



Report

Vietnam Human Rights Advocacy Day on Parliament Hill

Under the sponsorship of James Bezan, M.P. (Selkirk – Interlake – Eastman, MB) and with the collaboration of the Free Vietnamese Canadian Community of Ottawa (FVCCO) and the Association Entraide pour les droits de l’homme à Montréal (AEDHM), Canadian Youth for Human Rights in Vietnam (CYHRV) organized the Vietnam Human Rights Advocacy Day on Parliament Hill, May 10, 2018.

Following the opening ceremony featuring greetings by Khue-Tu Nguyen (President, CYHRV), Haquyen Nguyen (President, FVCCO), Tuy Quoc Tran (President, AEDHM), and Dang-My Nguyen (representing the Vietnamese Canadian Community of Greater Vancouver Society), several participants went to visit their local MPs to talk about the increasingly serious violations of human rights in Vietnam and urged them to ask the government to implement the restrictive measures provided by the Sergei Magnitsky Law, enacted on October 18, 2017, against those who violated human rights in Vietnam.

In the afternoon, the program of the day followed with a workshop on *Human Rights and the Environment* co-chaired by Khue-Tu Nguyen and Ky Pham (Vice-President for Internal Affairs, CYHRV). Starting the workshop, Tom Kmiec, M.P. (Calgary Shepard, AB) -- representing James Bezan who sponsored the Sergei Magnitsky Law in the House of Commons – informed the participants that the Government of Canada has started implementing this law with regard to those who violated human rights in Ukraine and other countries. The list of human rights violators in Vietnam, prepared by US-based Boat People SOS (BPSOS), was forwarded to Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland on November 20, 2017.

The program continued with presentations on the situation of violations of human rights in Vietnam by David Kilgour, former Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons and Secretary of State for Asia Pacific and Latin America, and Nobel Peace Prize nominee; Anne Quach Minh Thu, M.P. (Salaberry – Suroît, QC), and Thang Nguyen (President, BPSOS, USA). These presentations were followed by speakers Truyet Thanh Mai, Chair of the Vietnamese American Science & Technology Society (VASTS) and the Vietnamese Environmental Protection Society (VEPS); and Sheng Xue, Vice-President of the Federation for a Democratic China, who talked about the impact of human rights on the environment with respect to Vietnam and China.

Y Lang Ta (Co-Founder of Vietnamplify, Montreal) and Chuong Tuan Ha (Co-Founder of AEDHM, Montreal) then followed with their presentations on the environment and on the policies and procedures used by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), to control Canadian food imports to protect public health.



The workshop concluded with a panel discussion, chaired by Calvin Nhan (CYHRV Vice-President for External Affairs), on *Joining Hands in the Fight for Human Rights Worldwide*, featuring panelists Valérie Phan (Co-Founder of Vietnamplify), Sheng Xue, Y Lang Ta, and Thang Nguyen.

To conclude the workshop, the participants discussed and adopted the following resolutions:

- 1/ Request that the Government of Canada implement the Sergei Magnitsky Law with regard to Vietnam by investigating those officials who were featured in the files on Vietnamese human rights violators that CYHRV submitted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs on November 20, 2017;
- 2/ Request that the Government of Canada protest against the brutal imprisonment of democracy and human rights advocates in Vietnam;
- 3/ Request that the Government of Canada tightly control food imports to protect public health;
- 4/ Encourage the collaboration between international human rights advocacy groups to obtain better results.

On its part, CYHRV is determined to promote the above objectives and hopes to continue to receive support from those organizations and individuals who support respect for human rights in Vietnam.

In addition to the speakers, the guests at this event also included:

- MP Judy Sgro (former Minister of Immigration);
- Senator Raynell Andreychuk, who spearheaded the Sergei Magnitsky Law in the Senate;
- Cornelius von Bayer, President of the Resettlement Service Ottawa RSO), an Ottawa-based group which has sponsored 92 Tibetan refugees and is sponsoring 12 Chinese political dissidents);
- Thai Van Vu, Secretary General of the World Vietnamese Buddhist Congregation;
- Vo Anh Ngo, President of the Vietnamese Historical Heritage Association of Montreal;
- Xuan Mai Bui, President of the Cassava Association in Montreal;
- Du Van Trinh, Secretary General of the Association of Vietnamese Former Teachers in Quebec;
- Dang-My Nguyen, representing the Vietnamese Canadian Community of Greater Vancouver Society;



- Phuong Thu Tran, President of the Vietnamese Canadian Cultural Organization of National Capital Ottawa; and
- An Song Hoang, President of the Association of Veterans of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces in Ottawa, and A/President of the Vietnamese Canadian Senior Citizens Association of Ottawa.

The Vietnam Human Rights Advocacy Day on Parliament Hill 2018 was adjourned at 4:30 pm of the same day.

Following are some pictures taken at this event:



The Organizing Committee, from left to right: Calvin Nhan, Vincent-Francis Yeung, Kim Vu, Nam Chu, Khue-Tu Nguyen, Thao Tran Le Phuong, Ky Pham

Photo: CYHRV



Speaker Thang Nguyen (#1) and some participants
Photo: CYHRV



Montreal delegation – Duc Tan Do, Xuan Mai Bui,
Nghị Khắc Lê, Trần Mạnh Phan and Du Van Trinh -- meeting
Saint-Laurent MP Emmanuella Lambropoulos
Photo: BXM



Giang Duc Nguyen, Thai Van Vu, Calvin Nhan, Kim Vu,
MP Judy Sgro, Khue-Tu Nguyen, Dang-My Nguyen,
Ky Pham, Can Le

Photo: CYHRV



MP Judy Sgro and some participants

Hình: CYHRV



MP Tom Kmiec and Can Le, Xuan Mai Bui, Nghi Khac Le, Thang Nguyen, Haquyen Nguyen

Photo: CYHRV



Senator Raynell Andreychuk and some participants

Photo: VVT



Participants' group picture
Photo: VVT



Y Lang Ta and Valérie Phan, Vietnampify
Photo: VVT



Speakers David Kilgour and Sheng Xue and some participants
Photo: CYHRV



Speaker David Kilgour
Photo: CYHRV



Speaker MP Anne Quach Minh Thu

Hình: CYHRV



Speaker Truyet Thanh Mai presenting via Skype from Houston, TX

Photo: CYHRV



Panel discussion

Photo: CYHRV



My Dung Phan, Y Lang Ta, Valérie Phan, Calvin Nhan,
Ky Pham, Khue-Tu Nguyen, Haquyen Nguyen, Thang Nguyen

Photo: CYHRV



Vietnamplify and CYHRV members and friends: Hai Ly Buu (#4),
Kim Vu (#6), Vincent-Francis Yeung (#7), and Nam Chu (#9)
Photo: CYHRV

The complete photo album can be seen through the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PU9XlodzkSG0bF>