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FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Summoned, Tortured, Detained Khmer-Krom Youth Activists

Pennsauken, NJ, 21 February 2022 – The Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) condemns the Vietnamese Police to continue practicing torture against the Khmer-Krom youth activists even Vietnam ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UN CAT) on February 5, 2015.

On January 26, 2022, the Vietnamese Police summoned Lam Van Hung without an official summon letter at his workplace in Ben Cat town, Binh Duong province, for questioning what he shared on his Facebook page. During the interrogation for 6 hours, from 2 pm to 8 pm, the Vietnamese Police forced him to sign the alleged crimes he disagreed with because he merely shared the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN DRIP). The Police tortured him by hitting his head, pulling his hair to the back, etc. The Police confiscated his phone.

On February 4, 2022, around 11 am, the Vietnamese Police of Soc Trang province summoned Duong Khai without an official summoned letter to "*verify a couple of things.*" He was interrogated since he arrived at the police station at his village and then at the provincial police station until 1:30 am on February 5. He was allowed to sleep until 8 am and was interrogated again until around 8 pm. While he was being detained for interrogation for about 30 hours, Duong Khai did not eat any food because he was not happy with how the Police treated him. The Police tried to force him to sign the alleged crimes he did not commit, but he refused. The Police confiscated his phone again. This is the second time Duong Khai was detained because the Vietnamese authority does not like Duong Khai's activities to promote the fundamental rights enshrined in the UN DRIP.



On February 18, 2022, around 9 am, the Vietnamese Police of Soc Trang province summoned Danh Set to the police station at his village. The Police took his phone and tried to access his phone and his Facebook. He refused to provide access and faced torture. He could not bear the suffering, so he had to give us his secret code to access his phone and password to his Facebook. He was interrogated until 11 pm and slept overnight at the police station. On February 19, He was interrogated again from 8 am until 5 pm. The Police have not returned his phone.

In this regard, the Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) urgently calls on the international community to urge the United Nations to ask Vietnam to:

- Stop using torture against the Khmer-Krom activists and uphold its commitment to implementing the UN CAT.
- Stop using reprisals against the Khmer-Krom activists if they merely share the information about the UN documents, especially the UN DRIP.

