup>3</sup> He is reportedly being held in Nam Hà prison, in Hà Nam province. *Release due February 2024.*

24 **Dr Hồ Văn Hải, also known as Hồ Hải** (m), born in 1964, is a medical doctor and online activist. He used his blog to advocate for transparency and accountability in relation to the Formosa ecological disaster of April 2016, which caused the deaths of millions of fish and negatively affected the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people who resided in the area. Dr Hải was arrested at his clinic in the Thủ Đức district of Hồ Chí Minh City on 2 November 2016 and charged under article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code for “spreading propaganda against the state,” an offense that carries a prison sentence of between three and 20 years.<sup>4</sup> He was convicted and sentenced to **four years of imprisonment followed by two years of house arrest.** Dr Hai is being held at Chí Hòa prison, in Ho Chi Minh city. *Release due November 2020.*

25 **Hoàng Đức Bình** (m), born in 1983, is a blogger and Vice Chairman of the independent Viet Labor Movement. At the time of his arrest, on 15 May 2017, he was blogging about the Formosa ecological disaster. After his arrest, he was reportedly forced to sign a confession by the authorities in Diễn Châu district of Nghệ An province. He was charged with “resisting persons in the performance of their official duties” under article 257 of the 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.<sup>5</sup> Bình was tried and convicted of both offenses and sentenced to **seven years of imprisonment followed by seven years of house arrest** by the Diễn Châu district People’s Court, in Nghệ An province. He is currently being held at An Đầm prison, in Quảng Nam province. *Release due 15 May 2031.*

26 **Hoàng Thị Thu Vang**, (f), born in 1966, is an entrepreneur from Hồ Chí Minh city who advocates for the right to clean food (the issue of contaminated food has risen to prominence in recent years in Viet Nam). In June 2018, she participated in a peaceful demonstration to protest the draft law creating a Special Economic Zone. The authorities arrested her on 3 September 2018 on the charge of “disruption of national security,” under article 118 of the 2015 Penal Code. She is currently being held at the Hồ Chí Minh City Police Detention Center. *Pre-trial detention.*

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<sup>2</sup> Amnesty International, Viet Nam: Release human rights defender arrested on politically-motivated charge, 8 March 2019 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/9991/2019/en/>).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Amnesty International, Viet Nam: Crackdown on human rights amidst Formosa-related activism, 8 November 2016 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5104/2016/en/>).

<sup>5</sup> Amnesty International, Urgent Action: Crackdown on Formosa spill activists continues, 1 June 2017 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6403/2017/en/>).

- 27 **Hùng Hưng** (m), born in 1966, is a member of Constitution Group (Nhóm Hiến Pháp), an unregistered political grouping that advocates for the civil and political rights guaranteed in Vietnam's constitution. The authorities arrested him on 4 September 2018, accusing him of "making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing materials and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam," prohibited under article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code. He is currently being held at the Hồ Chí Minh City Police Detention Center. *Pre-trial detention.*
- 28 **Huỳnh Đắc Túy** (m), born in 1976, is an entrepreneur from Quảng Ngãi province who owns a construction company and uses Facebook to express his opinions. He was arrested in Quảng Ngãi province on 22 February 2019, accused of "making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing materials and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam," a violation of article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code. He is currently being held at the Quảng Ngãi Police Detention Center. *Pre-trial detention.*
- 29 **Huỳnh Đức Thanh Bình** (m), born in 1996, is a pro-democracy activist from Hồ Chí Minh city. In June 2018, he took to the street to peacefully protest the proposed cybersecurity law and law creating a special economic zone. The authorities arrested him on 7 July 2018 for carrying out "activities against the people's government," a violation of article 109 of the 2015 Penal Code. He is currently being held at the Hồ Chí Minh City Police Detention Center. *Pre-trial detention.*
- 30 **Huỳnh Đức Thịnh** (m), age 68, is a pro-democracy activist from Hồ Chí Minh city, and the father of Huỳnh Đức Thanh Bình (see above). The authorities accused him of joining an illegal political group. He was arrested on 7 July 2018 for carrying out "activities against the people's government," a violation of article 109 of the 2015 Penal Code. He is currently being held at the Hồ Chí Minh City Police Detention Center. *Pre-trial detention.*
- 31 **Huỳnh Trương Ca** (m), age 51, is a gardener from Đồng Tháp province. He is also a member of the Constitution Group (Nhóm Hiến Pháp), an unregistered political grouping that advocates for the civil and political rights guaranteed in Vietnam's constitution. He was arrested on 4 September 2018, when he was on the way to participate in a peaceful protest. He was tried and convicted before the Đồng Tháp Provincial People's Court on 28 December 2018 and sentenced to **five and a half years in prison**. He is currently serving his sentence at Xuân Lộc prison, in Đồng Nai province. *Release due March 2024.*
- 32 **Huỳnh Thị Kim Quyên** (f), born in 1979, is a member of a local youth group in An Giang province, in the far south of Vietnam, that supports the former south Vietnam government (which was forced from power at the end of the Vietnam war). To demonstrate their support, members of the group hung the flag of South Vietnam in their houses and in public spaces. Arrested on 30 April 2017, she was tried before the An Giang People's Court on 21 December 2017 and convicted of "abusing democratic freedom" under article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code. She was sentenced to **four years in prison followed by 2 years of house arrest**. Her current location is unknown. *Release due 30 April 2021.*
- 33 **Jơnh, also known as Chình** (m), born in 1952, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in May 2012. He was sentenced to **nine years of imprisonment** in May 2013 by Gia Lai Provincial People's Court. He was convicted under article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code for "undermining the national unity policy." He is reportedly being held in Gia Lai province. *Release due May 2021.*
- 34 **Kpuil Lễ** (m), born in 1977, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in November 2011. He was tried and convicted in June 2012 of violating article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code (which prohibits "undermining the national unity policy"). He was sentenced to **eight years of imprisonment**. He was last reported as being held at the Gia Lai prison camp. *Release due November 2019.*
- 35 **Kpuil Mel** (m), born in 1962, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in November 2011. He was tried in June 2012 for violating article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code (which prohibits "undermining the national unity policy"). He was sentenced to **nine years of imprisonment**. He was last reported as being held at Gia Lai prison camp. *Release due November 2020.*

36 **Ksor Kam, also known as Ama H'Trum** (m), born in 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 charges of “undermining the 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 of imprisonment**. It is not known where he is held. *Release due September 2025.*

37 **Lê Anh Hùng** (m), born in 1973, is a blogger, independent journalist, pro-democracy activist, and government critic from Hà Nội. In 2013, the authorities interned him in a mental hospital in an attempt to stop his activism. After his release, he often faced harassment and intimidation from the authorities. On 5 July 2018, he was arrested under article 331 of the 2015 Penal Code on charges of “conducting propaganda against the state.” On 3 April 2019, the authorities again moved him to a mental hospital. He is currently being held at Central Mental Hospital Number 1 in Hà Nội. *Pre-trial detention.*

38 **Lê Đình Lượng** (m), born in 1965, is an army veteran and Catholic social activist in Yen Thanh district, Nghệ An province. He protested the Formosa toxic spill in April 2016, which negatively affected the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people. He was arrested on 24 July 2017 on charges of violating article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code, which prohibits “activities aimed at overthrowing the state.” He was tried and convicted of the charge before the Nghệ An People’s Court, and sentenced to **20 years in prison**. He is currently being held at a detention center in Nghe An province. *Release due 24 July 2037.*

39 **Lê Đức Động** (m), born in 1983, is a 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 was 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) before the Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **12 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at An Đầm prison, in Đại Lãnh, Đại Lộc, Quảng Nam province. *Release due February 2024.*

40 **Lê Duy Lộc** (m), born in 1956, is a 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 was 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 of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at Section 6, Thanh Chương prison, in Nghệ An Province. *Release due February 2029.*

41 **Lê Minh Thế** (m), born in 1963, is a driver from Cần Thơ province who used social media to express peaceful opinions on civil and political issues. On October 10, 2018, he was arrested, and on 20 March 2019 he was tried before the Cần Thơ People’s Court. He convicted of “abusing democratic freedom” under article 331 of the 2015 Penal Code and sentenced to **two years in prison**. He is currently being held at the Cần Thơ Police Detention Center. *Release due 10 October 2020.*

42 **Lê Thanh Tùng** (m), born in 1968, is a journalist and member of the internet-based pro-democracy group Bloc 8406, formed by former prisoner of conscience Trần Anh Kim (who, as described below, has also been arrested). Previously a prisoner of conscience, Tùng was released from prison in June 2015, but was reported to have continued advocating for democracy. He was re-arrested on about 14 December 2015 in Gia Lai province, in the Central Highlands. His house in Hà Nội was searched by police on 24 December 2015, who removed some of his personal items. On 16 December 2016, both Tùng and Kim were tried by a court in Thái Bình province under article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for “aiming to overthrow” the state. Tùng was

convicted and sentenced to **12 years of imprisonment followed by four years of house arrest**.<sup>6</sup> He was transferred to Prison No 5, in Thanh Hoa province, in August 2017, *Release due December 2027*.

43 **Lê Trọng Cư** (m), born in 1966, is a 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 was 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 **12 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at An Đầm prison, in Đại Lãnh, Đại Lộc, Quảng Nam province. *Release due February 2024*.

44 **Lê Thị Hồng Hạnh** (f), born in 1979, is a food seller from An Giang province. She is a follower of Hòa Hảo Buddhism, a religious denomination that has suffered government persecution for many decades. On 18 and 19 April 2017, she and other local Hòa Hảo Buddhists went to a memorial ceremony in the area, and when the local authorities tried to prevent them from attending, they resisted peacefully. On 13 November 2017, the authorities of An Phú district arrested Lê Thị Hồng Hạnh. She was tried before the An Phú People’s Court on 9 February 2018, and convicted of “disturbing public order,” a violation of article 245 of the 1999 Penal Code. She was sentenced to **three years in prison**. Her latest known location was the An Phú district detention center, in An Giang province. *Release due 13 November 2020*.

45 **Lê Xuân Phúc** (m), born in 1951, is a 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 was 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) before the Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **15 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at Xuyên Mộc prison, in Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province. *Release due February 2027*.

46 **Lương Nhật Quang** (m), born in 1987, is a 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 was 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) before the Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **12 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at Xuyên Mộc prison, in Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province. *Release due February 2024*.

47 **Lưu Văn Vịnh** (m), born in 1967, is a handyman, electrician, plumber, and pro-democracy activist from Hải Dương province. He took part in peaceful protests about the Formosa ecological disaster in April 2016. He was arrested in Hồ Chí Minh City on 6 November 2016, and prosecuted under article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code (which prohibits “aiming to overthrow” the state) because of his alleged links to the “Coalition of Self-Determination [for] Vietnamese People” (“Liên Minh Dân Tộc Việt Nam Tự Quyết”).<sup>7</sup> The Coalition seeks political reform and an end to the monopoly on power of the ruling Communist Party of Viet Nam. On 5 October 2018, he was tried by the Hồ Chí Minh People’s Court, convicted of violating article 79, and sentenced to **15 years in prison**. He is serving his sentence at Chí Hòa prison, in Hồ Chí Minh City. *Release due 6 November 2031*.

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<sup>6</sup> Amnesty International, Viet Nam: Incommunicado detention of human rights lawyers and trial of pro-democracy activists shows disdain for international human rights law, 16 December 2016 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5377/2016/en/>).

<sup>7</sup> Amnesty International, Viet Nam: Crackdown on human rights amidst Formosa-related activism, 8 November 2016 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5104/2016/en/>); Amnesty International, Urgent Action: Activists held incommunicado at risk of torture, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5190/2016/en/>

48 **Ngô Hào** (m), born in 1943, is a pro-democracy activist and former army officer who 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 and convicted under article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code, for “aiming to overthrow” the state, before the Phú Yên Provincial People’s Court in September 2013. He was sentenced to **15 years of imprisonment** followed by five years of house arrest. He is reportedly being held at Tuy Hoà prison, in Phú Yên province. *Release due February 2028.*

49 **Ngô Văn Dũng** (m), born in 1969, is a citizen journalist from Đắk Lắk province and a member of the Constitution Group (Nhóm Hiến Pháp), an unregistered political grouping that advocates for the civil and political rights guaranteed in Vietnam’s constitution. He used his Facebook account to talk about injustice and to help victims of land confiscations garner public attention for their cases. On 4 September 2018, he was seen being arrested by police in Hồ Chí Minh city. On 21 September 2018, the authorities issued a statement saying that Ngô Văn Dũng had been arrested for violating article 118 of the 2015 Penal Code, which prohibits disruptions of security. He is currently being held at the Hồ Chí Minh City Police Detention Center. *Pre-trial detention.*

50 **Nguyễn Bắc Truyển** (m), born in 1968, is a follower of Hoa Hao Buddhism who monitored and reported on the harassment of religious minorities. He was previously named as a prisoner of conscience. Following his arrest on 30 July 2017, his whereabouts were unknown for about three weeks.<sup>8</sup> He was then charged under article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for “aiming to overthrow” the state. The authorities alleged that he was involved with the independent Brotherhood for Democracy Association. On 5 April 2018, he was tried and convicted of the offense before the Hà Nội People’s Court and sentenced to **11 years in prison**. He is currently being held at An Đầm prison, in Quảng Nam province. *Release due 30 July 2028.*

51 **Nguyễn Bình** (m), born in 1986, is a 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 was 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, before the Phú Yên People’s Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **12 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at An Đầm prison, in Đại Lãnh, Đại Lộc, Quảng Nam province. *Release due February 2024.*

52 **Nguyễn Danh Dũng** (m), born in 1987, is a blogger from Thanh Hóa province who 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 being held for investigation under article 258 of the 1999 Penal Code for “abusing democratic freedoms.” He is currently being held at a detention center in Thanh Hóa province. *Pre-trial detention.*

53 **Nguyễn Đặng Minh Mẫn** (f), born in 1985, is a Catholic social activist who 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 in 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 before the Nghệ An People’s Court; Nguyễn Đặng Minh Mẫn was convicted and received an **eight-year prison sentence followed by five years of house arrest**. She is reportedly being detained in Prison No 5, in Yên Định, Thanh Hóa province. She had undertaken hunger strikes twice, in 2014 and 2015, to protest the use of solitary confinement and other abusive treatment in prison. *Release due August 2019.*

54 **Nguyễn Đình** (m), born in 1968, is a 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

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<sup>8</sup> Amnesty International, Urgent Action: Missing human rights defender at risk of torture, 22 August 2017 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6964/2017/en/>); Amnesty International, Viet Nam: Civil society organizations call for the immediate and unconditional release of Nguyễn Bắc Truyển, 8 November 2017 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/7411/2017/en/>).

environment in Phú Yên Province. He was 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 of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at K2 prison, Xuân Lộc, in Đồng Nai Province. *Release due February 2026.*

55 **Nguyễn Đình Thành** (m), born in 1991, is a doctor from Nghệ An province. In June 2018, while working at a local clinic in Bình Dương province, he participated in a protest against the draft law to create a Special Economic Zone, and also made and distributed flyers to other demonstrators. He was arrested on 14 July 2018 and was tried before the Bình Dương Provincial People’s Court on 17 October 2018. Convicted of “making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing materials and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,” a violation of article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code, he was sentenced to **seven years in prison**. He is serving his sentence at the Bình Dương Detention Center. *Release due 14 July 2025.*

56 **Nguyễn Đình Trường** (m), born in 2001, is a factory worker in Đồng Nai province. In June 2018, he participated in a peaceful demonstration against the draft law to create a Special Economic Zone. He was arrested on 10 June 2018 and was tried before the Biên Hòa People’s Court on 30 July 2018. Convicted of “disturbing public order” under article 318 of the 2015 Penal Code, he was sentenced to **one year of house arrest**. *Release due 10 June 2019.*

57 **Nguyễn Duy Sơn** (m), born in 1981, worked in management at a university in Thanh Hóa province. A social media user, he frequently expressed his opinions on local political and social issues, on Facebook. He was arrested in Thanh Hóa province on 8 May 2018 on the charge of “abusing democratic freedom” under article 331 of the 2015 Penal Code. It is not known where he is currently being held. *Pre-trial detention.*

58 **Nguyễn Hồng Nguyên** (m), age 39, is a driver in Cần Thơ province. He used Facebook to express his opinions on political issues in Vietnam. The authorities of Cần Thơ province arrested him on 16 June 2018. He was tried before the Cái Răng District People’s Court on 22 September 2018, convicted of “abusing democratic freedom” under article 331 of the 2015 Penal Code, and sentenced to **two years in prison**. It is not known where he is currently being held. *Release due 16 June 2020.*

59 **Nguyễn Hoàng Nam** (m), born in 1982, is a construction worker from An Giang province. He is a follower of Hòa Hảo Buddhism, a religious denomination that has faced government persecution for many decades. On 18 and 19 April 2017, he and other local Hòa Hảo Buddhists went to a memorial ceremony in the area, and when the local authorities tried to prevent them from attending, they resisted peacefully. The authorities arrested Nguyễn Hoàng Nam on 27 June 2017. He was tried before the An Phú People’s Court on 9 February 2018, convicted of “disturbing public order” under article 245 of the 1999 Penal Code, and sentenced to **four years in prison**. He is serving his sentence at Xuân Lộc prison, in Đồng Nai province. *Release due 27 June 2021.*

60 **Nguyễn Kỳ Lạc** (m), born in 1951, is a 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 was 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 of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly detained at K2 prison, Xuân Lộc, in Đồng Nai Province. *Release due February 2028.*

61 **Nguyễn Nam Phong** (m), born in 1980, is a member of Van Thai parish in Nghệ 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 1999 Penal Code (for “resisting persons in the

performance of their official duties”). Nguyen Nam Phong was convicted and sentenced to **two years of imprisonment** by the People’s Court of Diên Châu district, in Nghe An province. *Release due November 2019.*

62 **Nguyễn Quốc Hoàn** (m), age 42, is a political activist and a member of the “Vietnamese People’s Self-Determination Alliance” (Liên Minh Dân Tộc Việt Nam Tự Quyết), which seeks political reform and an end to the ruling Communist Party’s monopoly on power. In November 2016, he was arrested, and on 5 October 2018, he was tried before the Hồ Chí Minh City People’s Court. Convicted of “activities aiming to overthrow the people’s government” under article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code, he was sentenced to **13 years in prison followed by three years of house arrest**. He was last known to be held at the Hồ Chí Minh City Police Detention Center. *Release due November 2029.*

63 **Nguyễn Tấn An** (m), born in 1992, is a member of a local youth group in An Giang province, in the far south of Vietnam, that supports the former south Vietnam government (which was forced from power at the end of the Vietnam war). To demonstrate their support for that government, members of the group hung the flag of South Vietnam in their houses and in public spaces. He was arrested on 30 April 2017 and was tried before the An Giang People’s Court on the charge of “abusing democratic freedom,” a violation of article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code. On 21 December 2017, he was convicted of the charge and sentenced to **five years in prison followed by two years of house arrest**. His current location is unknown. *Release due 30 April 2022.*

64 **Nguyễn Thanh Bình** (m), born in 1994, is a member of a local youth group in An Giang province, in the far south of Vietnam, that supports the former south Vietnam government (which was forced from power at the end of the Vietnam war). To demonstrate their support for that government, members of the group hung the flag of South Vietnam in their houses and in public spaces. Arrested on 30 April 2017, he was tried before the An Giang People’s Court on 21 December 2017 and convicted of “abusing democratic freedom” under article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code. He was sentenced to **three years in prison followed by two years of house arrest**. His current location is unknown. *Release due 30 April 2020.*

65 **Nguyễn Thị Ngọc Hạnh** (f), born in 1976, is a secondary school teacher and a member of the Constitution Group (Nhóm Hiến Pháp), an unregistered political grouping that advocates for the civil and political rights guaranteed in Vietnam’s constitution. Arrested on 4 September 2018, she was accused of “making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing materials and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,” an offense under article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code. She is currently being held at the Hồ Chí Minh City Police Detention Center. *Pre-trial detention.*

66 **Nguyễn Thị Tuấn** (f), born in 1986, is a factory worker in Đồng Nai province. In June 2018, she participated in a peaceful demonstration against the draft law to create a Special Economic Zone. Arrested on 10 June 2018, she was tried before the Biên Hòa People’s Court on 30 July 2018 and convicted of “disturbing public order” under article 318 of the 2015 Penal Code. She was sentenced to **one year of house arrest**. *Release due 10 June 2019.*

67 **Nguyễn Thị Thùy** (f), born in 1976, is a factory worker in Đồng Nai province. In June 2018, she participated in a peaceful demonstration against the draft law to create a Special Economic Zone. Arrested on 10 June 2018, she was tried before the Biên Hòa People’s Court on 30 July 2018 and convicted of “disturbing public order” under article 318 of the 2015 Penal Code. She was sentenced to **one year of house arrest**. *Release due 10 June 2019.*

68 **Nguyễn Thị Trúc Ly** (f), born in 1997, is a factory worker in Đồng Nai province. In June 2018, she participated in a peaceful demonstration against the draft law to create a Special Economic Zone. Arrested on 10 June 2018, she was tried before the Biên Hòa People’s Court on 30 July 2018 and convicted of “disturbing public order” under article 318 of the 2015 Penal Code. She was sentenced to **one year of house arrest**. *Release due 10 June 2019.*



69 **Nguyễn Trung Lĩnh** (m), born in 1967, is an engineer from Hà Nội. He is also a pro-democracy activist and used to be a member of the Brotherhood for Democracy Association, an unregistered political group. On 25 May 2018, he published an open letter urging the Vietnamese people to protest against the government and decrying the “domination of China over Vietnam.” He was arrested on 27 May 2018 under article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code for “making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing materials and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.” He is currently being held at Hà Nội Police Detention Center, in Thường Tín district. *Pre-trial detention.*

70 **Nguyễn Trung Tôn** (m), born in 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, a violation of article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code.<sup>9</sup> 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. He was tried by Hà Nội People’s Court on 5 April 2018, convicted of violating article 79, and sentenced to **12 years in prison**. He is held at Gia Trung prison, in Gia Lai province. *Release due 30 July 2029.*

71 **Nguyễn Trung Trực** (m), born in 1974, is a pro-democracy activist and a member of the Brotherhood for Democracy Association (*Hội Anh Em Dân Chủ*), an unregistered political group. Arrested on 4 August 2017, he was accused of “activities aiming to overthrow the government,” a violation of article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code, and of “making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing materials and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,” a violation of article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code. He was tried before the Quảng Bình People’s Court on 12 September 2017, convicted of violating article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code, and sentenced to **12 years in prison followed by five years of house arrest**. He is currently serving his sentence at Prison Number 5, in Thanh Hóa province. *Release due 4 August 2029.*

72 **Nguyễn Ngọc Ánh** (m), born in 1980, is an engineer from Bến Tre province. He engaged in political debates on social media and also used Facebook to express his opinions and share content from other Facebook users. He was arrested on 30 August 2018 on charges of “making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing materials and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,” an offense under article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code. He is being held at the Bến Tre Police Temporary Detention Center. *Pre-trial detention.*

73 **Nguyễn Ngọc Quý** (m), born in 1992, is a member of a local youth group in An Giang province, in the far south of Vietnam, that supports the former south Vietnam government (which was forced from power at the end of the Vietnam war). To demonstrate their support for that government, members of the group hung the flag of South Vietnam in their houses and in public spaces. Arrested on 30 April 2017, he was tried before the An Giang People’s Court on 21 December 2017 and convicted of “abusing democratic freedom” under article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code. He was sentenced to **four years in prison followed by two years of house arrest**. *Release due 30 April 2021.*

74 **Nguyễn Văn Công Em** (m), born in 1971, is from Bến Tre province. In February 2019, he posted his opinion of the Trump-Kim summit, which was taking place in Vietnam at that moment, to Facebook. He was arrested on 28 February 2019 on the charge of “making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing materials and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,” an offense under article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code. He is currently being held at the Police Detention Center in Bến Tre province. *Pre-trial detention.*

75 **Nguyễn Văn Điển** (m), born in 1983, was arrested on 2 March 2017 in an apartment in Hà Nội’s Đống Đa district that he shared with Vũ Quang Thuận (see below), who was also arrested. They were accused

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<sup>9</sup> Amnesty International, Viet Nam: Four peaceful activists arbitrarily arrested in connection with long detained human rights lawyer, 1 August 2017 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6855/2017/en/>); Amnesty International, Urgent Action: Activists held incommunicado may face life in prison, 8 September 2017 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/7059/2017/en/>).

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 were charged under article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code for “conducting propaganda” against the state. **Điển** was convicted and sentenced to **six years and six months of imprisonment followed by 4 years of house arrest**. He is currently being held at Prison No. 1 in Hà Nội. *Release due September 2023.*

76 **Nguyễn Văn Đức Độ** (m), born in 1975, is an electrician and pro-democracy activist from Huế city. He was arrested in Hồ Chí Minh City on 6 November 2016. He was charged under article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code, for “aiming to overthrow” the state, based on allegations that he was linked to the “Coalition of Self-Determination [for] Vietnamese People” (“Liên Minh Dân Tộc Việt Nam”).<sup>10</sup> The Coalition seeks political reform and an end to the monopoly on power of the ruling Communist Party of Viet Nam. He had taken part in peaceful protests about the Formosa ecological disaster in April 2016, and in anti-China demonstrations. He was tried and convicted of the offense before the Hồ Chí Minh city People’ Court on 5 October 2018 and sentenced to **11 years in prison**. He is currently being held at Chí Hòa prison, in Hồ Chí Minh City. *Release due 6 November 2027.*

77 **Nguyễn Văn Hóa** (m), born in 1995, is a blogger from Kỳ Anh district, in north central Viet Nam. He was arrested on 11 January 2017 on his way to court in connection with the Formosa ecological disaster. Subsequently, his family was 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.<sup>11</sup> However, on 27 November 2017, he was tried and convicted before the People’s Court of Hà Tĩnh province, on the charge of “conducting propaganda” against the state, an offense under article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code. He was sentenced to **seven years of imprisonment followed by three years of house arrest**. He is currently being held at An Đầm prison, in Quảng Bình province. *Release due January 2024.*

78 **Nguyễn Văn Oai** (m), born in 1981, is an engineer, a Catholic social activist, 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. He 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 was informed that he was accused of resisting officials on duty and violating his probation. (Nguyễn Văn Oai was on three years of house arrest following his release from prison in August 2015, after serving a four-year prison sentence. He had been deemed by Amnesty International to be prisoner of conscience.) Nguyễn Văn Oai was tried on 18 September 2017 by a court in Hoàng Mai town, in Nghệ An province. He was convicted under article 257 of the 1999 Penal Code (for “resisting persons in the performance of their official duties”) and under article 304 (for “failing to execute judgements”) and sentenced to **three years and two years of imprisonment, respectively**. He is currently being held at Gia Trung prison, in Gia Lai province. *Release due January 2022.*

79 **Nguyễn Văn Quang** (m), born in 1987, is from Thanh Hóa province. In June 2018, in a Facebook post, he urged people to protest the draft law to create a Special Economic Zone. Arrested on 12 June 2018, he was accused of “making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing materials and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,” an offense under article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code. It is not known where he is currently being held. *Pre-trial detention.*

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<sup>10</sup> Amnesty International, Viet Nam: Crackdown on human rights amidst Formosa-related activism, 8 November 2016 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5104/2016/en/>); Amnesty International, Urgent Action: Activists held incommunicado at risk of torture, 22 November 2016 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5190/2016/en/>).

<sup>11</sup> Amnesty International, Urgent Action: Three human rights defenders held incommunicado, 15 February 2017 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5559/2017/en/>).

80 **Nguyễn Văn Trường** (m), born in 1976, is from Thái Nguyên province. He used Facebook to express his political opinions. He was arrested on 9 February 2018 and was accused of “abusing democratic freedom,” a violation of article 331 of the 2015 Penal Code. It is not known where he is currently being held. *Pre-trial detention.*

81 **Nguyễn Văn Túc** (m), born in 1964, is a pro-democracy activist arrested on 1 September 2017 in Dong Hung district, Thai Binh province. He was one of several members of the Brotherhood for Democracy Association who have been arrested. He had been previously imprisoned in September 2008 and released in 2012 (and was deemed by Amnesty International to be a prisoner of conscience). He has been charged under article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for “aiming to overthrow” the state. On 10 April 2018, he was tried and convicted before the Thái Bình People’s Court and sentenced to **13 years in prison**. His current location is prison number 6 in Nghệ An province. *Release due 1 September 2030.*

82 **Nguyễn Viết Dũng** (m), born in 1986, is a founder of the unsanctioned Republican Party of Vietnam. He was arrested on 27 September 2017 in Nghe An province, and was charged under article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code for “conducting propaganda” against the state. He is a former prisoner of conscience previously sentenced for his peaceful activism to 15 months imprisonment in 2015, reduced to 12 months on appeal; he was released from prison in April 2016.<sup>12</sup> On 12 April 2018, he was tried by Nghệ An People’s Court, convicted and sentenced to **six years in prison**. He is currently being held at Hà Nam Detention Centre. *Release due 27 September 2024.*

83 **Noh** (m), born in 1959, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in August 2008. He was tried in September 2009, convicted and sentenced to **12 years of imprisonment** under article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code for “undermining the national unity policy.”<sup>13</sup> He was last reported as being held in the Gia Lai provincial prison. *Release due August 2020.*

84 **Phạm Ngọc Hạnh** (f), born in 1973, is a salesperson in Đồng Nai province. In June 2018, she participated in a peaceful demonstration against the draft law to create a Special Economic Zone. Arrested on 10 June 2018, she was tried before the Biên Hòa People’s Court on 30 July 2018. Convicted of “disturbing public order,” a violation of article 318 of the 2015 Penal Code, she was sentenced to **sixteen months in prison**. *Release due 10 October 2019.*

85 **Phạm Thị Phương** (f), born in 1945, is a former member of the banned Vietnam Populist Party (*Đảng Vi Dân Việt Nam*), and was an army officer under the former South Viet Nam government. She was arrested in April 2010, tried and convicted under article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for activities “aimed at overthrowing” the state.<sup>14</sup> She was sentenced to **11 years of imprisonment**. She is reportedly being held at An Phước Detention Centre, in Bình Dương province. *Release due April 2021.*

86 **Phạm Văn Linh** (m), born in 2001, is a factory worker in Đồng Nai province. In June 2018, he participated in a peaceful demonstration against the draft law to create a Special Economic Zone. Arrested on 10 June 2018, he was tried before the Biên Hòa People’s Court on 30 July 2018 and was convicted of “disturbing public order” under article 318 of the 2015 Penal Code. He was sentenced to **one year of house arrest**. *Release due 10 June 2019.*

87 **Phạm Văn Trọng** (m), born in 1994, is a member of a local youth group in An Giang province, in the far south of Vietnam, that supports the former South Viet Nam government (which was forced from power at the end of the Viet Nam war). To demonstrate their support for that government, members of the group hung the flag of South Viet Nam in their houses and in public spaces. Arrested on 30 April 2017, he was tried before the An Giang People’s Court on 21 December 2017 and convicted of “abusing democratic freedom”

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<sup>12</sup> Amnesty International, Viet Nam: Immediately and unconditionally release democracy activist Nguyễn Viết Dũng, 16 December 2015 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/3093/2015/en/>).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

under article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code. He was sentenced to **three years in prison followed by two years of house arrest**. *Release due 30 April 2020.*

88 **Phạm Văn Trội (m)**, born in 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 victims of land confiscations and has 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.<sup>15</sup> He was previously imprisoned for four years, from September 2008 to 2012, and was deemed a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International. On 5 April 2018, he was tried by Hà Nội People’s Court, convicted and sentenced to **seven years in prison**. He is held at Ba Sao Prison, in Hà Nam province. *Release due 30 July 2024.*

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

90 **Phan Thanh Tường (m)**, born in 1987, is a 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 was 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 of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**.<sup>16</sup> He is reportedly being held at Section 2, Xuân Lộc District, in Đồng Nai Province. *Release due February 2022.*

91 **Phan Thanh Ý (m)**, born in 1948, is a 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 was 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 of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at Xuyên Mộc prison, in Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province. *Release due February 2026.*

92 **Phan Trung (m)**, 43, is a Buddhist monk, a political activist, and a member of the “Vietnamese People’s Self-Determination Alliance” (Liên Minh Dân Tộc Việt Nam Tự Quyết), which seeks political reform and an end to the ruling Communist Party’s monopoly on power. Arrested on 16 November 2016, he was tried on 5 October 2018 before the Hồ Chí Minh City People’s Court and convicted of conducting “activities aiming to overthrow the people’s government,” an offense under article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code. He was sentenced to **eight years in prison**. He is currently being held at the Hồ Chí Minh City Police Detention Center. *Release due 16 November 2024.*

93 **Phan Văn Thu (m)**, born in 1948, is a 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 was 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) before the Phú Yên People’s

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<sup>15</sup> Amnesty International, Viet Nam: Four peaceful activists arbitrarily arrested in connection with long detained human rights lawyer, 1 August 2017 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6855/2017/en/>); Amnesty International, Urgent Action: Activists held incommunicado may face life in prison, 8 September 2017 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/7059/2017/en/>).

<sup>16</sup> Amnesty International, Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam, 7 November 2013 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>).

Court in January 2013. He was convicted and sentenced to **life imprisonment**. He is reportedly being held at An Phước Prison in Phú Giáo District, in Bình Dương Province. *No release date.*

94 **Puih Bop, also known as Ama Phun** (m), born in 1959, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian from Ia Der commune, Ia Grai district, Gia Lai province, and 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; Puih Bop was convicted and sentenced to **nine years of imprisonment**. It is not known where he is currently being held. *Release due September 2025.*

95 **Rah Lan Blom** (m), born in 1976, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian from Ploi Kua village in Gia Lai province. He was arrested in August 2010 and convicted in April 2011 of violating article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code (which prohibits “undermining the national unity policy”). He was sentenced to **nine years of imprisonment followed by three years of house arrest**. He was last reported as being held at An Phước prison camp, in Bình Dương province. *Release due August 2019.*

96 **Rah Lan Mlih** (m), born in 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 of imprisonment followed by three years of house arrest**. He was convicted under article 87 (“Undermining the national unity policy”) of the 1999 Penal Code. He was last reported as being held at a prison in Gia Lai province. *Release due August 2019.*

97 **Rmah Hlach, also known as Ama Blut** (m), born in 1968, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian. He was arrested in July 2009 and sentenced to **12 years of imprisonment followed by three years of house arrest** under article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code (which prohibits “undermining the national unity policy”). He was last reported as being held at Ba Sao prison camp, in Hà Nam province. *Release due July 2021.*

98 **Rơ Lan Kly, also known as Ama Blan** (m), born in 1962, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian from Bar Maih commune, Chư Sê 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 before the Gia Lai People’s Court; Rơ Lan Kly was convicted and sentenced to **eight years of imprisonment**. It is not known where he is currently being held. *Release due September 2024.*

99 **Rơ Mah Đaih, also known as Ama Pôn** (m), born in 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 before the Gia Lai People’s Court; Rơ Mah Đaih was convicted and sentenced to **10 years of imprisonment**. It is not known where he is currently being held. *Release due September 2026.*

100 **Rơ Mah Pró** (m), born in 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 of the 1999 Penal Code, which prohibits “undermining the national unity policy,” and sentenced in April 2011 to **nine years of imprisonment and three years of house arrest**. He was last reported as being held at a prison in Gia Lai province. *Release due August 2019.*

101 **Run** (m), born in 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 of imprisonment** under article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code, which prohibits “undermining the unity policy.” He was last reported as being held at a prison in Gia Lai province. *Release due August 2021.*

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

103 **Siu Brom** (m), born in 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 of the 1999 Penal Code, which prohibits “undermining the national unity policy.” He was sentenced to **10 years of imprisonment followed by three years of house arrest**. He was last reported as being held at a prison in Gia Lai province. *Release due August 2020.*

104 **Siu Hlom** (m), born in 1967, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian from Plou Kua village in Gia Lai province. He was arrested in August 2010 and tried and convicted in April 2011 under article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code, which prohibits “undermining the national unity policy.” He was sentenced to **12 years of imprisonment followed by three years of house arrest**. He was last reported as being held at Gia Lai prison camp. *Release due August 2022.*

105 **Siu Nheo** (m), born in 1955, is an ethnic Montagnard Christian arrested in August 2010. He was tried and convicted in April 2011 of violating article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code, which prohibits “undermining the national unity policy.” He was sentenced to **10 years of imprisonment followed by three years of house arrest**. He was last reported as being held at Gia Lai prison camp. *Release due August 2020.*

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

107 **Tạ Khu** (m), born in 1947, is a 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 was 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 **16 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**.<sup>17</sup> He is reportedly being held at Xuyên Mộc Prison, in Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu province. *Release due February 2028.*

108 **Venerable Thạch Thuởi** (m), born in 1985, is a Khmer Krom Buddhist monk and deputy abbot of Serei Ta Sek Temple in Sóc Trăng province. In March 2013, local authorities and Buddhist officials ordered Thạch Thuởi 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. He was arrested in May 2013 and charged under article 91 of the 1999 Penal Code, which prohibits “fleeing abroad to oppose the people’s administration.” In pre-trial detention, Thạch Thuởi was beaten by police but refused to confess to any crimes. He was tried and convicted in September 2013 and sentenced to **six years of imprisonment**.<sup>18</sup> He is currently being held at Xuân Lộc Prison, in Đồng Nai Province. *Release due May 2019.*

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

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<sup>17</sup> Amnesty International, Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam, 7 November 2013 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>).

<sup>18</sup> Amnesty International, Prisons within prisons: Torture and ill-treatment of prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam, 12 July 2016 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/4187/2016/en/>).

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.”<sup>19</sup> *Indefinite house arrest.*

110 **Trần Anh Kim** (m), born in 1949, is a writer and former army officer. He was arrested in September 2015 under article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code for activities “aiming to overthrow” the state). The arrest was believed to be in connection with a group that he was reportedly about to launch, named “Raising the flag of democracy” (*Lực Lượng Quốc Dân Dựng Cờ Dân Chủ*). Trần Anh Kim, a co-founder 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 of imprisonment followed by three years of house arrest for his peaceful activities protesting injustice and government corruption; he was released in January 2015 and re-arrested eight months later. He was brought to trial before a court in Thái Bình province together with another member of his group, Lê Thanh Tùng, on 16 December 2016. He was convicted and sentenced to **13 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**.<sup>20</sup> He was transferred to Prison No 5, in Thanh Hóa province, in August 2017. *Release due September 2028.*

111 **Trần Hoàng Phúc** (m), born in 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 Barack 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 of imprisonment followed by four years of house arrest**. He is currently being held at An Phước Prison, in Bình Dương province. *Release due June 2023.*

112 **Trần Huỳnh Duy Thức** (m), born in 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 regarding governance reform. He was arrested in May 2009 and tried with three co-defendants by the Hồ Chí Minh City People’s Court on 20 January 2010 on charges of “aiming to overthrow” the state under article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code. He was convicted and sentenced to **16 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. 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. The transfer was possibly connected with his refusal to agree to be relocated to the United States as a condition of early release. He carried out a two-week hunger strike in May to June 2016, calling for the country’s return to the rule of law and for a referendum on its political system. *Release due May 2025*.<sup>21</sup>

113 **Trần Nguyễn Duy Quang** (m), born in 1983, is a factory worker in Đồng Nai province. On 6 June 2018, he peacefully participated in a demonstration in Biên Hòa city to protest the proposed draft law to create a special economic zone and was arrested on the same day. The Biên Hòa city People’s Court tried him on 30 July 2018, convicted and sentenced to **one year and six months** in prison for “disturbing public order” under article 318 of the 2015 Penal Code. He is currently serving his sentence at B5 prison, in Đồng Nai province. *Released due 6 January 2020.*

114 **Trần Phi Dũng** (m), born in 1966, is a 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

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<sup>19</sup> Amnesty International, Joint Open Letter calling on the Government of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Thích Quảng Độ, Nguyễn Văn Đài and Đỗ Thị Hồng, 10 July 2017 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6689/2017/en/>).

<sup>20</sup> Amnesty International, Viet Nam: Incommunicado detention of human rights lawyers and trial of pro-democracy activists shows disdain for international human rights law, 16 December 2016 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/5377/2016/en/>).

<sup>21</sup> Amnesty International, Viet Nam: Open Letter on prisoner of conscience Trần Huỳnh Duy Thức, 23 May 2017 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6234/2017/en/>).

environment in Phú Yên Province. He was 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 **13 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**.<sup>22</sup> He is reportedly being held at Prison Z30A, Section 2, in Xuân Lộc District, in Đồng Nai Province. *Release due February 2025.*

115 **Trần Quân** (m), born in 1984, is a 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 was 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 of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**.<sup>23</sup> He is reportedly being held at Prison Z30A, Section 2, in Xuân Lộc District, in Đồng Nai Province. *Release due February 2024.*

116 **Trần Thị Nga** (f), born in 1977, is a member of an independent group called Vietnamese Women for Human Rights. She was arrested at her home in Phú Lý, Hà Nam province, in northern Viet Nam, on 21 January 2017. According to the 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 of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**.<sup>24</sup> 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 currently being held at Gia Trung prison, in Gia Lai province. *Release due January 2026.*

117 **Trần Thị Xuân** (f), born in 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 the official media, she is alleged to have posted articles and photos critical of the government on the internet. She was tried before the Hà Tĩnh Provincial People’s Court on 12 April 2018 and convicted sentenced to **nine years in prison**. she is currently being held at prison number 5, in Thanh Hóa province. *Release due 17 October 2026.*

118 **Trương Đình Khang** (f), age 27, is from Cần Thơ province. She used Facebook to express her political opinions. Arrested on 16 June 2018, she was tried before the Cái Răng District People’s Court on 22 September 2018 and convicted of “abusing democratic freedom” under article 331 of the 2015 Penal Code. She was sentenced to **one year in prison**. It is not known where she is currently being held. *Release due 16 June 2019.*

119 **Trương Minh Đức** (m), born in 1960, is a former journalist. Prior to his arrest he worked as an administrator for the Brotherhood for Democracy Association (*Hội Anh Em Dân Chủ*) and as an advocate in the labour movement, educating workers about their human rights. He was arrested on 30 July 2017, accused of “carrying out activities aiming to overthrow” the state under article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code.<sup>25</sup> He was previously imprisoned as a prisoner of conscience for five years from 2007 to 2012, and since then

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<sup>22</sup> Amnesty International, Silenced Voices: Prisoners of conscience in Viet Nam, 7 November 2013 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/007/2013/en/>).

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Amnesty International, Urgent Action: Female activist sentenced to nine years in prison, 31 July 2017 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6833/2017/en/>).

<sup>25</sup> Amnesty International, Viet Nam: Four peaceful activists arbitrarily arrested in connection with long detained human rights lawyer, 1 August 2017: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/6855/2017/en/>; Amnesty International, Urgent Action: Activists held incommunicado may face life in prison, 8 September 2017 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa41/7059/2017/en/>).



he and his family had faced frequent harassment from the authorities and others. Suffering from heart disease and high blood pressure, he had a stroke in mid-May, and now needs to take several medications on a daily basis to prevent another stroke or a heart attack. On 5 April 2018 the Hà Nội People's Court sentenced him to **12 years in prison**. He is currently being held at Prison number 6, in Nghệ An province. *Release due 30 July 2029.*

120 **Trương Hữu Lộc** (m), born in 1961, is from Hồ Chí Minh city. He used Facebook to express his opinion about the draft law to create a Special Economic Zone, urging people to protest against the law. Arrested on 14 June 2018, he was accused of “disrupting security” under article 118 of the 2015 Penal Code. It is not known where he is currently held. *Pre-trial detention.*

121 **Từ Công Nghĩa** (m), age 26, from Hồ Chí Minh City, is a political activist and a member of the “Vietnamese People's Self-Determination Alliance” (Liên Minh Dân Tộc Việt Nam Tự Quyết), which seeks political reform and an end to the ruling Communist Party's monopoly on power. Arrested in November 2016, he was tried on 5 October 2018 before the Hồ Chí Minh City People's Court and was convicted of “activities aiming to overthrow the people's government,” a violation of article 79 of the 1999 Penal Code. He was sentenced to **ten years in prison followed by three years of house arrest**. He is currently being held at the Hồ Chí Minh City Police Detention Center. *Release due November 2026.*

122 **Từ Thiện Lương** (m), born in 1950, is a 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 was 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 **16 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at An Đầm prison, in Đại Lãnh, Đại Lộc, Quảng Nam province. *Release due February 2028.*

123 **Võ Ngọc Cư** (m), born in 1951, is a 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 was 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 **16 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at Xuyên Mộc prison, in Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu province. *Release due February 2028.*

124 **Võ Thành Lê** (m), born in 1955, is a 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 was 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 **16 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at Xuyên Mộc prison, in Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu province. *Release due February 2028.*

125 **Võ Tiết** (m), born in 1952, is a 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 was 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 **16 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at Prison Z30A, Section 2, in Xuân Lộc District, Đồng Nai Province. *Release due February 2028.*

126 **Vũ Quang Thuận** (m), born in 1966, was arrested on 2 March 2017 in the apartment in Hà Nội's Đống Đa district 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 were 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 of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is currently being held at Prison No. 1 in Ha Noi. *Pre-trial detention*.

127 **Vương Tấn Sơn** (m), born in 1953, is a 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 was 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 **17 years of imprisonment followed by five years of house arrest**. He is reportedly being held at Xuyên Mộc prison, in Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province. *Release due February 2029*.

128 **Y Hriam Kpa** (m), born in 1976, is a member of the Ê Đê ethnic group, and the leader of the Christian House Church in Druh Hamlet, Gia Lai Province. Arrested on 30 July 2015, he was allegedly subjected to solitary confinement, and torture and other ill-treatment, while in pre-trial detention. In January 2016, he was tried before the Ea H’leo District People’s Court and convicted of “undermining the unity policy,” a violation of article 87 of the 1999 Penal Code. He was sentenced to **7 years in prison**, and is currently serving his sentence at Dak Trung Prison, in M’Drak District, Dak Lak province. *Release due 2021*.

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