



# សហព័ន្ធខ្មែរកម្ពុជាក្រោម

KHMERS KAMPUCHEA-KROM FEDERATION

P.O. Box 193, Pennsauken, NJ 08110 • <https://khmerkrom.org> • [info@khmerkrom.org](mailto:info@khmerkrom.org) • (856) 655-3838

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

## Vietnamese Authority Arrested Khmer-Krom without Warrant

**Pennsauken, NJ, 8 June 2020** -- The Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) condemns the Vietnamese authority of Kien Giang province for arresting the Khmer-Krom without a warrant on June 7, 2020 at Phu My village, Giang Thanh district, Kien Giang province (Tổ 1, Ấp Kinh Mới, Xã Phú Mỹ, Huyện Giang Thành, Tỉnh Kiên Giang).

On May 5, 2020, the Vietnamese authority sent hundreds of police forces, armed with guns, electric batons, and tear gas, to attack the indigenous Khmer-Krom farmers who were farming on their farmlands that have been confiscated by the local authority of Tra Phot hamlet, Phu My village.

On May 10, 2020, the Khmer-Krom farmers filed another complaint to the Vietnamese authority regarding the attack by the police forces on May 5 and asking to return their confiscated farmlands. They have been waiting hopelessly. The Vietnamese authorities keep tactically ignoring their complaint about more than a decade already.

On June 7, 2020, around 7 pm, the Vietnamese authority sent about fifty police forces to arrest six people (three men and three women) from a Khmer-Krom family. While arresting, the police used electric baton beating the Khmer-Krom. One of the Khmer-Krom victims was a woman who just delivered a baby about a month ago. At the local authority of the Phu My village, the Vietnamese police accused them of leading the protest against the authority on May 5. After two hours of intimidating and threatening the Khmer-Krom to confess a crime that they do not commit without success, the Vietnamese police had to release five of them.

It seriously concerns that the Vietnamese authority has still detained Mr. Huỳnh Văn Đệp (born 1979) because he was framed as a leader. In reality, he was hired by the Khmer-Krom farmers to drive the excavator to do the farming on May 5.

In this regard, the Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation urgently calls on the international community to urge Vietnam to release Mr. Huỳnh Văn Đệp without condition. Vietnam must respect Mr. Huỳnh Văn Đệp's right to liberty and security as enshrined in Article 9 (*No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention.... Anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him*) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that Vietnam signed in 1982.

