



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE,
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

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The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Further to its Note Verbale No. 126/VNM.21 dated 17 August 2021 which requests a 30-day extension of the deadline for providing a response to the Joint Communication from Special Procedures dated 22 June 2021 Ref. AL VNM 3/2021 regarding Duong Khai, the Permanent Mission of Viet Nam has the honour to hereby transmit the response of Viet Nam to the above-mentioned Joint Communication.

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



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**Response of Viet Nam to the Joint Communication
sent by Special Procedures concerning Duong Khai**
Ref. AL VNM 3/2021 (dated 22 June 2021)

1. Duong Khai was born in [REDACTED] of Khmer ethnic group, registered his residence in [REDACTED] and temporarily resides in [REDACTED]

2. Viet Nam is a united country composed of 54 ethnic groups, in which the Kinh people make up the majority (80%); the remaining ethnic groups are called “ethnic minorities”. The ethnic groups, including the Kinh, are treated equally. The main distinctive characters among groups are language, habits and customs. Throughout the history of the nation, Vietnamese ethnic groups are united and traditionally develop together and join efforts in building and protecting the country. Therefore, the notion of “indigenous ethnic group” and the rights of indigenous peoples do not exist and are not in accordance with the characteristics of Viet Nam’s ethnic groups.

3. The propaganda of instruments and conventions on human rights is not prohibited in Viet Nam. In practice, Viet Nam has been implementing many programs and projects propagandizing these instruments and conventions in order to enhance the awareness of people on the enjoyment of human rights. However, Vietnamese laws strictly forbid the abuse of propaganda of instruments and conventions on human rights to distort and spread false news on Viet Nam’s policy of promotion and protection of human rights, to sow division and undermine national unity.

4. With regards to Duong Khai, Viet Nam’s competent authorities found that this citizen had posted and shared many articles in the internet, distorted the history of the Khmer ethnic group and Southern Viet Nam; conducted a propaganda for the establishment of “Khmer Kampuchea Krom State” in the territory of Viet Nam; and Duong Khai had had many complicated relationships with non-governmental organizations in foreign countries. These organizations often conduct activities of ethnic extremism, incite hatred, cause division of the national unity, incite separation and autonomy, and threaten Viet Nam’s national security, unity and territorial integrity.

5. These above-mentioned organizations often abuse the propaganda of “United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” by

combining the propaganda and misinterpretation of the content and spirit of the Declaration, with “the right of self-determination of indigenous Khmer people” in Viet Nam, the history of Southern Viet Nam, arguing that this region is owned by only Khmer people, and from that point, plot to conduct the extreme activities above-listed.

6. On 13 April 2021, Viet Nam’s competent authorities conducted administrative check at the residence of Duong Khai. During this event, Viet Nam’s competent authorities discovered 102 translated copies of “United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” and applications, documents which distort the history of Southern Viet Nam, request of “the right to self-determination of indigenous peoples”. During the examination, Duong Khai did not cooperate or provide information about the legitimate origin of these documents. Therefore, the competent authorities invited Duong Khai to the police station to clarify (the invitation was sent to Duong Khai).

7. At the police station, Duong Khai admitted that he was provided with 120 translated copies of “United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” and this is aimed at creating the division of the national unity. At the same time, he did not prove the legitimation of printing, publishing the above-mentioned documents. His activities constituted the violation of Viet Nam’s legal provisions in the field of press and publication. The competent authorities made the minute to seize the above-mentioned documents, and warned Duong Khai not to continue to conduct the activities which are against the policies of Viet Nam on the unity and development of ethnic minorities. At 11.00 of 14 April 2021, the competent authorities gave Duong Khai back his computer and phone. The policemen did not threaten to use of force against Duong Khai as the allegations made in the Joint Communication./.