

# Persecution against adherents of Duong Van Minh Belief in Vietnam

Update for reporting period from May 2014 to May 2015

(Prepared by VETO! Human Rights Defenders' Network on May 30, 2015)

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## **1. Brief summary**

The Duong Van Minh belief is a new variant of Christian religion for Hmong ethnics in the four Northeastern provinces of Vietnam: Cao Bang, Bac Kan, Tuyen Quang and Thai Nguyen since 1989. The most known characteristic of this belief is the simplified funeral ceremony. The believers use symbolic items made of wood such as a crucifix, a swallow, a toad and a cicada during the funeral ceremony. The villagers share the use of those items and stored them in a small shed of wood or bricks not bigger than 7 square meters (Shed for storing funeral objects, SSFO).

Since 1989 the Vietnamese government has outlawed the religion. The powerful "Steering Committee for Northwestern Region" of the ruling Communist Party has ordered the "eradication of the illegal Duong Van Minh organization". In June 2013 the Government Committee for Religious Affairs declared the Duong Van Minh belief to be banned because it is neither a religion nor a belief according to the definitions adopted in the Ordinance on Belief and Religion. But in practice the Vietnamese authorities cannot justify their actions with a conclusive line of argument based on domestic law. The persecution against the religion can therefore be seen as highly political motivated.

By the end of 2013 the Vietnamese government has destroyed in total 24 SSFO of the Duong Van Minh belief. The religious community recovered slowly from this shock started in April 2015 a new wave of rebuilding their SSFO. For the time being the believers have constructed 36 SSFO. Among them, 22 SSFO were completely destroyed just a few days after their building. At least 11 persons were injured during the raids.

It was a systematic violation of the right to freedom of religion and belief of the Duong Van Minh adherents. Aside from the SSFO destruction many Hmong ethnics involving in the building of the SSFO were arrested and sentenced up to 2 years in prison. Taking advantage of the vulnerability of ethnic minorities, the ongoing persecution of the Duong Van Minh believers is both subtle and comprehensive: forcing to sign renouncements, propaganda to slander the believers and the religious founder, discrimination in public service such as providing no health insurance because of one's religion, dismissing employment, harassment through police summons and interrogations, house searches and confiscation of properties. Fearing retaliation a dozen of Hmong believers went underground, some of them since 15 years, without a perspective to be reunified with their families.

As a member of the United Nations' Human Rights Council since January 2014, Vietnam should abide by the council's pledge to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights. As a signatory Vietnam should respect and fully enable the human rights mentioned in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), especially Art. 18.

Therefore VETO! urges the Vietnamese government to:

- Withdraw all directives aiming to suppress the Duong Van Minh belief and authorize this religious group to operate freely;
- Respect the right to have and adopt religious belief as an inalienable, internationally recognized human right; forbid all measures used to force believers to renounce their faith or religion;
- Cancel all harassment measures against the Duong Van Minh believers;

- Immediately and unconditionally release the believers;
- Forbid the destruction of the sheds for storing funeral objects of Hmong people;
- Withdraw the arrest warrants or search warrants against the Duong Van Minh believers and guarantee the safe return of the related persons to their families.

## 2. New wave of building SSFO between May 2014 and May 2015

The crackdown between end 2013 and spring 2014 has scared off many Duong Van Minh believers keeping them from building their SSFO for a long time. After each funeral, they hid the funeral objects in their pigpens or hencoops for further use. But it was a hurtful and shaming situation.

After having overcome its fear, the Duong Van Minh community in Khuoi Vin Hamlet (Cao Bang Province) has rebuilt its SSFO in April 2014 to see it destroyed a month later (see incident in Khuoi Vin Hamlet below). In December 2014 two other communities in Thai Nguyen Province followed and rebuilt their SSFOs which were also destroyed a few days after. In complaints sent to authorities at central and local levels the Duong Van Minh adherents consequently questioned the legality of the destruction acts but never received plausible answers.

In dialogues with authorities, the Duong Van Minh believers found out that all reasons given for the ban of SSFO are specious and devoid of any legal basis. The common pretext that the building of SSFO had violated the building law and the land law is not consistent. Some officials on village and district level confessed that they had to follow the order of their superiors but they are no more convinced of the rightness of the ban order. In a reply to many complaints of believers in Khuoi Vin Hamlet on Jan 8, 2015, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Quang, Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of Bao Lam District (Cao Bang Province), openly stated that the SSFO including the objects inside are symbols of the "illegal Duong Van Minh organization" and so they are forbidden. He also stated that all citizens had to follow the Vietnamese law, here the Ordinance on Belief and Religion, and international conventions to which Vietnam is a state party had been only used as reference during the legislative process. In a reply to his letter the believers questioned him about the validity of article 38 of the Ordinance on Belief and Religion which stipulates the prevalence of international treaties over conflicting regulations in the ordinance. They have never got an answer from him. But the vice chairman is still using these specious arguments in his replies to other Duong Van Minh communities in his district.

The Duong Van Minh believers need their special funeral objects and the SSFO in their daily life. They believe that their right to have or adopt a religion of their own choice and their right to freedom to manifest their religion are covered by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the new Vietnamese Constitution, and they have not violated the Ordinance on Belief and Religion because of the prevalence provision. They don't want to refrain from building the SSFO because of speculative advices of officials. Provincial public security officers had repeatedly advised the Duong Van Minh believers that they should not build their SSFO yet, that the government had been considering an official house for storing their funeral objects; that they should wait for the decision of the government; that they should wait for the new Law on Religion and Belief; or they should wait for the Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, etc.

By the end of April 2015 the Duong Van Minh communities in the four Northeastern Provinces Bac Kan, Cao bang, Thai Nguyen and Tuyen Quang have again started the building of SSFO. The majority of them were built in May 2015. Some locations have built many SSFOs in a same day (see incident in Ngoi Sen Hamlet) or in the reporting period (see incidents in Khuoi Vin Hamlet). In the time between May 2014 and May 2015 the Duong Van Minh communities have built in total 36

SSFOs. Until the end of May 2015 the Vietnamese government has destroyed or burned down 22 of them (see Table 1).

Province	Bac Kan	Cao Bang	Tuyen Quang	Thai Nguyen
Amount of SSFO built	3	18	9	7
Amount of SSFO destroyed	0	11	9	2

**Table 1: Number of SSFO built and destroyed between May 2014 and May 2015**

The sizes of the 36 SSFOs vary from 3 to 6 square meters. None of them is of brick or heavy materials. All of them have a light construction with materials which the people could easily find in their environment: wood, straw, bamboo. This kind of SSFO has low costs, could be assembled in about one hour and resembles any other shed used as pigpen, hencoop or shed for storing farmer tools, which may be seen on any plot of agricultural land in the region (see Pic 1-12). The destruction of these very simply built SSFOs is an evident of a policy of discrimination and violates the right to freedom of religion or belief.

It is noteworthy that among the 28 hamlets with SSFO built in the reporting period there are 12 hamlets which never had a SSFO before. Likely 8 Duong Van Minh hamlet's communities have not recovered from the assaults in 2013 and have not rebuilt their SSFOs (see Appendix 1).

## 2.1. Incidents in Tuyen Quang Province

The Tuyen Quang Province is the spotlight of the Duong Van Minh belief. It is the home province of the founder of the religion, Mr. Duong Van Minh, and has the most adherents. It was visited by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief in July 2014. The Special Rapporteur has met the provincial People's Committee and the Duong Van Minh community on this occasion.

Between May 7 and May 26, 2015, the Duong Van Minh communities in Tuyen Quang Province have built in total nine SSFOs. All nine SSFOs were destroyed in the same day or the day after (see Appendix 1 and Pic 7 to 12). In most cases the government forces didn't show any official document or explain the reason for the destruction of the SSFO, stating merely that "the shed is illegal". In one instance the government summoned the villagers to dismantle the shed because it had been built on a forest area and had been a danger in case of fire (sic!). The believers didn't accept this specious argument because the SSFO was located in the center of their house cluster and they had never heard of such regulation before.

### 2.1.1. Two destructions in a day and injury in Ngoi Sen Hamlet, Tuyen Quang Province

In Ngoi Sen Hamlet where Mr. Duong Van Minh is living, the believers have built their SSFO twice on May 22, 2015 (Pic 11). Both were completely destroyed by the end of the day (Pic 12). Believers tried to stop the aggression but in vain (Pic 13). After the destruction troops in uniform and the anti-riot police withdrew (Pic 14). Some perpetrators in plainclothes left the location with a patrol wagon (Pic 15). The funeral objects inside the SSFO and the building materials were carried away with a truck (Pic 16). Following are the minutes of the two destruction acts on May 22, 2015:

- At 4:30 AM the believers started building the first SSFO of size 3 m x 2 m and finished at 5:30 AM.
- At 8:30 AM a government delegation came to the location and defined the construction as illegal. The believers discussed with them and asked them to explain which law their decision

was based on. The Government agents couldn't give a plausible reason but kept requesting the dismantlement of the shed. The believers refused to follow this arbitrary order.

- At 10:00 AM some 200 persons in plainclothes and in police, public security, army, anti-riot police and traffic police uniforms surrounded the hamlet, prevented the villagers from approaching the SSFO. Inside the cordon in uniforms the destruction was exclusively carried out by persons in plainclothes and ended at 10:30 AM.
- At 11:30 AM the believers started the building of the second SSFO on the same place and finished at 12:30 AM.
- At 02:00 PM the same group of about 200 perpetrators of the first incident returned and destroyed the second SSFO. They finished at 02:30 PM.

During the second destruction act, Mrs. Duong Thi Cho went to rescue her nephew being strangled by government agents. She was attacked with a knife and was injured on hand and arm. She fainted and was transported by the government side to the emergency of the Ham Yen District Hospital. She was discharged on May 15, 2015. The hospital refused to give out her medical record.

### **2.1.2. Injury during the destruction in Tan An Hamlet, Tuyen Quang Province**

The SSFO in Tan An Hamlet was built on May 7, 2015 and was the first in the Tuyen Quang Province after the crackdown in 2013 (Pict 19). Therefore the brutality and malicious attack by government forces at the destruction on May 10, 2015 could be understood as a warning to other Duong Van Minh groups in the province.

The destruction was accomplished within an hour (Pict 20). During the destruction some believers tried to question the perpetrators and were therefore beaten. At the attack Mrs. Hoang Thi San (61 years) was punched by persons in plainclothes. She fell to the ground and fainted. While the villagers were arguing with the government forces for letting her lay on the road instead of bringing her to the hospital, two persons (wearing only shorts) from the government troop attacked her son, Mr. Duong Van De (46 years), with rods. He also fell to the ground and fainted (Pic 21). Witnesses had seen that the two perpetrators had taken off their shirts before the attack. Villagers organized the transport of the two victims to the emergency of the hospital of Son Duong District because they didn't trust the government forces. On the next day, May 11, 2015, Mr. Duong Van Pai who took care of his mother and brother, were beaten by three not identified persons in the hospital. Although his brother De has called for help, the hospital personal didn't intervene. The victims were discharged on May 12, 2015 and the hospital certified that Mrs. San and Mr. De had no injuries.

## **2.2. Injuries during 4 destruction actions in Khuoi Vinh Hamlet, Cao Bang Province since 2014**

The community in Khuoi Vin Hamlet (Cao Bang Province) was the first Duong Van Minh group who started with the rebuilding of their SSFO after the destruction campaign in 2013. Its SSFO, the third one since 2007, was built on Apr 17, 2014 and destroyed by government forces on May 27, 2014. By end of May 2015 this religious community has built in total seven SSFO and is the community with the most SSFOs built and destroyed in the country (see Table 2). Since the fifth destruction on Feb. 6, 2015 the community in Khuoi Vin Hamlet has sent in total 33 complaints to the central, provincial and local governments. The reaction of the government to these complaints has in fact helped to understand the policy of the government towards the Duong Van Minh belief (VETO! has reported to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief).

Date of	1st. SSFO	2nd. SSFO	3rd. SSFO	4th. SSFO	5th. SSFO	6th. SSFO
<b>Construction</b>	16/11/2007	16/5/2013	17/04/2014	14/10/2014	19/10/2014	08/03/2015
<b>Destruction</b>	4/12/2008	24/11/2013	27/05/2014	14/10/2014	06/02/2015	21/05/2015

**Table 2: Six SSFO in Khuoi Vin Hamlet destroyed since 2007.**

The Duong Van Minh believers in Khuoi Vin have paid a high price for their pioneer role. In the fifth attack in the dawn of Feb. 6, 2015 government forces surrounded the hamlet and beat the believers when they just got out of their houses. Seven persons were injured. Among them Mrs. Ly Thi Thao and Mr. Hoang Van Mu were critically injured. For instance Mr. Hoang Van Mu was held by two police officers while others punched and kicked him on the belly and back. As he fell down they continued to kick him on the belly and face. He fell unconscious after being hit with an electric baton. The villagers brought him to the emergency hospital of the Bao Lam District on Feb. 06, 2015. On Feb. 07, 2015 as his health deteriorated rapidly the district hospital transferred him to the hospital of the Ha Giang Province where he underwent on Feb. 08, 2015 emergency surgery because of intestinal perforation resulting in intestinal contents leaking into the abdominal cavity, causing bacterial contamination and inflammation (Pic 22 and 23). In spite of his many requests he didn't get his medical records, the hospital claiming to need police permission for giving them out (Pic 24).

Mr. Mu was discharged from the hospital on Mar. 5, 2015 without being clinically stable. Because of severe pains he returned to the hospital of Ha Giang Province on Apr. 27, 2015. There, on May 11, 2015, he underwent a second surgery due to abdominal adhesions causing intestinal obstructions (Pic 25). He was released on May 26, 2015.

### **3. Persons imprisoned because of their belief**

Currently three believers of the Duong Van Minh belief are detained because of “abusing democratic freedoms to infringe upon the interests of the State” (religious freedom) [article 258 Vietnam's Criminal Code].

Mr. Duong Van Thanh (born in 1981) and Mr. Hoang Van Sinh (born in 1989) were arrested in Februar 2014 in Bac Kan Province because they had actively contributed to the construction of the SSFO in Lung Lia Hamlet, taken part in protest demonstrations in Hanoi and objected the destruction of the SSFO in their hamlet. As retaliation Mr. Thanh was dismissed as police officer. Mr. Duong Van Thanh was sentenced to 24 months and Mr. Hoang Van Sinh to 15 months imprisonment.

Mr. Vu A Su (born in 1986) was arrested during the destruction of the SSFO in November 2013 in Cao Bang Province. His “wrong doing” was his public protests against the scheduled destruction of the SSFO in Na Phiao Hamlet in July 2013. He went to the market and showed a poster with pictures of the SSFO and the funeral objects inside to question the absurd government order of dismantlement. He was sentenced to 2 years in prison

VETO! has interviewed five Duong Van Minh believers who were released between January and April 2015 (see Appendix 2). Mr. Ly Van Dinh, Mr. Hoang Van Sang, Mr. Duong Van Tu, Mr. Thao Quan Mua and Mr. Hoang Van Su pointed out their vulnerability due to their limited Vietnamese proficiency during the police interrogation. They didn't have interpreter, didn't understand the charge and couldn't defend themselves. Under pressure they had signed their confession, had to copy a prefabricated confession and read their confession before a video camera. After being released, they sent declarations to the government to contradict their confessions made in prison

This caused some of them to be summoned and harassed by the police.

## Pictures of Sheds for Storing Funeral Objects (SSFO)



Pic 1: SFFO in Coc Nghe Hamlet, Bac Kan Province



Pic 2: SFFO in Khuoi Sat Hamlet, Bac Kan Province



Pic 3: SFFO in Kha Ban Hamlet, Cao Bang Province



Pic 4: SFFO in Lung Tu Hamlet, Cao Bang Province



Pic 5: SFFO in Ban Ten Hamlet, Thai Nguyen Province



Pic 6: SFFO in Lien Phuong Hamlet, Thai Nguyen Province

## Pictures of SSFOs before and after their destruction



**Pic 7: SFFO in Khuoi Boc Hamlet, Tuyen Quang Province BEFORE the destruction on May 9, 2015**



**Pic 8: SFFO in Khuoi Boc Hamlet, Tuyen Quang Province AFTER the destruction on May 10, 2015**



**Pic 9: SFFO in Lè Hamlet, Tuyen Quang Province BEFORE the destruction on May 26, 2015**



**Pic 10: SFFO in Lè Hamlet, Tuyen Quang Province AFTER the destruction on May 26, 2015**



**Pic 11: SFFO in Ngoi Sen Hamlet, Tuyen Quang Province BEFORE the destruction on May 22, 2015**



**Pic 12: SFFO in Ngoi Sen Hamlet, Tuyen Quang Province DURING the destruction on May 22, 2015**



## Violence during the destruction act



Pic 13: A woman defends the SFFO in Ngoi Sen Hamlet, Tuyen Quang Province on May 22, 2015



Pic 14: Anti-Riot Police left the location after the destruction in Ngoi Sen Hamlet on May 22, 2015



Pic 15: A patrol wagon carried perpetrators in plain clothes after their work in Ngoi Sen Hamlet on May 22, 2015



Pic 16: Building materials of SSFO in Ngoi Sen Hamlet were confiscated on May 22, 2015



Pic 17: Mrs. Duong Thi Cho was attacked and fainted in Ngoi Sen on 22/05/2015



Pic 18: Mrs. Duong Thi Cho in emergency care at district's hospital Hàm Yên on May 22, 2015



**Pic 19: SFFO in Tan An Hamlet, Tuyen Quang Province, built on May 7, 2015**



**Pic 20: Ruin of SFFO in Tan An Hamlet, Tuyen Quang Province, AFTER the destruction on May 10, 2015**



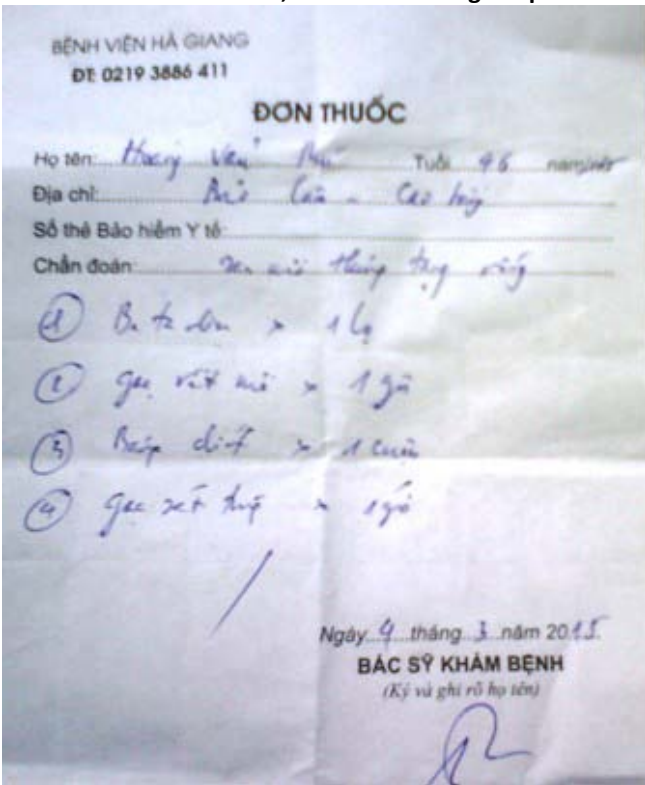
**Pic 21: Mr. Duong Van De was attacked when he questioned why the police didn't carry his fainted mother to the hospital after the SFFO destruction in Tan An Hamlet, Tuyen Quang Province, on May 10, 2015**



Pic 22: Mr. Mù on Feb. 08, 2015 in Hà Giang Hospital



Pic 23: Mr. Mù after the first surgery on Feb. 08, 2015



Pic 24: Discrete indication on the prescription of the Hà Giang Hospital on Mar 4, 2015: visceral perforation



Pic 25: Mr. Mù after the 2<sup>nd</sup> surgery on May 11, 2015

## Appendix 1:

### List of Sheds for Storing Funeral Objects of the Duong Van Minh believers in Northern Vietnam built/destroyed since May 2014 (Update by VETO! on May 30, 2015)

#### Vietnamese notations:

Thôn or Xóm = Hamlet;  
Xã = Village; Thị Trấn = Township;  
Huyện = District;  
Tỉnh = Province

No	Address	Built on (dd/mm/yyyy)	Destroyed on (dd/mm/yyyy)	Previous destructions (dd/mm/yyyy)	District	Province	Reason given at the destruction in 2015
1)	Xóm Cốc Nghè - Xã Cổ Linh - Huyện Pắc Nặm - Tỉnh Bắc Kạn	07/05/2015		16/09/2008, 19/11/2013	Pắc Nặm	Bắc Kạn	
2)	Xóm Đồng Luông - Xã Quảng Chu - Huyện Chợ Mới - Tỉnh Bắc Kạn			04/11/2008, 21/12/2013	Chợ Mới	Bắc kạn	
3)	Xóm Khuổi Sắt - Xã Xuân Lạc - Huyện Chợ Đồn - Tỉnh Bắc Kạn	26/05/2015		None	Chợ Đồn	Bắc kạn	
4)	Xóm Lũng Lạ - Thị Trấn Nà Phặc - Huyện Ngân Sơn -Tỉnh Bắc kạn	07/05/2015		14/11/2013	Ngân Sơn	Bắc kạn	
5)	Xóm Bò Đích - Xã Quốc Toản - Huyện Trà Lĩnh -Tỉnh Cao Bằng			18/05/2013	Trà Lĩnh	Cao Bằng	

6)	Xóm Kha Bản - xã Vân Dính - huyện Hà Quảng - tỉnh Cao Bằng	<b>26/05/2015</b>		None	Hà Quảng	Cao Bằng	
7)	xóm Khâu Dề - xã Thái Sơn - huyện Bảo Lâm - tỉnh Cao Bằng	<b>26/05/2015</b>		None	Bảo Lâm	Cao Bằng	
8)	Xóm Khuổi Vin –Xã Lý Bôn – Huyện Bảo Lâm – Tỉnh Cao Bằng	17/04/2014, 14/10/2014, 19/10/2014, <b>08/03/2015,</b> <b>21/05/2015,</b> <b>22/05/2015</b>	27/05/2014, 14/10/2014, <b>06/02/2015,</b> <b>21/05/2015,</b> <b>21/05/2015,</b>	04/12/2008, 24/11/2013	Bảo Lâm	Cao Bằng	Symbols of the illegal Duong Van Minh organization
9)	Xóm Lũng Gà – Xã Vân Dính – Huyện Hà Quảng – Tỉnh Cao Bằng			22/07/2008, 18/05/2013	Hà Quảng	Cao Bằng	
10)	Xóm Lũng Nái - xã Vân Dính - huyện Hà Quảng - tỉnh Cao Bằng	<b>20/05/2015</b>		None	Vân Dính	Cao Bằng	
11)	xóm Lũng Táy - xã Thượng Thôn - huyện Hà Quảng - tỉnh Cao Bằng	<b>20/05/2015</b>	<b>27/05/2015</b>	None	Hà Quảng	Cao Bằng	
12)	Xóm Lũng Tu - xã Vân Dính - huyện Hà Quảng - tỉnh Cao Bằng	<b>26/05/2015</b>		None	Vân Dính	Cao Bằng	
13)	Xóm Nà Hếng – Xã Nam Quang – Huyện Bảo Lâm – Tỉnh Cao Bằng	<b>13/05/2015</b>	<b>13/05/2015</b>	10/12/2008, 24/11/2013	Bảo Lâm	Cao Bằng	No reason given
14)	Xóm Nà Nhuôm – Xã Nam Cao – Huyện Bảo Lâm – Tỉnh Cao Bằng			24/11/2013	Bảo Lâm	Cao Bằng	
15)	Xóm Nà Pháo –Xã Vĩnh Quang – Huyện Bảo Lâm –	<b>02/12/2014,</b> <b>15/05/2015</b>	<b>06/02/2015,</b> <b>30/05/2015</b>	21/11/2008, 24/11/2013,	Bảo Lâm	Cao Bằng	Symbols of the illegal Duong Van Minh

	Tỉnh Cao Bằng						organization
16)	Xóm Nhà Thần – Xã Thạch Lâm – Huyện Bảo Lâm – Tỉnh Cao Bằng.	<b>22/05/2015</b>		25/11/2008, 24/11/2013	Bảo Lâm	Cao Bằng	
17)	Xóm Phiêng Phăng – Xã Nam Quang – Huyện Bảo Lâm – Tỉnh Cao Bằng.	<b>05/05/2015</b>	<b>22/05/2015</b>	30/12/2008, 24/11/2013	Bảo Lâm	Cao Bằng	
18)	Xóm Phiêng Roọng – Xã Thạch Lâm – Huyện Bảo Lâm – Tỉnh Cao Bằng	<b>15/05/2015</b>		25/11/2008, 24/11/2013	Bảo Lâm	Cao Bằng	
19)	Xóm Văn Thụ - Xã Nam Tuấn – Huyện Hoà An – Tỉnh Cao Bằng	<b>26/05/2015</b>	<b>26/05/2015</b>	16/01/2009, 28/09/2013	Hoà An	Cao Bằng	No reason given
20)	Làng Mông - xã Linh phú - huyện Chiêm Hóa - tỉnh Tuyên Quang	<b>13/05/2015</b>	<b>13/05/2015</b>	None	Chiêm Hóa	Tuyên Quang	No reason given
21)	Thôn Bản Khê - Xã Thượng Nông – Huyện Nà Hang – Tỉnh Tuyên Quang				Nà Hang	Tuyên Quang	
22)	Thôn Minh Tiến – Xã Minh Hương – Huyện Hàm Yên - Tỉnh Tuyên Quang			15/10/2013	Hàm Yên	Tuyên Quang	
23)	Thôn ngòi Sen - Xã Yên Lâm – Huyện Hàm Yên – Tỉnh Tuyên Quang	<b>22/05/2015</b> <b>22/05/2015</b>	<b>22/05/2015</b> <b>22/05/2015</b>	2007,15/10/2013	Hàm Yên	Tuyên Quang	Both SSFO built on this day were destroyed. One believer was severely injured.
24)	Thôn Tân An, xã Đông Thọ, huyện Sơn Dương, tỉnh Tuyên Quang	<b>07/05/2015</b>	<b>10/05/2015</b>	None	Sơn Dương	Tuyên Quang	No reason given. Three persons were injured.
25)	Xóm Đông Đăm, Thôn Bản Khê - Xã Thượng Nông – Huyện Nà Hang – Tỉnh Tuyên Quang	<b>13/05/2015</b>	<b>14/05/2015</b>	20/01/2009, 16/05/2013	Nà Hang	Tuyên Quang	No reason given

26)	Xóm Khuổi Bốc - xã Trung Minh - huyện Yên Sơn - tỉnh Tuyên Quang	<b>09/05/2015</b>	<b>10/05/2015</b>	None	Yên Sơn	Tuyên Quang	Forest area and danger of fire
27)	Xóm Làng Lè – Xã Hùng Lợi – Huyện Yên Sơn -Tỉnh Tuyên Quang	<b>26/05/2015</b>	<b>26/05/2015</b>	15/10/2013	Yên Sơn	Tuyên Quang	No reason given
28)	Xóm Lăng Quảng - xã Tri Phú - huyện Chiêm Hóa - tỉnh Tuyên Quang	<b>17/05/2015</b>	<b>17/05/2015</b>	None	Chiêm Hóa	Tuyên Quang	No reason given
29)	Xóm Nà Tang – Xã Hùng Lợi – Huyện Yên Sơn -Tỉnh Tuyên Quang	<b>22/05/2015</b>	<b>22/05/2015</b>	None	Yên Sơn	Tuyên Quang	No reason given
30)	Xóm Bản Tền – Xã Văn Lang – Huyện Đồng Hỷ -Tỉnh Thái Nguyên	<b>20/05/2015</b>		06/12/2013	Đồng Hỷ	Thái Nguyên	
31)	Xóm Bắc Phong – Xã Dân Tiến – Huyện Võ Nhai -Tỉnh Thái Nguyên			05/12/2013	Võ Nhai	Thái Nguyên	
32)	Xóm Đông Dong – Xã Phương Dao – Huyện Võ Nhai -Tỉnh Thái Nguyên	<b>27/04/2015</b>		16/05/2013	Võ Nhai	Thái Nguyên	
33)	Xóm Kim Sơn – Xã Thân Xa – Huyện Võ Nhai -Tỉnh Thái Nguyên			05/12/2013	Võ Nhai	Thái Nguyên	
34)	Xóm Liên Phương – Xã Văn Lang – Huyện Đồng Hỷ -Tỉnh Thái Nguyên	20/12/2014, <b>25/05/2015</b>	27/12/2014	06/12/2013	Đồng Hỷ	Thái Nguyên	
35)	Xóm Mỏ Nước - xã Văn Lăng - huyện Đồng Hỷ - tỉnh Thái Nguyên	<b>18/05/2015</b>		06/12/2013	Đồng Hỷ	Thái Nguyên	
36)	Xóm Trung Sơn – Xã Quang Sơn – Huyện Đồng Hỷ -Tỉnh Thái Nguyên	16/12/2014 <b>27/04/2015</b>	19/12/2014	05/12/2013	Đồng Hỷ	Thái Nguyên	

## Appendix 2

**List of imprisoned Hmong believers of Duong Van Minh belief**  
(Update on May 29, 2015)

	Name	Arrest day dd/mm/yyyy	Trial day & Sentence	Charge (§ VCC)	Prison	Home Province
1.	Duong Van Thanh	14/2/2014	30/7/2014 24 months	Abusing democratic freedom, §258 VCC	Quyét Tien Prison, Tuyen Quang Province	Bac Kan
2.	Hoang Van Sinh	23/3/2014	30/7/2014 15 months	Abusing democratic freedom, §258 VCC	Quyét Tien Prison, Tuyen Quang Province	Bac Kan
3.	Vu A Su	22/11/2013	7/5/2014 24 months	Abusing democratic freedom, §258 VCC	Nam Ha Prison, Ha Nam Province	Cao Bang

**List of released Hmong believers of Duong Van Minh belief**  
(Update on May 29, 2015)

	Name	Arrest day dd/mm/yyyy	Trial day & Sentence	Charge (§ VCC)	Prison	Home Province
1.	Ly Van Hau	14/10/2013	27/02/2008 3 years	Destroying forest, §189, §47 VCC	Released on probation in April 2014	Tuyen Quang
2.	Hoang Van Pao	14/10/2013	27/02/2008 3 years	Destroying forest, §189, §47 VCC	Released on probation on 02/01/2015	Tuyen Quang
3.	Ly Van Dinh	19/11/2013	20/3/2014 15 months	Abusing democratic freedom, §258 VCC	Released on 07/01/2015	Tuyen Quang
4.	Hoang Van Sang	10/10/2013	14/3/2014 18 months	Abusing democratic freedom, §258 VCC	Released on 10/03/2015	Tuyen Quang
5.	Duong Van Tu	10/10/2013	20/3/2014 21 months	Abusing democratic freedom, §258 VCC	Released on 10/04/2015	Tuyen Quang
6.	Thao Quan Mua	10/10/2013	27/3/2014 18 months	Abusing democratic freedom, §258 VCC	Released on 12/04/2015	Tuyen Quang
7.	Hoang Van Su	14/2/2014	30/7/2014 18 months	Abusing democratic freedom, §258 VCC	Released on 15/04/2015	Bac Kan



