Alternative Report on

The Situation of Trafficking in Persons in Vietnam

Articles 2, 7, 8, and 26 of ICCPR

May 2025

Boat People SOS (BPSOS), founded by former refugees from Vietnam in 1980, is headquartered in the Washington DC Metro Region with branches located in multiple U.S. cities and operates in Thailand through the Thai non-profit People Serving People Foundation. BPSOS' international initiatives include refugee protection in Thailand, combating human trafficking in Asia, defending religious freedom in Southeast Asia, and building capacity for persecuted communities in Vietnam.

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The Coalition to Abolish Modern-day Slavery in Asia (CAMSA) was formed in February of 2008. We not only rescue the victims but also hold governments accountable and force changes in their legal frameworks. So far, we have been exceptionally effective on multiple fronts and have made significant impacts on the policies of many governments. CAMSA brings our anti-trafficking efforts back in line with our mission: defending the liberty and dignity of the Vietnamese.

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Montagnards Stand for Justice (MSFJ) is a US-registered organization advocating for the rights and freedoms of the Montagnard people in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. Founded in 2019, MSFJ seeks to empower Montagnards to assert their cultural identity, religious freedom, and human rights through peaceful means. The organization provides legal support, training, and representation for Montagnard communities, aiming to address discrimination, religious oppression, land rights issues, and cultural preservation challenges faced by the Montagnard people.

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1. Introduction

This submission summarizes the main issues already highlighted in the many case descriptions shared with the TIP office over the past 18 months.

Since April 15, 2021, we have shared with the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (UNSR/TIP), and with the US JTIP Office reports involving 119 Vietnamese trafficked to seven countries as they were identified, rescued, and/or repatriated:

- Saudi Arabia: 57 victims
- Oman: 2 victims
- Cambodia: 31 victims
- Myanmar: 7 victims
- Romania: 21 victims
- China: 1 victim
- Internal trafficking: 4 victims

In 2023, we helped a growing number of Vietnamese victims trafficked to Myanmar and Cambodia to work in the online gambling industry. BPSOS joined with three other organizations (Migrant Care, Tenaganita, and Global Alliance against Traffic in Women) to alert the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) of human trafficking activities along the Myanmar-Thailand and Cambodia-Vietnam borders.

Analysis of cases has led us to the following observations:

(1) The Vietnamese government downplays cases of labor trafficking in the state-run labor export program thus, victims did not receive assistance with their rescue or upon repatriation – instead, those who spoke out were consistently harassed and intimidated by the police; the traffickers were not investigated, let alone punished despite repeated requests by the victims; and the public was not informed of the labor export companies involved in labor trafficking to avoid nor educated on how to seek help in situations of labor exploitation. On the contrary, the government readily assists victims and investigates perpetrators of sex or labor trafficking outside of the state-run labor export program.

(2) There have been no substantive changes over the past 12 months in the government's policies or efforts to combat labor trafficking in the state-run labor export program, which

is by far more severe than other "privatized" forms of human trafficking. Instead, the government appears to manipulate data presentation, offer superficial legislative actions without meaningful implementation, and retaliate against victims and advocates who speak out.

(3) Despite the lack of meaningful reforms to its labor export laws and effective transnational regulations to protect migrant workers from exploitation and trafficking in foreign countries, the Vietnamese government continues to set higher goals for the number of exported workers, and Vietnamese labor export companies continue to send an increasingly larger number of workers abroad.

(4) Despite claims to help human trafficking victims for forced criminal activities from Myanmar and Cambodia. At least 30 cases that we assisted were refused assistance by the Vietnamese government and its Embassy in Thailand. In four cases, the police forces offered to become a liaison to transfer money for the traffickers rather than work to rescue victims.

(5) The Vietnamese government deliberately understated a statistic number of TIP victims, presenting a significantly lower number than the de facto figures. Some leaked government documents suggest that this misunderstanding is intentional to avoid a low ranking tier from the US Government, and present a more favourable image to the international community.

1. Vietnam refused to consider TIP victims for labor trafficking involving government-sanctioned labor export agencies.

From all these cases of workers sent to Saudi Arabia under Vietnam's labor export program, we identified at least 23 legal entities, including labor export companies and recruiters, involved in and responsible for labor trafficking. Our team of legal experts helped 37 victims, upon repatriation, file civil complaints and demand criminal investigations against these entities. The following agencies and organizations were recipients of these communications: 4 Presidents or Interim Presidents, 2 Prime Ministers, the Minister of Public Security (MPS), an Inspector of the MPS, investigation agencies under the MPS, Hanoi City Police, Ho Chi Minh City Police, Thanh Hoa Provincial Police, Dien Bien Provincial Police, Dak Lak Provincial Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), and the Central Office of the Vietnamese Women's Union.

The Vietnamese government initiated a criminal investigation against two officials at its embassy in Saudi Arabia after these two individuals were exposed by the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (UNSR/TIP) and reported in JTIP's 2022 report. However, absent from the investigation was the involvement of their trafficked victims,

and there was no indication that these victims would receive just compensation from these two officials or from the government agencies employing them.

Not a single victim among those 57 cases has received any assistance from the government after their repatriation, contrary to the assertion made by the Vietnamese government in response to communications from the UNSR/TIP:

> *In fact, Vietnamese workers abroad after repatriation are actively helped and supported by Vietnamese authorities to stabilize their lives and are protected by the law... The relevant parties reviewed the cases of domestic workers returning home from Saudi Arabia and guided them to complete the necessary procedures to receive support from the Overseas Employment Support Fund in accordance with the regulations to help them to quickly find a new job and reintegrate into life."*[1]

In contrast, the government more readily recognizes, rescues, and assists victims of privatized forms of human trafficking. In 2023, BPSOS-CAMSA referred to a US-based NGO operating in Vietnam, a Montagnard woman who was trapped in debt bondage by a bar owner. The police promptly rescued her, referred her to a temporary shelter and, after a few months, returned her home, where the local government connected her to vocational training. The local branch of the Vietnamese Women's Union provided her support and guidance for reintegration. The police also promptly initiated a criminal investigation against the trafficker.

This is clear to see that the Vietnamese Government priority cases involving sex trafficking over the TIP cases involving labour exploitation.

2. No criminal investigation of labor export companies involved in labor trafficking

Of the 23 companies involved in exporting the 57 victims to Saudi Arabia, two companies were administratively inspected and fined, each a small sum of money – we believe that one of them was punished for having stood up for the victims and exposed the Labor Attaché at the Vietnamese embassy in Riyadh. Not a single labor export company was criminally investigated, let alone criminally prosecuted, despite repeated demands by the victims. Following are cases in point.

- Ms. Ly Thi Non was a TIP victim and was trafficked by the INCOMEX Sai Gon labor export company. In late June 2023, Ly Thi Non sent a petition letter to the Office of Police Investigation Agency of Hanoi City Police (Hanoi Police), the Office of Police Investigation Agency of the Ministry of Public Security (MPS), and MOLISA to request investigation of INCOMEX Sai Gon and demand the full reimbursement of the "rescue flight" tickets. On July 10, 2023, the Department of Foreign Labor Management under

[1] No. 115/VNM.22, July 25, 2022, available at: https://dvov.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/VNM-3.2022-gvt-reply.pdf

MOLISA sent a letter to the INCOMEX Sai Gon to request that it resolve complaints from Ly Thị Non. On July 20, 2023, the Office of Police Investigation Agency sent a letter to Hanoi City Police to request an investigation. Surprisingly, the Hanoi Police sent a letter to request Ly Thi Non to travel to Ha Noi for an investigation, which requires her to travel 300 km. With the help of CAMSA, she sent a letter to the Hanoi City Police to schedule a meeting in Dien Bien because she had no money to travel. Ly Thi Non waited for six months without any response from the police; she sent another letter asking about the status of her complaint petitions. On February 2, 2024, Ly Thị Non received a letter dated back to November 05, 2023 from the Hanoi Police notifying her of the suspension of its processing her complaint because it did not get the cooperation of the relevant government agencies:

According to this Notification, the Hanoi Police said they had entrusted the investigation of the human trafficking case according to the provisions of law to the Police Investigation Agency of Phu Nhuan District Police, Ho Chi Minh City, and Muong Nhe District Police, Dien Bien Province. However, after the time prescribed in the law expired, these two agencies still did not announce the investigation results as authorized. In addition, the Hanoi Police also sent a dispatch requesting that the Department of Foreign Labor Management under MOLISA, the Department of Planning and Investment of Ho Chi Minh City, and the Immigration Management Department of Hanoi City Police provide them with relevant documents to serve the investigation. However, up to now, all three agencies have stalled and not answered.

The decision to suspend the case violated **Article 6 of the Palermo Protocol**, specifically concerning the failure of the authorities to effectively investigate and prosecute the individuals or entities responsible for trafficking and exploitation.
At the same time, the Muong Toong Communal Police in Dien Bien Province police called Ly Thi Non's husband to tell her family to drop the case. On February 16, 2024, the family was requested to come to the police station for interrogation into who helped draft her petitions. The Muong Toong Communal Police then claimed that they could not find any company named INCOMEX and therefore could not proceed with the case. When the police found out that Ly Thị Non received help from BPSOS, they threatened her and her family members with arrest if they did not sever all contact with BPSOS.

Labor export companies and/or recruiters refused to pay the money owed to their victims, let alone compensation for the damages caused to them.

- In the case of Huynh Thi Gam, a mom with two children in Long An Province. HAVIMEC, JSC, a recruiter responsible for keeping his victim in labor exploitation conditions in Saudi Arabia, even challenged her to report him to the police. Mr. Cu Cao Cuong, the recruiter based in Ho Chi Minh City, charged the mother of Ms. Huynh Thi

> Gam, the exported worker, $4,000 to bring her home. He took the money and left her stranded in Saudi Arabia. After repatriation to Vietnam, Ms. Gam reported him to the police, but there was no investigation because the police treated the case as one of civil dispute, not a criminal case of human trafficking. She also requested compensation from a criminal investigation against HAVIMEC, JSC, the labor export company, to no avail. As of April 3, 2024, she and her mother have sent in total 52 written communications to various government entities. In 2023, the Police of Ho Chi Minh City summoned her several times (Ms. Gam lives in Long An Province), using intimidation to entice her to withdraw her multiple petitions. Since February 2024, the local police and the local unit of the Vietnamese Women's Union have exerted pressure on her to withdraw her complaints against the labor export company.

For additional cases, see our consolidated report dated June 5, 2023 and its appendices. None of those cases were resolved.

The Vietnamese Government does not fully comply with Article 15 of its 2015 Criminal Procedure Code:

> *"Competent procedural authorities [Police Investigation agency], within their duties and authority, must use legitimate measures to determine the facts of a legal action in unbiased, thorough and complete ways, to clarify the evidence of guilt and innocence, aggravation and mitigation of criminal liabilities of the accused person."*

Such negligence not only undermines the rights of victims but also perpetuates a culture of impunity for traffickers in Vietnam.

3. Vietnamese Labour export program puts workers at risk of debt bondage

With respect to Vietnam's labor export program, the ILO, IOM, and the governments of Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan have raised the alarm that the fees that Vietnamese migrant workers need to pay to the labor export companies are too high, which can trap them in debt bondage. In the report to the ICCPR in 2023, the Vietnamese Government stated:

> *"Decree No. 12/2022/NĐ-CP of 17 January 2022 stipulates the handling of administrative violations in the areas of labor, social insurance, and Vietnamese people working abroad on contracts. Circular No. 21/2021/TT-LĐTBXH of 15 December 2021 sets the ceiling rates of service charges for a number of specific industries, trades and jobs with a view to avoiding the collection of such charges by businesses in contraction with the law."*

Theoretically, these two legal documents purportedly mitigate the debt bondage risk. In reality, they don't have much practical significance. Deputy MOLISA Minister Nguyen Thanh Hoa explained that the broker fee, set by the Ministry under the new rule, a migrant worker needs to

pay before going abroad, especially in Taiwan, is no more than 4,500 USD/person (93,700 million VND)[2], which is equal to two years' salary of the average worker in Vietnam. As the average salary in the largest city in Vietnam is 4.420 million VND, the broker fee would send many participants in the state-run labor export program into debt bondage.

In a 2021-2022 Japanese Government survey of 2,100 Vietnamese who attended the Technical Intern Training Program (TITP), 80 percent reported incurring an average of $4,000 in recruitment fees. For manual labor work, Vietnamese workers must pay an average of $7,800 USD (nearly 200 million VND) to go to Japan in 2023. [3] This alone is equivalent to three years and seven months in average salary, not accounting for other expenses incurred by the applicant.

Responding to the US Government's TIP ranking, the Vietnamese Government usually offers new regulations but few verifiable improvements. To assess Vietnam's willingness to combat labor trafficking in its state-run labor export program, the JTIP Office should not only inspect the working of this program but also assess the measurable impacts on the exported workers.

In the report to the ICCPR in 2023, the Vietnamese Government claimed:

> *"The Penal Code also stipulates acts of human trafficking, such as transfer and reception of persons for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor, recruitment, transportation and harboring of other people to carry out transfer or reception of people for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labor that constitutes crime of human trafficking (Article 150) and crime of trafficking in persons under 16 years old (Article 151)."*

The scope of articles 150 and 151 of Vietnam's Penal Code is narrower than that of the Palermo Protocol in two ways: the indicator "purpose" is different, and the child age limit is 16 years old.

In all of the 57 cases we have used as test cases, the Vietnamese government has consistently skirted these two articles by not recognizing them as victims of labor trafficking, even for cases already identified as such by the IOM and the Saudi government. As a result, these victims have been deemed ineligible for government assistance for trafficked victims, and the traffickers have not been criminally investigated and prosecuted.

Vietnam's efforts to combat human trafficking have been criticized for overlooking the relationship between trafficking and labor migration. [4] Its protection regime has predominantly focused on addressing the trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation while disregarding the many other forms of trafficking and exploitation that exported workers may face. Additionally, the immigration policy does not provide sufficient legal alternatives to

[2] Ẩn hoạ buôn người từ xuất khẩu lao động: còn nhiều nhức nhối
[3] Người Việt phải trả gần 200 triệu đồng 'thủ tục' sang Nhật lao động
[4] A Critical Appraisal Of The Vietnamese Government's Perspective Toward Repatriated Victims Of Labour Exploitation, Mahidol University, 2023

promote safe migration and protect migrant workers' rights at their destination, thus impeding individuals' ability to migrate and leaving them vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation. A case in point is the large number of Vietnamese workers initially exported to some European countries who subsequently illegally migrated to other European countries.[5]

Vietnam's indicators of "purpose" are different from the Palermo Protocol. Despite the existence of anti-trafficking laws in Vietnam, there are gaps and inconsistencies in the legal framework. Authors Bui Lan and Tran Linh pointed out in their paper on the Supreme People's Procuracy of Vietnam's website on *"The issue of vernacularization the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children"* that although Articles 150 and 151 of the Criminal Code 2015 closely follow the United Nations definition of human trafficking, cases of recruitment, transportation, and harboring without transferring to receive money, property, or other material interests cannot be prosecuted as human trafficking. The two authors offered an example: "The subjects tricked another person into going to Malaysia to do business, but when he came to Malaysia, they forced this person into commercial sex, and they were the organizers and brokers of prostitution and exploitation of sex workers. Due to the failure to satisfy the sign of transfer and receive money, property, or other material benefits, the crime of 'trafficking in persons' cannot be considered." Similarly, trafficking of persons under 16 years of age may not be prosecuted as trafficking in persons due to the absence of transfer for profit.

Vietnamese laws prioritize indicators of "profitability" in human trafficking cases. Furthermore, the trafficking offenses under Vietnamese law focus on "trade, profit, and illegality," which is closer to the narrative of slavery and prostitution than the broader idea of end-purpose exploitation.

The research from Mahidol University, Thailand, also indicated that even though the Vietnamese Law allowed victims to be identified as victims of human trafficking with the MOLISA office, there have been no documented cases that this is possible in reality since most TIP victims came from disadvantaged backgrounds and inability to collect evidence to prove themself[6].

With the misunderstanding about the Palermo Protocol, Vietnam has failed to provide a systematic implementation of victim-centered screening procedures.

4. The Vietnamese Embassy refused to help victims of human trafficking for forced criminal activities in Cambodia and Myanmar

In 2025, Montagnard Stand Fors Justice (MSFJ) collaborated with CAMSA to help rescue six TIP victims from Cambodia. All the families of the victims in Vietnam have already tried to contact with local police office, call the hotline, or contact the Vietnamese Embassy in Thailand,

[5] Ibid
[6] Ibid

but could not get help. One victim's mother called the Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to help rescue her son, who was detained just outside of Phnom Penh area, but was refused.

In this case, we got a record from the phone call from a mother of a victim who was detained in a criminal gang compound in Cambodia. The official from the Embassy refused to help because it was not Embassy's function, saying:

"The embassy's function is to coordinate with the local police in Vietnam, but the embassy is not responsible for entering the other country's land to rescue them. You have to file a petition with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and then the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will find a rescue. If you call me now, I won't be able to help because it's very difficult for me." "There are many factors to consider when deciding whether or not you're being sold, and this is also very difficult. If your child signs a contract, I'll tell you the truth, this is not considered to be sold. If the Cambodian police find that your child is not being sold, then you have to pay the Cambodian police (200 million VND about 7,707 USD*)."*

The mother of a victim also contacted their local police, but the police said they need to collect 200 million VND, and the police will help them transfer to the traffickers, not even talk about resue them.

In April and May 2025, about 572 Vietnamese citizen are stranded at the Thai-Myanmar border after being rescued from scam rings by Thai police. However, Vietnamese Government required their families/relatives to pay 12,200,000 VND (about 470 USD) to the Citizen Protection Fund for repatriation, and the documents also call them "illegal immigrants" rather than victims of human trafficking.

5. Spotty legal aid provision to victims and no compensation for victims

The Report from the Vietnamese Government to the CCPR committee indicated: *"Between 2019 and 2021, 100% of cases requiring legal aid for victims of human trafficking in difficult financial situations, mostly women and children, were provided with legal aid by province-level Legal Aid Centers free of charge."*

None of the 57 victims of labor trafficking under the state-run labor export program received any referral to any services, including legal aid. Those receiving legal aid from BPSOS team of legal experts were ordered by the police to stop all communication with our team and threatened with reprisal for noncompliance. The government did not offer to refer them to alternative legal aid providers.

While we have no evidence one way or the other, it would not be surprising if none of recipients of legal aid reported by the government was a victim of labor trafficking under its state-run labor export program. In fact, BPSOS referred one such victim to an Australia-based anti-trafficking

NGOs; it declined the referral, explaining that it could not handle labor trafficking cases under the state-run labor export program.

In another report that the Vietnamese Government provided to the US TIP office and The Independent Advisory Group on Country Information (IAGCI) - UK Home Office indicated that The Vietnamese Government support *"from 3 million to 45 million VND ($127-$1,910), compared with 10 million to 100 million VND ($423-$4,240) in 2021. The government encouraged trafficking victims to assist in judicial proceedings against traffickers."*

This number is only indicated on paper, but not in reality. None of the 57 said victims has received any compensation or restitution from their traffickers, including the labor export companies, the recruiters, or the brokers. The family of a Montagnard minor (H'Xuan Siu) who died in Saudi Arabia received 20 million VND from the labor export company VINACO, but that was for her 18-month back pay, not compensation for damages.

In the case of repatriated victims from Cambodia, of the more than 30 cases that we documented, none has received any support. In the case of five Hmong youths in Subdivision 181 (three were minors), the police requested them to come to identify the perpetrators at its local office. This means the police knew them to be victims of human trafficking, but they did not receive any support from the government.[7]

6. No reimbursement for overcharged airfare

Of the 57 victims who repatriated from Saudi Arabia, 17 had to pay exorbitant airfare for government-chartered "rescue flights": Hoàng Thị Sỹ, Lý Thị Non, Cầm Thị Hoa, Ma Thị Đào, Vi Thị Lan, La Thị Tỷ, Lữ Thị Tuyết, Lang Thị Thu, La Thị Lập, Mã Thị Tùng, Nguyễn Thị Ánh Tuyết, Nguyễn Thị Tâm, Đinh Thị Nhung, Vàng Thị Hoa, Sinh Thị Cú, Đinh Thị Khuyên, and Y Nua. BPSOS' legal team helped the first five write to government authorities from local to central levels to request reintegration assistance, investigate and prosecute the traffickers, and reimburse them for the overpaid portion of the airfare. So far, there has been no response from any of the contacted authorities.

Especially in the case of Ly Thị Non, two years after returning to Vietnam, she was unable to pay the debt her family borrowed to pay for her "rescue flight." The Muong Toong Communal police in Dien Bien City asked her to drop the case, and the Ha Noi Police suspended its investigation into her case (see Appendix A and Section 8).

[7] Traffickers tricked five young Hmong Christians from a former "stateless" indigenous Community

7. Ambiguous statistics

In its latest report to the UN Human Rights Committee in advance of its review of Vietnam's implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 2024, the Vietnamese Government reported:

> *Between 2019 and 2021, criminal proceedings were initiated against 191 cases of human trafficking or trafficking in persons under 16 years old (involving 371 criminal defendants). Lao Cai, Lai Chau, Quang Ninh, Nghe An, Ha Giang, Lang Sơn, Dien Bien, and Ha Noi are the provinces/cities where many cases of human trafficking were detected, initiated criminal proceedings, and investigated.*

Non-disaggregated statistics make it impossible to differentiate labor trafficking under the state-run labor export program from the privatized forms of human traffickin,g such as sex trafficking, child sex tourism, debt bondage, forced labor, domestic servitude, child marriage, etc. This new way of statistics compilation masks the severity of labor trafficking in the state-run labor export program, which brings in 3-4 billion USD a year.[8]

There are two problems with these statistics. First, the reader cannot tell how much effort the government has put into fighting the most severe type of human trafficking: labor trafficking under the state-run labor export program. Second, the numbers cited are surprisingly low when compared to data from other sources. In 2019, the UK Government identified at least 3,100 Vietnamese adults and children as victims of trafficking, forced to work in nail salons or cannabis farms, or as prostitutes.[9] Many of those victims first went to Eastern European countries such as Poland, Czech Republic, Serbia, and Romania under Vietnam's state-run labor export program and then entered the UK illegally[10]. Some of the victims were returned to Vietnam[11], but it is unclear whether the Vietnamese Government included these cases in its statistics.

Similarly, the Taiwanese Government identified 34 human trafficking victims (including 30 victims of forced labor) in 2019 and 58 victims (including 41 victims of forced labor) in 2020.[12] The Taiwan Government has indicated that Vietnamese migrant workers are at the highest risk of becoming victims of human trafficking. The Vietnamese government apparently did not include these cases in its published statistics – a Deputy head of the Ministry of Home Affairs claimed he did not receive any information about Vietnamese human trafficking in Taiwan.[13]

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[8] Labour Export – A Life-Changing Dream for Vietnamese Workers
[9] Vietnam's victims of child trafficking – DW – 03/11/2019
[10] After 39 Vietnamese trafficking victims died in UK, has anything changed?
[11] Asylos and ARC Foundation publish report on the situation of returned Vietnamese victims of trafficking from the UK to Vietnam
[12] 2022 Republic of China (Taiwan) Trafficking in Persons Report
[13] Ẩn họa buôn người từ xuất khẩu lao động: còn nhiều nhức nhối

To showcase its fight against human trafficking, the Vietnamese government reported that government agencies and local NGOs have provided thousands of training sessions about human trafficking. These training sessions are merely outputs, not impact outcomes.

8. Undercounting victims of labor trafficking

In 2023, the Vietnamese Government indicated that it helped 224 human trafficking cases, the majority of which involved victims repatriated from Cambodia.[14] Another report online from MPS stated that in the first quarter of 2024, police units and local governments have detected and handled 14 cases with 43 victims of human trafficking.[15] These statistics obviously do not include any of the 34 victims we have assisted with their rescue while in Cambodia or Myanmar. We know that because none of them has received any assistance from the government. Many of these 34 victims have been threatened by the local police, who prohibited them from communicating with anyone or any organization for help, from sharing information with UNSR/TIP or any foreign government agencies, and from participating in any media interviews. The following are cases in point.

- Vang Thi Pang, a Hmong, is a 17-year-old girl from Cao Bang Province, northern Vietnam. She followed her family to Dak Lak Province in the Central Highlands. To work, she moved to Binh Duong Province, where she was tricked by a friend and was sold to Cambodia at an online gambling company near Phnom Penh. Her family in Vietnam reported to the local police in Dak Lak Province but was told to contact Cao Bang Provincial Police (which is more than 800 km away), where she has a household registration. BPSOS volunteers guided her family members to call the TIP Hotline of the police in Vietnam, which told Pang's family to contact the local government again. Our volunteers referred Pang to Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW) in Cambodia for help; following due process, they called the Vietnamese Embassy in Phnom Penh but could not get a reply. A Vietnamese man in Cambodia later helped Pang return to Vietnam. She had to bypass the Vietnamese border control to avoid being fined for "illegally crossing the border," despite her being a human trafficking victim and only 17 years old.

- In the case of H Nguốt Êban, responding to her family's call for help, the police in Krông Ana District told her family that "she was stupid, so she deserved that." They also ignored her family's request for assistance with the rescue. H Nguốt Êban contacted BPSOS-CAMSA through a family member in Vietnam. When the Cambodian police raided the company, they also rescued more than 20 other victims. H Nguốt Êban was detained for 10 hours at the Vietnamese immigration office at the border crossing because

[14] Rong Xannh report, 2024

[15] Tình hình tội phạm và kết quả đấu tranh phòng, chống tội phạm quý I/2024 https://congan.kontum.gov.vn/tin-tuc-su-kien/tin-trong-nuoc/tinh-hinh-toi-pham-va-ket-qua-dau-tranh-phong-chong-toi-pham-quy-i-2024.html

she could not pay the fine. They released her but told her they would send the penalty letter to her local police station.

- In the case of Y Vươn Mlô (a minor) and Y Go Mlo, who were trafficked to Cambodia, the local Vietnamese police offered to act as an intermediary in delivering the ransom money; the family had to pay a middleman (who was introduced by local police) to pay the ransom. However, the Cambodian Police had already rescued those two boys and sent them to a concentration camp near Siem Reap, then later took them to the border to cross into Vietnam. All the money the family paid was a scam, which the local police helped to materialize.

- H Nit Nie and her cousin Y O-I Nie (a minor) were both tricked by a childhood friend to join him in Cambodia. Both were forced to work for an online gambling enterprise. Upon returning home, the local authorities publicly shamed them for being trafficked in front of fellow villagers, increasing their vulnerability and exposing them to shaming and discrimination by community members. They were fined 6 million and 4 million VND, respectivel,y by the Immigration Office in Moc Bai, Tay Ninh Province.

Many victims repatriated from Cambodia were fined when they crossed the border back into Vietnam because border control officers did not waive the fines normally levied on those who left Vietnam without following proper procedures. The border control officers disregarded the fact that these victims had been tricked by their traffickers to enter Cambodia illegally. Some returnees, including minors, were detained due to their inability to pay the fines.

9. Reprisal against victims who speak out

After their return to Vietnam, the victims faced various forms of harassment from security police officers, including fines for administrative violations, confiscation of their mobile phones, and questions about their contacting foreign NGOs, the BBC, foreign embassies, and the UN[16] for help after having unsuccessfully pleaded with the Vietnamese authorities for assistance.

Moreover, in cases of repatriated victims from Saudi Arabia, victims were often interrogated by the local police and, in one case, an MPS officer asa result of their requests for financial and/or medical assistance and criminal investigation of perpetrators. Some victims were interrogated about the financial support they had received from the International Office of Migration (IOM), including who helped them write letters to IOM, and how the agency learned about the victim's story. Security police officers also typically visited the victims' families to threaten them with detention for their cooperation with BPSOS and Montagnards Stand for Justice (MSFJ) and ordered them to sever all contacts with those "foreign entities." In some cases, the government

[16] In April 2023, a joint complaint by the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) and BPSOS was submitted to the Asean Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). https://drive.google.com/file/d/18xfA2Bnmdi_Y5vAm4dA59EXTeivYqm-f/view?usp=share_link

turned a blind eye after receiving complaints from victims about threats from the labor export companies. Some of such victims sent copies of their letters addressed to these companies to the Ministry of Public Security. Below are examples of the government's reprisal against the victims who sought help.

- Ms. Huỳnh Thị Gấm's case illustrates the reality faced by rescued victims after their repatriation. Gấm and her mother have sent more than 60 denunciation letters since July 2020, requesting a criminal investigation into her trafficking case. These letters were addressed to various entities, including the labor export company HAVIMEC JSC, the Thành Đô recruitment agency, the Department of Overseas Labor, the Ministry of Labor, and the Investigation Agency of MPS. Despite repeated attempts, they received minimal response from government authorities. HAVIMEC JSC responded to Gấm's accusations with requests for documentary evidence and dared Gấm to sue them. The recruiter, Cu Cao Cuong (the recruiter), refused to return the $4000 USD that Gấm's family had paid him for her early repatriation.
  At the end of 2022 and early 2023, she got several calls from police in Ho Chi Minh City purportedly to investigate human trafficking; they demanded that she travel for 200 km from her home in Long An for a meeting in HCM City. Gấm refused. Thus, a local police officer met her locally a few times in 2023. Most of the meetings were about how she should abandon the case and how the local authorities would help her improve her living conditions if she complied. It is suspected that HAVIMEC JSC has already worked out a compromise with the local authorities in Long An Province. The HAVIMEC JSC representative indicated in one call to Gấm that they would bring her to court if she still pursued her complaint.
  In January 2024, she decided to ask, in writing, for help from the Central Office of the Vietnamese Women's Union. Her request was transmitted to its local office. Since then, the Police Department and the Women's Union of Long Hiep Commune "invited" her to the commune headquarters to work and insisted that she present evidence that she had proved herself to be a victim of human trafficking. Throughout the process, Gấm emphasized her rights as a victim of labor trafficking and urged government authorities to take action to protect her. Despite her persistence, Gấm faced significant challenges in obtaining justice and assistance, recovering the money owed to her by the recruiter, and getting the police to investigate and prosecute her traffickers.

- Y Vươn Mlô (minor) and Y Go Mlo (see case description in a prior section): On 9 January 2023, two police officers from Dliêya Commune came to Y Vươn's house to inquire about his case. At 5 pm, 3 police officers came to interrogate Y Luyên Mlô – father of Y Vươn and Y Gôl and searched his phone. When the officers entered his house, Y Vươn was fearful and deleted all information from his phone, including the evidence that he had been scammed. On 10 January 2023, two officers from the Police Department of Đắk Lắk Province asked Y Gôl Mlô to come to the People's Committee of Cữ Drăm

Commune for a "working" session. They examined his phone for information and asked if Y Gôl knew Montagnard refugees in Thailand or BPSOS in the US. Y Gôl said he did not know, but the police provided evidence that Y Gôl sent information about his case to the UN. The police ordered Y Gôl to keep quiet about the interrogation session and stop contacting foreign entities, or else both Y Gôl and Y Vươn would be imprisoned. Y Gôl cut off contact with BPSOS and MSFJ for nearly two months. In March 2024, with the help of BPSOS, Y Gôl and Y Vươn received financial assistance from IOM.

Furthermore, Y Go Mlo was 17 years old when being trafficked. He was not recognized as a child trafficked, since the Vietnamese law only recognizes children are someone below 16 years old.

- H Nguốt Êban (see case description in a prior section) was rescued after contacting BPSOS-CAMSA through a family member in Vietnam. When the Cambodian police raided the company, they also rescued 20+ other victims, including a 15-year-old victim, HTND. When they entered Vietnam, Vietnamese border control fined H Nguốt 6 million VND (255 USD) for illegal foreign travel. In mid-January 2023, Đặng Đình Đại, a member of the security team of Krông Ana District Police, came to H Nguôt's home to threaten her and her family members after BBC published an interview with her about her case. The police said H Nguôt colluded with Y Quynh Bdap of MSFJ and BPSOS-CAMSA in Thailand. The police characterized them as reactionaries who use money to entice people to oppose the Vietnamese State. The police threatened harsh punishment and ordered her to cease all contact with foreign entities, including news outlets. Officer Đại asked why H Nguôt had not called him first so he could ask the Cambodian police to rescue her. In fact, H Nguôt's family had contacted the Vietnamese police, but they did not help her. Officer Đại told H Nguôt's mother not to contact Montagnard Stand For Justice (MSFJ) anymore, or else her family would go to prison and/or be banished from the village for resisting the government. Officer Đại then insisted that H Nguôt must move in with her estranged husband because her household registration was at her husband's residence in Quảng Nam Province. After H Nguôt moved back with her husband, the local police came to threaten her husband with grave consequences if H Nguôt continued to contact foreign entities. Consequently, she cut off contact with BPSOS and even gave up asking for support from IOM.

- H Nit and Y O-I Nie (see a prior section): At the border crossing, the Vietnamese police fined both victims six million VND (255 USD) each. They had to borrow money to pay the fines. In January 2024, they had an interview with the BBC about their experience of being trafficked to Cambodia. The public security of Krông Ana District, Đắk Lắk Province, immediately came to Y O-I's home and investigated him. He disclosed everything about his and H Nít's communication with BPSOS-CAMSA. The public security at their home village, called H Nít, who was earning a living picking peppercorn in Đắk Nông Province. Soon, three public security officers of Đắk Nông Province came

to her workplace to force her to come home. As H Nít resisted, they threatened to fine both the farm owner and H Nít for her not carrying her citizenship ID card and not having a temporary household register. The Đắk Nông public security then brought her home. Public security officers Đặng Đình Đại and H Quyên Bkrông of Krông Ana District met her at her home, took away her mobile phone, and questioned her about her contacting people in Thailand (a CAMSA fellow), as reported by Y O-I Niê, and whether she attended any training by CAMSA. On 17 January 2023, the public security police returned the mobile phone to H Nít. Fearing that it had been bugged, she sold it and bought another mobile phone. On 26 January 2023, the public security and the village chief came to H Nít's home to question her mother about H Nít's reporting her trafficking experience to the international community. Since they were too scared, they stopped contacting BPSOS and abandoned their petition to IOM for financial assistance.

- H Thái Ayun, a trafficked victim in Saudi Arabia, exposed the Vietnamese Labor Attaché's involvement in labor trafficking. Threatened by this Labor Attaché and several members of his trafficking ring, she had to relocate to Bangkok in late 2021. Six months later, the UNHCR recognized her as a refugee. In June 2022, police officers from Dak Lak Province pressured her family in Vietnam to sign a pledge to bring her back to Vietnam. On 1 July 2022, police officers went to see her uncle and threatened him, saying that if he didn't find a way to bring her back, they would harm her. That same day, a stranger was caught on a security camera searching her room in Bangkok for information about her. Fearing for her safety, H Thái Ayun has been moving several times within Bangkok. In July 2022, police officers from Cư M'gar District visited her son's family and questioned them about her whereabouts, urging them to contact her and convince her to return to Vietnam. In October 2022, many Facebook pages (suspected to be run by security police) accused H Thai Ayun of pretending to be a trafficked victim. On 27 April 2023, police officers again visited her family to gather information about her. They asked why she chose to seek asylum in Thailand instead of returning to Vietnam. On 14 July 2023, the People's Committee of Hoa Dong Commune, her hometown, sent a letter asking her brother to attend a working session where he was asked about H Thai Ayun's whereabouts. The police continued to visit her family every so often.

The above cases in point underscore the lack of proper training for local government authorities and the Vietnamese police in dealing with trafficked victims and their families, such as not to demand victims to pay fines for leaving or returning to Vietnam illegally and not to prohibit their contact and cooperation with UN agencies, foreign NGOs or the media.

10. The Vietnamese Government's Labour export program puts workers at risk of debt bondage

Concerning Vietnam's labor export program, the ILO, IOM, and the governments of Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan have raised the alarm that the fees that Vietnamese migrant workers need to pay to the labor export companies are too high, which can trap them in debt bondage. In the report to the ICCPR in 2023, the Vietnamese Government stated:

> *"Decree No. 12/2022/NĐ-CP of 17 January 2022 stipulates the handling of administrative violations in the areas of labor, social insurance, and Vietnamese people working abroad on contracts. Circular No. 21/2021/TT-LĐTBXH of 15 December 2021 sets the ceiling rates of service charges for a number of specific industries, trades, and jobs with a view to avoiding the collection of such charges by businesses in contravention of the law."*

Theoretically, these two legal documents purportedly mitigate the debt bondage risk. In reality, they don't have much practical significance. Deputy MOLISA Minister Nguyen Thanh Hoa explained that the broker fee, set by the Ministry under the new rule, a migrant worker needs to pay before going abroad, especially in Taiwan, is no more than 4,500 USD/person (93,700 million VND)[17], which is equal to two years' salary of the average worker in Vietnam. As the average salary in the largest city in Vietnam is 4.420 million VND, the broker fee would send many participants in the state-run labor export program into debt bondage.

In a 2021-2022 Japanese Government survey of 2,100 Vietnamese who attended the Technical Intern Training Program (TITP), 80 percent reported incurring an average of $4,000 in recruitment fees. For manual labor work, Vietnamese workers must pay an average of USD 7,800 (nearly 200 million VND) to go to Japan in 2023. [18] This alone is equivalent to three years and seven months in average salary, not accounting for other expenses incurred by the applicant.

Responding to the US Government's TIP ranking, the Vietnamese Government usually offers new regulations but few verifiable improvements. To assess Vietnam's willingness to combat labor trafficking in its state-run labor export program, the JTIP Office should not only inspect the working of this program but also assess the measurable impacts on the exported workers.

In the report to the ICCPR in 2023, the Vietnamese Government claimed:

> *"The Penal Code also stipulates acts of human trafficking, such as transfer and reception of persons for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor, recruitment, transportation and harboring of other people to carry out transfer or reception of people for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labor that constitutes crime of human*

[17] Ấn hoa buôn người từ xuất khẩu lao động: còn nhiều nhức nhối
[18] Người Việt phải trả gần 200 triệu đồng 'thủ tục' sang Nhật lao động

> *trafficking (Article 150) and crime of trafficking in persons under 16 years old (Article 151).”*

The scope of articles 150 and 151 of Vietnam’s Penal Code is narrower than that of the Palermo Protocol in two ways: the indicator “purpose” is different, and the child age limit is 16 years old.

In all of the 57 cases we have used as test cases, the Vietnamese government has consistently skirted these two articles by not recognizing them as victims of labor trafficking, even for cases already identified as such by the IOM and the Saudi government. As a result, these victims have been deemed ineligible for government assistance for trafficked victims, and the traffickers have not been criminally investigated and prosecuted.

Vietnam's efforts to combat human trafficking have been criticized for overlooking the relationship between trafficking and labor migration. [19] Its protection regime has predominantly focused on addressing the trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation while disregarding the many other forms of trafficking and exploitation that exported workers may face. Additionally, the immigration policy does not provide sufficient legal alternatives to promote safe migration and protect migrant workers' rights at their destination, thus impeding individuals' ability to migrate and leaving them vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation. A case in point is the large number of Vietnamese workers initially exported to some European countries who subsequently illegally migrated to other European countries.[20]

Vietnam’s indicators of “purpose” are different from the Palermo Protocol. Despite the existence of anti-trafficking laws in Vietnam, there are gaps and inconsistencies in the legal framework. Authors Bui Lan and Tran Linh pointed out in their paper on the Supreme People's Procuracy of Vietnam’s website on *“The issue of vernacularization the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children”* that although Articles 150 and 151 of the Criminal Code 2015 closely follow the United Nations definition of human trafficking, cases of recruitment, transportation, and harboring without transferring to receive money, property, or other material interests cannot be prosecuted as human trafficking. The two authors offered an example: “The subjects tricked another person into going to Malaysia to do business, but when he came to Malaysia, they forced this person into commercial sex, and they were the organizers and brokers of prostitution and exploitation of sex workers. Due to the failure to satisfy the sign of transfer and receive money, property, or other material benefits, the crime of ‘trafficking in persons’ cannot be considered.” Similarly, trafficking of persons under 16 years of age may not be prosecuted as trafficking in persons due to the absence of transfer for profit.

Vietnamese laws prioritize indicators of “profitability” in human trafficking cases. Furthermore, the trafficking offenses under Vietnamese law focus on “trade, profit, and illegality,” which is

[19] A Critical Appraisal Of The Vietnamese Government’s Perspective Toward Repatriated Victims Of Labour Exploitation, Mahidol University, 2023
[20] Ibid

closer to the narrative of slavery and prostitution than the broader idea of end-purpose exploitation.

The research from Mahidol University, Thailand, also indicated that even though the Vietnamese Law allowed victims to be identified as victims of human trafficking with the MOLISA office, there have been no documented cases that this is possible in reality since most TIP victims came from disadvantaged backgrounds and inability to collect evidence to prove themself[21].

With the misunderstanding about the Palermo Protocol, Vietnam has failed to provide a systematic implementation of victim-centered screening procedures.

11. Violations

Article 2 – Obligation to Respect and Ensure Rights without Discrimination

Vietnam fails to effectively protect migrant workers from trafficking and forced labor, particularly those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, who are disproportionately affected. The government also does not recognize TIP victims from Cambodia and Myanmar, and even treats them as criminals. By failing to implement legal protections and screening procedures that reflect the Palermo Protocol and by not recognizing victims identified by international bodies (like the IOM and foreign governments), the Vietnamese government is not ensuring the rights of all individuals equally, in violation of Article 2, clause 1.

Article 7 – Prohibition of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

The state's neglect to prevent exploitation of migrant workers and to prosecute traffickers—even in egregious cases of deception, coercion, or sexual exploitation—amounts to **state acquiescence in cruel or degrading treatment**. Victims are subjected to long working hours, abusive environments, and fear of retaliation without state protection or redress. Victims of human trafficking for forced criminal activities repatriated from Cambodia and Myanmar also got fined or needed to pay money when returning home, indicating the failure of the state to protect the victims.

Article 8 – Prohibition of Slavery and Forced Labour

The exorbitant recruitment fees imposed on Vietnamese migrant workers (up to $7,800 USD, which equals more than three years of average salary in Vietnam) effectively trap them in **debt bondage**, a recognized form of **modern slavery and forced labor**. Despite Vietnam's stated legal reforms (Decree 12/2022/NĐ-CP and Circular 21/2021/TT-LĐTBXH), the actual implementation remains weak and ineffective. Workers are forced to labor under exploitative conditions to repay recruitment debts.

[21] Ibid

Article 26 – Equality Before the Law and Equal Protection

The legal framework in Vietnam **systematically excludes certain trafficking cases** (e.g., those who are going for a labour export program but are later on being sold and deceived by the employers), due to narrower legal definitions of trafficking. Furthermore, the Vietnamese Government treated the TIP victims for forced criminal activities in Myanmar and Cambodia as "illegal migrants", not human trafficking. As a result, many trafficking victims are **not granted legal protection**, in violation of **Article 26**.

Appendix A: Notification of suspension of police investigation

HANOI CITY POLICE INVESTIGATION POLICE AGENCY Number: 7042/TB-CSHS-D6	SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM Independence- Freedom - Happiness

Hanoi, November 2023

NOTIFICATION
RESULTS OF RESOLVING CRIME INFORMATION SOURCES

Dear: Ms. Ly Thi Non Born: 1979;

Permanent residence: Nam Ha village, Muong Toong commune, Muong Nhe, Dien Bien.

The Hanoi Police Department - Hanoi Police received (1) a complaint about Ms. Ly's crime Thi Non accused Incomex Sai Gon Corp of engaging in human trafficking through recruiting and exporting labor to Saudi Arabia.

Hanoi Police Department - Hanoi Police Department has resolved (2) denunciations about the above crimes.

Pursuant to Articles 56, 57, 145, 146, and 147 of the Criminal Procedure Code,

NOTIFICATION:

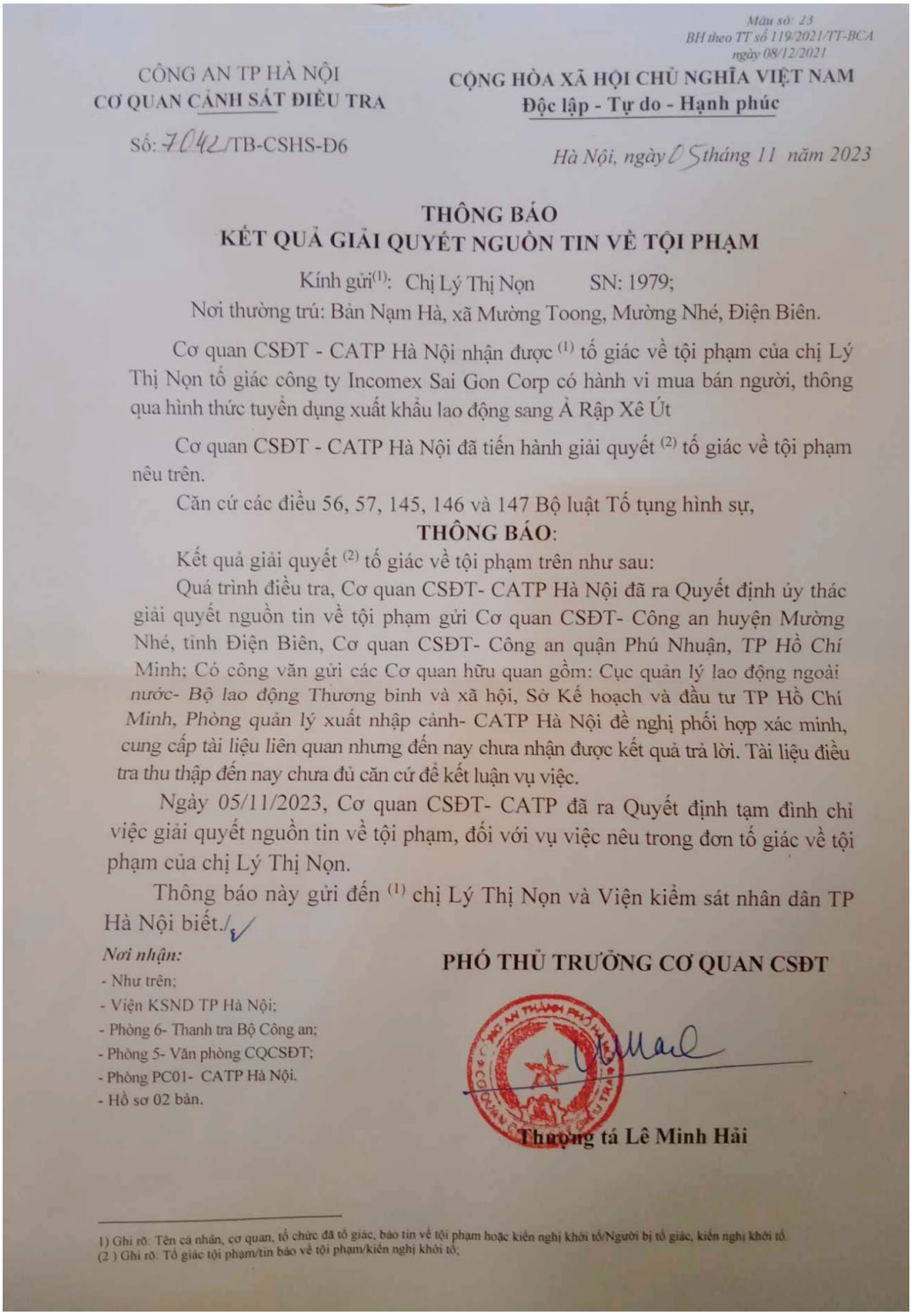
The results of resolving (2) denunciations about the above crime are as follows:

During the investigation process, the Hanoi Police Investigation Police Agency issued a Decision to entrust the handling of criminal information to the Police Investigation Agency of Muong Nhe District, Dien Bien Province, and the Police Investigation Agency of Phu Nhuan District, Ho Chi Minh City. Bright; There is an official dispatch sent to relevant agencies including the Department of Overseas Labor Management - Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs, Ho Chi Minh City Department of Planning and Investment, Immigration Management Department - Hanoi Police Department to Requested to coordinate verification and provide relevant documents but so far have not received a response. Investigation documents collected so far do not have enough basis to conclude the case.

On November 5, 2023, the Police Investigation Police Agency issued a Decision to suspend the handling of criminal information for the case mentioned in Ms. Ly Thi Non's criminal complaint.

DEPUTY HEAD OF THE INVESTMENT POLICE AGENCY

Lieutenant Colonel Le Minh Hai



Mẫu số: 15
BH theo TT số 119/2021/TT-BCA
ngày 08/12/2021

CÔNG AN TP HÀ NỘI
CƠ QUAN CẢNH SÁT ĐIỀU TRA

Số: 7042/TB-CSHS-Đ6

CỘNG HÒA XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM
Độc lập - Tự do - Hạnh phúc

Hà Nội, ngày 05 tháng 11 năm 2023

THÔNG BÁO
KẾT QUẢ GIẢI QUYẾT NGUỒN TIN VỀ TỘI PHẠM

Kính gửi(1): Chị Lý Thị Nọn SN: 1979;
Nơi thường trú: Bản Nạm Hà, xã Mường Toong, Mường Nhé, Điện Biên.

Cơ quan CSĐT - CATP Hà Nội nhận được (1) tố giác về tội phạm của chị Lý Thị Nọn tố giác công ty Incomex Sai Gon Corp có hành vi mua bán người, thông qua hình thức tuyển dụng xuất khẩu lao động sang Ả Rập Xê Út

Cơ quan CSĐT - CATP Hà Nội đã tiến hành giải quyết (2) tố giác về tội phạm nêu trên.

Căn cứ các điều 56, 57, 145, 146 và 147 Bộ luật Tố tụng hình sự,

THÔNG BÁO:

Kết quả giải quyết (2) tố giác về tội phạm trên như sau:

Quá trình điều tra, Cơ quan CSĐT- CATP Hà Nội đã ra Quyết định ủy thác giải quyết nguồn tin về tội phạm gửi Cơ quan CSĐT- Công an huyện Mường Nhé, tỉnh Điện Biên, Cơ quan CSĐT- Công an quận Phú Nhuận, TP Hồ Chí Minh; Có công văn gửi các Cơ quan hữu quan gồm: Cục quản lý lao động ngoài nước- Bộ lao động Thương binh và xã hội, Sở Kế hoạch và đầu tư TP Hồ Chí Minh, Phòng quản lý xuất nhập cảnh- CATP Hà Nội đề nghị phối hợp xác minh, cung cấp tài liệu liên quan nhưng đến nay chưa nhận được kết quả trả lời. Tài liệu điều tra thu thập đến nay chưa đủ căn cứ để kết luận vụ việc.

Ngày 05/11/2023, Cơ quan CSĐT- CATP đã ra Quyết định tạm đình chỉ việc giải quyết nguồn tin về tội phạm, đối với vụ việc nêu trong đơn tố giác về tội phạm của chị Lý Thị Nọn.

Thông báo này gửi đến (1) chị Lý Thị Nọn và Viện kiểm sát nhân dân TP Hà Nội biết./.

Nơi nhận:
- Như trên;
- Viện KSND TP Hà Nội;
- Phòng 6- Thanh tra Bộ Công an;
- Phòng 5- Văn phòng CQCSĐT;
- Phòng PC01- CATP Hà Nội.
- Hồ sơ 02 bản.

PHÓ THỦ TRƯỞNG CƠ QUAN CSĐT

Thượng tá Lê Minh Hải

1) Ghi rõ: Tên cá nhân, cơ quan, tổ chức đã tố giác, báo tin về tội phạm hoặc kiến nghị khởi tố/Người bị tố giác, kiến nghị khởi tố.
(2) Ghi rõ: Tố giác tội phạm/tin báo về tội phạm/kiến nghị khởi tố;

1.

Appendix B: Notification for families to pay money to bring their family member back to Vietnam, indicating victims of human trafficking as illegal immigrants

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BHCD FUND Number: 1673/LS-QBHCD	SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM Independence - Freedom - Happiness

Regarding the notice of advance payment to bring illegal immigrants from Myanmar back to their country.

Hanoi, April 16, 2025

To: Foreign Affairs Agencies of Ben Tre, Ho Chi Minh City, Son La, Nghe An

Regarding support for bringing illegal immigrants from Myanmar back to the country, the Citizen Protection Fund (BHCD) would like to discuss as follows:

The Vietnamese Embassy in Myanmar continues to announce the list of 05 citizens detained by Myanmar awaiting deportation (attached).

It is expected that the citizen will be deported through the Myanmar-Thailand border gate, then supported to return home via Thailand. The Vietnamese Embassy in Thailand announced the repatriation costs for this citizen, including: Transportation and escort fees from the border gate in Mae Sot to Bangkok; airfare from Bangkok to Vietnam, food, accommodation, and other expenses. The total estimated cost is about 12,200,000 VND/person (twelve million two hundred thousand VND/person). This cost is an estimated cost (airfare may change depending on the time).

Because Thailand requested us to receive citizens back to the country soon, in order to promptly coordinate with local authorities, the BHCD Fund respectfully requests that your agency:

Notify families/relatives of citizens to urgently deposit the above-mentioned expected advance payment into the BHCD Fund account before April 23, 2025 (currently, citizens are being detained by Myanmar and are waiting for their families to deposit money to complete procedures to return home).

BHCD Fund account information:

“Fund for Protection of Vietnamese Citizens and Legal Entities Abroad.

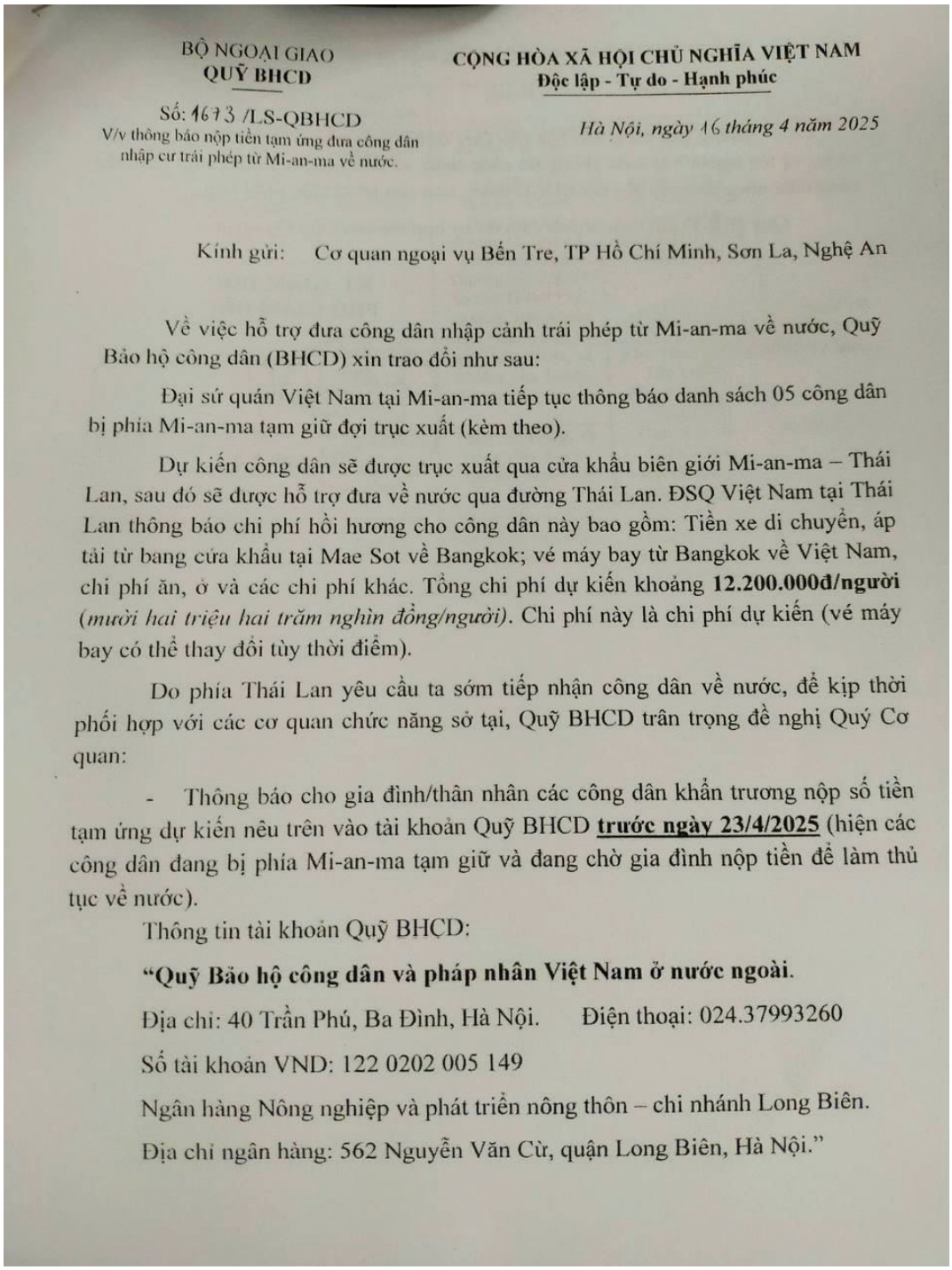
Address: 40 Tran Phu, Ba Dinh, Hanoi.

Phone: 024.37993260

VND account number: 122 0202 005 149

Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development – Long Bien branch.

Bank address: 562 Nguyen Van Cu, Long Bien district, Hanoi."



BỘ NGOẠI GIAO
QUỸ BHCD

Số: 1673 /LS-QBHCD
V/v thông báo nộp tiền tạm ứng đưa công dân nhập cư trái phép từ Mi-an-ma về nước.

CỘNG HÒA XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM
Độc lập - Tự do - Hạnh phúc

Hà Nội, ngày 16 tháng 4 năm 2025

Kính gửi: Cơ quan ngoại vụ Bến Tre, TP Hồ Chí Minh, Sơn La, Nghệ An

Về việc hỗ trợ đưa công dân nhập cảnh trái phép từ Mi-an-ma về nước, Quỹ Bảo hộ công dân (BHCD) xin trao đổi như sau:

Đại sứ quán Việt Nam tại Mi-an-ma tiếp tục thông báo danh sách 05 công dân bị phía Mi-an-ma tạm giữ đợi trục xuất (kèm theo).

Dự kiến công dân sẽ được trục xuất qua cửa khẩu biên giới Mi-an-ma – Thái Lan, sau đó sẽ được hỗ trợ đưa về nước qua đường Thái Lan. ĐSQ Việt Nam tại Thái Lan thông báo chi phí hồi hương cho công dân này bao gồm: Tiền xe di chuyển, áp tải từ bang cửa khẩu tại Mae Sot về Bangkok; vé máy bay từ Bangkok về Việt Nam, chi phí ăn, ở và các chi phí khác. Tổng chi phí dự kiến khoảng **12.200.000đ/người** (*mười hai triệu hai trăm nghìn đồng/người*). Chi phí này là chi phí dự kiến (vé máy bay có thể thay đổi tùy thời điểm).

Do phía Thái Lan yêu cầu ta sớm tiếp nhận công dân về nước, để kịp thời phối hợp với các cơ quan chức năng sở tại, Quỹ BHCD trân trọng đề nghị Quý Cơ quan:

- Thông báo cho gia đình/thân nhân các công dân khẩn trương nộp số tiền tạm ứng dự kiến nêu trên vào tài khoản Quỹ BHCD **trước ngày 23/4/2025** (hiện các công dân đang bị phía Mi-an-ma tạm giữ và đang chờ gia đình nộp tiền để làm thủ tục về nước).

Thông tin tài khoản Quỹ BHCD:

"Quỹ Bảo hộ công dân và pháp nhân Việt Nam ở nước ngoài.

Địa chỉ: 40 Trần Phú, Ba Đình, Hà Nội. Điện thoại: 024.37993260

Số tài khoản VND: 122 0202 005 149

Ngân hàng Nông nghiệp và phát triển nông thôn – chi nhánh Long Biên.

Địa chỉ ngân hàng: 562 Nguyễn Văn Cừ, quận Long Biên, Hà Nội."