



**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 and has the honor to hereby transmit the reply of Viet Nam to the latter's Joint Communication AL VNM 3/2025 (dated 24 July 2025) concerning a reported surge in human rights violations of transnational nature in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

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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**Reply of Viet Nam to the Joint Communication concerning  
A reported surge in human rights violations of transnational nature in  
the Greater Mekong Subregion (Viet Nam)**

*Ref. AL VNM 3/2025 (dated 24 July 2025)*

Viet Nam completely rejects the false allegations set out in the joint communication. Viet Nam has consistently affirmed that respecting, protecting and promoting fundamental human rights are core principles of its socio-economic and cultural development strategies, and also represent the implementation of its commitments under international legal and institutional frameworks to which Viet Nam is a party. The Constitution of Viet Nam devotes a full chapter to human rights and to citizens' fundamental rights and obligations. Article 14 affirms: "In the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, human rights and citizens' rights in the political, civil, economic, cultural and social fields are recognized, respected, protected and guaranteed by the Constitution and the law. Human rights and citizens' rights may be restricted only by law when necessary for reasons of national defence, national security, social order and safety, social morality, or community health."

All Vietnamese citizens are guaranteed by law to live and act in a safe environment; any acts of harassment or infringement upon citizens' lawful freedoms are strictly prohibited by law. This position is concretized in the 2013 Constitution and related legal instruments. Accordingly, acts that infringe upon the lawful freedoms of others, depending on their nature and severity, will be subject to legal liability ranging from administrative penalties to criminal prosecution. The 2015 Penal Code devotes one chapter (Chapter XV) with 11 articles to crimes infringing upon human freedom and citizens' democratic rights. In addition to legal measures, Viet Nam actively conducts public communication through the mass media to raise awareness of human rights and citizenship, and to promote respect for the lawful rights and interests of others.

In the renovation (Đổi mới) process, the Communist Party and the State of Viet Nam have consistently placed people at the centre of development policies; viewing human beings as the most valuable asset, caring for people as the highest goal, and as the essence of the socialist system in Viet Nam. Alongside economic achievements, Viet Nam has obtained significant results in ensuring human rights across all aspects of social life. At the recent 57th session of the UN Human Rights Council, Viet Nam participated actively and made practical contributions by chairing several initiatives and co-sponsoring many others, including certain

ASEAN joint statements; leading and delivering a Joint Statement on promoting the human right to vaccination; organizing an international dialogue and engaging with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, among others. These concrete practices and the international community's positive assessments are strong hallmarks of Viet Nam's efforts to promote and ensure human rights, and constitute objective, clear refutation of false information on democracy and human rights spread by ill-intentioned organizations and individuals with regard to Viet Nam.

### **I. Regarding the case of Duong Van Thai and Truong Duy Nhat**

Viet Nam affirms that the investigation, prosecution and trial of Duong Van Thai and Truong Duy Nhat fully complied with Vietnamese legal procedures, were consistent with international law, and did not involve “kidnapping” or “forced return to Viet Nam,” as alleged. During arrest and pre-trial detention for investigation of criminal acts, both Duong Van Thai and Truong Duy Nhat were guaranteed all rights under the Criminal Procedure Code of Viet Nam. Viet Nam has previously responded to inquiries from the UN Special Procedures regarding these two cases in earlier communications.

1. Pursuant to Article 25 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Ha Noi People's Court decided to hold a closed hearing in the case of Duong Van Thai. The closed trial was conducted in full accordance with Vietnamese law. The imprisonment sentences for Duong Van Thai and his co-defendants were publicly pronounced and published in the mass media. This fully complies with paragraph 1 of Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Pursuant to Article 74 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Ha Noi People's Court notified three lawyers—Le Van Luan, Nguyen Thi Trang, and Le Dinh Viet (retained at the request of Duong Van Thai's family)—to serve as his defense counsel. During pre-trial detention, Duong Van Thai enjoyed all rights of the accused/defendant as prescribed by law. He met his lawyers three times; met family members twice; and received gifts four times.

At trial, Duong Van Thai and the co-defendants admitted the criminal acts as charged by the Procuracy, acknowledging that the charges were against the right persons, for the right crimes, and in accordance with the law. They expressed deep remorse, sought leniency to return to their families and society soon, and did not appeal. Duong Van Thai raised no complaints regarding the criminal procedural decisions of law-enforcement bodies.

2. Truong Duy Nhat was arrested and tried for the crime of “Abuse of position and power in the performance of official duties” under Article 356 of the Penal Code. He abused his position and power to illegally transfer State property to another individual, causing a loss to the State of approximately 13 billion VND. The trial of Truong Duy Nhat was unrelated to journalism or freedom of expression. It is affirmed that he surrendered himself to criminal liability; it was not a case of “enforced disappearance,” as alleged.

## **II. The rights of prisoners**

1. The rights and obligations of prisoners are fully and clearly set out in Viet Nam’s legal system. Article 27 of the Law on Execution of Criminal Judgments stipulates prisoners’ rights and obligations, including the right “to be protected in respect of life, health and property; to have their honour and dignity respected; to be informed of their rights and obligations...; to be ensured regimes of food, clothing, accommodation, medical care; to participate in physical training and sports, cultural and arts activities; to communicate with relatives; to conduct civil transactions through a representative in accordance with law; to exercise the right to complain and denounce; to use lawfully published religious books and express their faith and religion....” Prisoners’ rights are further specified in other provisions of the 2019 Law on Execution of Criminal Judgments. The Government has issued various decrees and circulars detailing implementation of certain provisions of this Law to ensure prisoners’ rights are realized in a clear and transparent manner.

Prisons always ensure full implementation of regimes and policies for prisoners as prescribed by law, upholding humanity, rehabilitation and the rule of law. Outside working and study hours, prisoners may take part in cultural, artistic and sports activities; recreation; watch TV; listen to the radio; read books and newspapers, etc.

Provisions on visits, sending/receiving mail, receiving money and gifts, and telephone contact with relatives are properly implemented; commendations are given to prisoners who show progress in rehabilitation, and disciplinary measures are applied to those who violate prison rules; consideration is given to sentence reduction, conditional early release, and special amnesty. Specifically:

- **Education and vocational training:** Prisoners receive legal education and civic education; they may pursue general education and vocational training; those who are illiterate may attend literacy classes. Study time is arranged one day per week, excluding Sundays and holidays. Vocational training is provided suitable to each prison’s conditions and prisoners’ health.

- **Labor:** Labor is arranged suitable to age, health, sex, physical and mental condition, and requirements of management, education and reintegration; working time does not exceed 8 hours/day and 5 days/week. Proceeds from labor are used to: supplement prisoners' meals; establish a reintegration support fund; create a commendation fund; pay prisoners for their labor, etc.

- **Food, clothing, accommodation:** Prisoners are guaranteed quantitative standards for rice, vegetables, meat, fish, sugar, salt, etc. They may use money and gifts from family to purchase additional food. Clothing and personal items are provided in accordance with regulations.

- **Sports and cultural activities:** Prisoners may engage in physical training, sports, cultural and artistic activities; read books and newspapers; listen to the radio; watch television; use lawfully published religious scriptures; and express faith and religion.

- **Visits and gifts from relatives:** One visit per month, each not exceeding 1 hour. With good compliance, visiting time may be extended to up to 3 hours, and conjugal visits may be allowed; if commended or meritorious, an additional visit per month may be granted. Prisoners may receive letters, money, items, food and medicine from relatives up to twice per month; may send two letters per month and make one phone call per month, not exceeding 10 minutes.

- **Medical care:** Prisons ensure full medical care; prisoners receive periodic general health examinations or examinations upon request. If a prisoner's condition exceeds the prison infirmary's capacity, transfer to a higher-level medical facility is carried out in accordance with the 2019 Law on Execution of Criminal Judgments. If suffering from mental illness or loss of cognitive/behavioral control, execution of the sentence is temporarily suspended for compulsory treatment.

Relatives may send medicines and supplements to prisoners during visits or by post, pursuant to prescriptions from prison or outside medical facilities where the prisoner has been examined/treated. Medicines must bear labels stating dosage, indications, place of manufacture and validity. Such medicines are recorded and stored separately. Distribution and use are supervised by medical staff based on diagnosis and treatment regimens.

- **Early release, sentence reduction, amnesty:** Consideration of sentence reduction, conditional early release and special amnesty is a humanitarian policy of the State of Viet Nam, applied to encourage prisoners to work and reform positively, comply with prison rules, and facilitate early reintegration to become useful

members of society. Conditions and timing for such consideration are clearly stipulated, disseminated to all prisoners, and publicly announced through the media.

2. Vietnamese law recognizes and protects rights relating to health, honour and human dignity, as clearly provided in Clause 1, Article 20 of the 2013 Constitution and specified in other legal instruments such as the Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Law on Execution of Criminal Judgments, and the Law on Temporary Detention and Custody. Detention is conducted humanely, without torture, coercion, corporal punishment or any other treatment infringing upon the lawful rights and interests of detainees. Any violations are dealt with, including by proceedings against police officers. Viet Nam is resolute in combating and eliminating all forms of coerced confession, corporal punishment, and infringements upon the lives and health of detainees. Ratification of the Convention against Torture clearly demonstrates Viet Nam's efforts and commitments to the international community. In this spirit, the Ministry of Public Security has issued a series of legal documents and implemented practical plans strictly prohibiting investigators and officers from extracting confessions, prompting testimony or using corporal punishment in any form, while conducting communication and training to raise officers' awareness of citizens' rights and detainees' rights. Any act of torture during detention is strictly handled under the crime of "Use of corporal punishment" as provided in Article 373 of the Penal Code.

Additionally, there are inspection and oversight mechanisms over temporary detention, custody, prosecution, investigation, trial and execution of criminal judgments by multiple bodies (the National Assembly, the People's Procuracy, People's Councils, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, etc.), and complaint/denunciation mechanisms so that prisoners and detainees can protect their lawful rights and interests during proceedings and sentence execution.

Article 17 of the Law on Execution of Criminal Judgments stipulates that prisons must notify prisoners' relatives upon admission and inform them of the prisoners' sentence execution status. Prisoners may also inform relatives of their condition through visits, monthly phone calls and correspondence.

### **III. Regarding the terrorist attack on Dak Lak Province, Y Quynh Bdap, and the two organizations MSFJ and BPSOS**

1. Based on international anti-terrorism legal instruments that Viet Nam has signed or acceded to, and practical circumstances, Viet Nam promulgated the Law on Counter-Terrorism in 2013 and amended it in 2022 to ensure full compliance

with international principles and standards and to address evolving terrorist tactics in Viet Nam.

Vietnamese law defines terrorism as one, several, or all of the following acts by organizations or individuals aimed at opposing the people's government; coercing the people's government, foreign organizations or international organizations; obstructing the international relations of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; or causing public panic: (1) infringing upon life, health, or personal freedom, or threatening life or mentally intimidating others; (2) seizing, damaging, destroying or threatening to destroy property; attacking, infringing, obstructing or disrupting operations of computer, telecommunications or internet networks, or digital devices of agencies, organizations or individuals; (3) instructing in the manufacture/production/use, or manufacturing, producing, storing, transporting or trading in weapons, explosives, radioactive, toxic or flammable substances and other tools or means to carry out acts specified in (1) and (2); (4) propagandizing, luring, inciting, coercing, hiring or facilitating/assisting the commission of the above acts; (5) establishing or joining organizations, recruiting, training or coaching persons to carry out the above acts; (6) other acts deemed terrorism under international anti-terrorism treaties to which Viet Nam is a party. Terrorist financing is the mobilization or provision of funds or assets in any form to terrorist organizations or individuals. In the 2015 Penal Code (as amended 2017), terrorism-related crimes include "Terrorism aimed at opposing the people's government" (Article 113), "Terrorism" (Article 299) and "Terrorist financing" (Article 300).

In formulating the Law on Counter-Terrorism, Viet Nam referred to international experience and incorporated anti-terrorism and human rights treaties to which it is a party. At present, there is no scientific or objective practical basis requiring Viet Nam to reform its counter-terrorism law.

**2.** The terrorist attack on 11 June 2023 in Cu Kuin district, Dak Lak province was an especially serious crime, masterminded and directed by ringleaders who incited individuals inside the country to commit offenses. In the early hours of 11 June 2023, more than 70 perpetrators split into groups, used weapons to attack the offices of Ea Tieu and Ea Ktur communes, smashed and burned the offices, killed 9 people and injured 2 others, and destroyed property valued at more than 2.5 billion VND. Immediately thereafter, functional units of the Ministry of Public Security pursued and arrested the perpetrators hiding in residential areas and forests. During the manhunt, the police strictly complied with Vietnamese law; there was no beating, torture or inhumane treatment.

From 16–20 January 2024, at Residential Group 11, Ea Tam Ward, Buon Ma Thuot City, the Dak Lak Provincial People’s Court conducted a public trial of 100 defendants related to the 11/6 terrorist case for the offenses of: “Terrorism aimed at opposing the people’s government” (Article 113); “Terrorism” (Article 299); “Organizing for others to exit/enter the country illegally” (Article 348); and “Concealing crimes” (Article 389) of the Penal Code. The trial was public and transparent, complying with criminal procedure; its outcome was widely reported in the mass media and on social networks. At trial, all defendants admitted their unlawful acts, expressed remorse, and none appealed.

3. Based on the first-instance criminal judgment of 20 January 2024 of the Dak Lak Provincial People’s Court; the 2013 Law on Counter-Terrorism; and Government Decree No. 122/2013/ND-CP on suspension of circulation, freezing, sealing, temporary seizure and handling of funds and assets related to terrorism, and on establishing lists of organizations and individuals related to terrorism and terrorist financing, on 6 March 2024 the Ministry of Public Security publicly announced on its web portal the designation of two organizations, MSFJ and MSGI, as terrorist organizations. The announcement specified that MSFJ operated by propagandizing, luring and recruiting members; assigning tasks; training on methods of operation; financing; directing the procurement of weapons and means; and carrying out terrorist attacks to kill officials and civilians and destroy State and public property.

By this *modus operandi*, during the establishment and operation of “Montagnards for Justice – MSFJ,” Y Quynh Bdap directly recruited Y Krong Phok into a domestic terrorist group; made connections and maintained contact with ringleaders and key members of domestic terrorist groups; introduced himself as a commander of the “Montagnards for Justice” terrorist organization inciting separatism and autonomy to establish a “Dega State” in Viet Nam; promised to provide funding, weapons and training; and directly directed the “Dega Soldiers” group to carry out terrorist attacks on the offices of the People’s Committees of Ea Tieu and Ea Ktur communes, Cu Kuin district, Dak Lak province... The designation of MSFJ as a terrorist organization is based on the Dak Lak Provincial Court’s judgment with clear evidence of direct links to the perpetrators of the terrorist attack; it is not related to ethnicity or religion.

4. Regarding Y Quynh Bdap, Vietnamese procedural authorities possess sufficient evidence that he directly contacted and directed domestic actors to plan and procure weapons for the 11 June 2023 terrorist attack. His acts seriously violated

Vietnamese law and contravened the purposes and principles of the United Nations. The request to extradite Y Quynh Bdap reflects the strict application of law and ensures justice and fairness for victims. Evidence of his crimes (including the criminal judgment of 20 January 2024) and the State of Viet Nam's commitments have been transmitted to the Thai Criminal Court to support extradition proceedings. Viet Nam commits to ensuring his rights upon extradition in accordance with Vietnamese law and international treaties to which Viet Nam is a party, with absolutely no torture or inhumane treatment. This also reflects Viet Nam's implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 22 June 2023.

Viet Nam emphasizes that no individual may invoke the status of "refugee" or public human-rights activities to conceal or evade criminal responsibility for violations of law, especially terrorist crimes.

5. Viet Nam's inclusion of BPSOS and Nguyen Dinh Thang on the list of organizations and individuals related to terrorism (not designated as terrorist organizations/individuals, as alleged) fully complies with Vietnamese and international law, as announced by the Ministry of Public Security on 14 February 2025. Viet Nam has sufficient grounds to prove that BPSOS and Nguyen Dinh Thang are linked to the terrorist organization "Montagnards for Justice – MSFJ," which carried out the 11 June 2023 terrorist attack in Dak Lak.

6. The allegation in the communication that "listing MSFJ and BPSOS as terrorist or terrorism-related is a pretext to suppress 'Montagnards'" is baseless. The consistent policy of the State of Viet Nam is to put the past behind and look to the future for the sake of national interests; to implement national harmony and reconciliation; and to prohibit all forms of discrimination and stigmatization for any reason. Viet Nam stresses that allegations that revive elements of history and war to incite ethnic antagonism represent an ill-intentioned, prejudiced approach that runs counter to State policy.

#### **IV. Viet Nam's policies on ethnic minorities**

1. Viet Nam consistently upholds equality, respect and solidarity among all ethnicities and religions, jointly contributing to socio-economic and cultural development and ensuring the full and harmonious enjoyment of individual and community rights. Acts of racial or religious discrimination, or incitement of hatred among ethnicities and religions, are strictly prohibited in Viet Nam. This position is concretized in the Constitution and many other legal instruments such as the Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, and the Law on Belief and Religion.

Viet Nam does not use the concept of “indigenous peoples,” as it does not align with the historical formation and development of peoples in Viet Nam. Instead, Viet Nam uses the terms “ethnic minorities” and “ethnic minorities with very small populations” to refer to peoples whose populations are smaller than that of the majority Kinh (over 86%). These terms do not carry racial discriminatory meaning. There are currently 54 ethnic groups living interspersed across Viet Nam, with no separate territory belonging to any group. Over thousands of years, intermingling has created mutual cultural and linguistic influences, resulting in the cultural diversity of regions across the country.

Every Vietnamese citizen belongs to one of the 54 ethnicities and is free to self-identify their ethnicity. All citizens enjoy full human rights under the law, without ethnic distinction. Vietnamese law strictly prohibits exploiting ethnic issues to incite separatism, autonomy or division of the great national unity of 54 ethnicities, or to threaten the territorial integrity of Viet Nam; any violating organization or individual bears legal responsibility. This position is fully consistent with Article 46 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which states *inter alia* that nothing in the Declaration may be interpreted as authorizing or encouraging any action that would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States.

**2.** Viet Nam’s consistent policy is to ensure equality, solidarity and mutual assistance among ethnicities; no distinction is made between majority and minority groups or levels of development; all are equal in rights and obligations in all areas of social life, guaranteed by the Constitution and the law. Viet Nam’s goal is to strengthen great national unity on the basis of the principles set out in the 2013 Constitution. Ethnic minorities have the right to use their language and script; to preserve their identity; to promote fine customs, traditions and culture; to receive social welfare, economic, educational and vocational support; and to exercise civil and political rights like all other citizens.

Viet Nam’s ethnic policies aim to narrow and eliminate development gaps between ethnic groups and regions by affirming equality and applying preferential policies and measures for disadvantaged groups and areas so that they can develop and equally enjoy human rights. Results and achievements in ensuring ethnic minority rights are set out in Viet Nam’s fifth periodic report under the CERD.

**3.** The Government of Viet Nam prioritizes resources for socio-economic development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. National target programmes identify ethnic minority peoples as primary beneficiaries. Ethnic policies span many

fields: social security; sustainable poverty reduction; planning, resettlement and stable population arrangements; building inter-regional socio-economic infrastructure; developing education, training, health and culture; increasing the size and quality of ethnic minority cadres; ensuring gender equality; and addressing urgent issues concerning women and children. The National Assembly adopted Resolution No. 120/2020/QH14 of 19 June 2020 approving the Master Plan for socio-economic development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas for 2021–2030, aiming at sustainable development, leveraging regional potential and advantages, and fostering self-reliance among ethnic minority peoples. On 14 October 2021, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 1719/QD-TTg approving the national target programme for socio-economic development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas for 2021–2030 (see Viet Nam’s fifth CERD report).

4. Viet Nam has implemented activities to collect, research, preserve and promote outstanding cultural heritage associated with ethnic minorities; and has developed important projects to support ethnic minority communities in preserving and promoting traditional culture. Several of Viet Nam’s representative intangible cultural heritages have been inscribed by UNESCO, such as: Then practice of the Tay, Nung and Thai; the art of Xoe Thai; and the art of Cham pottery.

5. Pursuant to the policy of building a unified yet diverse culture within the community of ethnic minorities, the Government approved the “Project on Preservation and Development of the Culture of Viet Nam’s Ethnic Minorities to 2020” (Decision No. 1270/QD-TTg of 27 January 2011); the Project on Preservation and Promotion of Ethnic Minority Languages and Scripts in cultural activities; and the Project on Preservation and Promotion of the Value of Literary and Artistic Works of Viet Nam’s Ethnic Minorities. Ethnic minorities nationwide participate in cultural activities bearing their identity; many radio and television programmes and cultural publications are produced in minority languages such as Hmong, Ede, Cham, Khmer, etc. Many wholesome traditional festivals have been restored, developed or newly formed, contributing to the preservation of cultural identities.

6. Ethnic minority languages (Ba Na, Cham, Khmer, Ede, Gia Rai, Hmong) have been incorporated into the general education curriculum, with pilot teaching of other minority languages (Hoa, Thai, Co Tu, Ta Oi, etc.). Sixteen provinces and cities currently teach minority languages in schools. Broadcasting in minority languages has increased in both the number of stations and airtime; ethnic minority audiences can access programming in multiple languages suited to regional cultures. VTV5 of Viet Nam Television produces and broadcasts in 22 ethnic minority languages.

7. A total of 62,283 intangible cultural heritages from 34 provinces/cities have been inventoried; 288 intangible cultural heritages have been included in the National Intangible Cultural Heritage List (of which 145 belong to ethnic minorities—over 50% of the total); five are language/script heritages; seven are folk knowledge; four are folk literature; 69 are folk performing arts; 66 are social practices and beliefs; and 30 are traditional crafts. In 2016–2018, six ethnic groups (Dao, Muong, Hmong, Thai, Cham, Khmer) organized their own cultural festivals.

## **V. Regarding overseas Vietnamese citizens, refugees and extradition treaties with countries in the region**

1. The 2013 Constitution provides: “Overseas Vietnamese citizens are protected by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.” The Law on Nationality affirms: “The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam protects the legitimate rights and interests of Vietnamese citizens abroad. Domestic authorities and overseas representative missions shall take necessary measures, consistent with host-country law and international law and practice, to implement such protection.” Migration abroad to seek better livelihoods is the choice of a portion of Vietnamese citizens. The State facilitates legal exit for citizens and fulfills its responsibility to protect them abroad. However, alongside legal migration, some people have departed through unofficial channels and reside illegally overseas. Lacking legal status, their rights are seriously threatened and affected; consular protection is also more difficult.

2. There are Vietnamese citizens currently residing illegally in Thailand, including some ethnic minority persons from the Central Highlands. Most, for economic reasons and with the desire to resettle in a third country, exited illegally via informal crossings at the Viet Nam–Cambodia border and entered Thailand unlawfully. Their lives in Thailand are very difficult and deprived; their basic rights are not guaranteed; many were recognized by UNHCR as refugees over 10 years ago but have yet to be resettled. Many have contacted Vietnamese authorities seeking assistance to voluntarily repatriate. Since early 2024 alone, more than 100 ethnic minority persons from the Central Highlands have voluntarily returned and have been assisted by local authorities with residential land, farmland and job placement to stabilize their lives and reintegrate into the community.

3. To maximize protection of Vietnamese citizens overseas, Viet Nam has consulted and proposed that Thailand prioritize implementing a “national screening mechanism for refugees” so that: those eligible can be resettled in third countries as soon as possible; and those ineligible are returned to Viet Nam. Repatriation is carried out on the basis of citizens’ voluntary wishes and in compliance with

Vietnamese and Thai law and relevant international refugee instruments; there is absolutely no harassment, intimidation, cross-border abduction or forced return.

The Government of Viet Nam commits to creating the most favorable conditions for voluntary returnees to quickly stabilize their lives, without discrimination upon return and without penalizing their prior illegal exit. If they still wish to resettle abroad, the Government will assist them to exit through legal channels. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Security and other competent agencies are coordinating with Thailand to formulate concrete plans, measures and timelines to help those wishing to repatriate soon and stabilize their lives. Voluntary returnees are issued passports, provided financial support, and, in coordination with Thai authorities, have their repatriation procedures expedited. Upon return, they are provided residential land, farmland and housing, and job placement by local authorities, thereby supporting both materially and spiritually their stable reintegration.

4. Viet Nam has repeatedly reviewed and responded to information regarding Mr. Siam Theerawut (a Thai national) to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. System data checks confirm there is no information on any Thai national named Siam Theerawut or Chucheap Chewasut entering Viet Nam.

5. In Southeast Asia, Viet Nam has concluded bilateral extradition treaties with Cambodia (23 December 2013), Indonesia (27 June 2013) and Laos (11 July 2025). ASEAN member states are promoting the development of a common ASEAN extradition treaty to provide a shared legal basis for extradition cooperation, including with Viet Nam. These treaties ensure conformity with international principles and law. In Viet Nam's extradition treaties with ASEAN countries, common principles of extradition are provided, specifically:

- The principle of non-extradition where there is evidence or legal grounds indicating the person sought faces a risk of torture, cruel treatment, or enforced disappearance in the requesting State.

- Commitment to human-rights protection: the requested State may request assurances from the requesting State not to expel, extradite or treat the person in a manner that violates human rights./.