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DECLARATION

ON THE CRIMES OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM

On the 50th Anniversary of the National Day of Mourning, April 30, 1975

Since its founding, the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) has committed countless serious crimes, sowing pain and loss across the land and people of Vietnam.

This brief indictment seeks to publicly expose these crimes before the international community and all Vietnamese compatriots at home and abroad.

1. Importing Atheistic Communism and a Brutal Totalitarian Regime into Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh, the emblematic figure of the CPV, joined the French Communist Party in 1921 and was sent to Moscow in 1923 for training as an international communist cadre. Under the directives of Lenin, Stalin, and Mao Zedong, Ho imposed communism upon Vietnam under the guise of “national liberation,” in reality serving the scheme of communizing Southeast Asia.

By joining the Communist International, the CPV bound Vietnam’s fate to the global communist bloc, leading to national division, endless war, and eventually the complete communization of Vietnam in 1975.

2. Sabotaging the Opportunity for Peaceful, Bloodless Independence

In the decolonization movement after World War II, many nations gained independence without warfare, supported by Allied powers. Vietnam, too, had this opportunity.

However, the CPV exploited the Việt Minh to overthrow the legitimate Trần Trọng Kim government, eliminate non-communist patriotic forces, and instigate the so-called “resistance against the French,” resulting in a civil war between nationalists and communists, the division of the country in 1954, and the disaster of 1975.

3. Waging Aggressive War Against South Vietnam, Killing Millions

In the early 1960s, the CPV established the disguised “National Liberation Front of South Vietnam” to undermine the Republic of Vietnam.

This ideological war, lasting over two decades, claimed the lives of millions of innocent people on both sides and devastated the nation.

4. Massacre of Civilians During the 1968 Tet Offensive

Despite a ceasefire agreement, North Vietnamese communists launched a general offensive

during the Tet holiday.

In Hue alone, more than 5,000 civilians were massacred, many buried alive—a crime against humanity unparalleled in Vietnam's history.

5. Violating the 1973 Paris Peace Accords, Invading the South in 1975

In the Spring of 1975, with strong backing from the Soviet Union and China, North Vietnamese communists flagrantly violated the Paris Peace Accords, using force to seize South Vietnam and plunging the nation into a prolonged tragedy.

6. Imposing a Totalitarian Dictatorship

A Stalinist-Maoist police state was established, stripping citizens of all fundamental freedoms. The judiciary became a tool of the Party, arbitrary arrests and detentions were rampant, and international human rights organizations repeatedly condemned these grave violations.

7. Brutal Policies of Retribution

Hundreds of thousands of South Vietnamese military personnel, civil servants, and officials were interned in "reeducation camps"—in reality, forced labor camps.

Their families were forcibly relocated to "new economic zones," while millions risked their lives fleeing overseas, with hundreds of thousands perishing at sea.

8. Suppressing Religion – Destroying Freedom of Belief

Traditional religions were harshly persecuted: properties were confiscated, clergy were imprisoned, and state-controlled religious organizations were erected to control the faithful and erode spiritual life.

9. Suppressing the Press – Controlling Information – Erasing National Identity

All media were tightly controlled.

Artistic and cultural expressions were stifled, and traditional humanistic thought was replaced with communist propaganda.

10. Crushing the Patriotic Intellectual Movement – the Nhân Văn Giai Phẩm Affair

In 1956, the CPV brutally suppressed the Nhân Văn Giai Phẩm movement.

Writers and artists who advocated for freedom were persecuted and arrested, destroying a vibrant humanistic culture and instilling pervasive fear in society.

11. Degrading Education – Corrupting Society

Education was reduced to a political indoctrination tool, destroying independent thinking.

Society became overwhelmed by corruption, injustice, and violence.

12. Crimes Against Vietnamese Women

Women were exploited as instruments of war, subjected to abuse, forced labor, and denied basic human dignity under communist rule.

Those who fought for freedom, democracy, and human rights suffered severe repression.

13. Crimes Against Vietnamese Youth

The younger generations were politically indoctrinated with Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought, stripped of their future and ideals of freedom.

Many students and young people were forced into exile in search of a deserving future.

14. Selling Out National Sovereignty to Communist China

The CPV betrayed national territory:

- The 1958 Phạm Văn Đồng Note recognized Chinese claims to Vietnam's seas,
- They remained silent during China's seizure of the Paracel Islands in 1974,
- They lost Gạc Ma (Johnson South Reef) in 1988,
- They ceded border lands in 2000.

15. Crimes During the Land Reform Campaign (1953–1956)

Under the pretext of "liberating farmers," the CPV launched a bloody Red Terror campaign in North Vietnam.

Hundreds of thousands were subjected to public denunciation, torture, and wrongful execution.

It is estimated that between 172,000 and 200,000 people were killed.

The wounds inflicted continue to haunt Vietnamese society today.

CONCLUSION

After nearly a century of existence, the Communist Party of Vietnam has left a legacy of tyranny: human rights suppression, moral and cultural degradation, and betrayal of national sovereignty. Communism—a failed and outdated ideology—became the instrument by which the CPV seized power, wealth, and the future of an entire nation.

April 30, 1975, was not a "day of liberation," but rather a **National Day of Mourning**—marking the end of freedom and the onset of a dark era.

It is time for all Vietnamese, whether at home or abroad, to face the truth and boldly reclaim their rights: the right to be human, the right to be free citizens, and the right to live with dignity on their own homeland.

United States, April 27, 2025

On behalf of the Council of Representatives

Lê Thanh Liêm,
Chairman