

Certification of Facts about Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng

My name is Trần Quốc Tiến. born in 1970, living at 258/80 Dương Bá Trạc Street, and I am the chairman of the Executive Committee of Rạch Ông Parish, District 8, Ho Chi Minh City.

In 2007 Rạch Ông parishioners had to prostrate on the sidewalk at 891 Trần Hưng Đạo Street, District 5, Saigon to advocate for our right to practice our faith in this temple (seized by the 1997 Cao Dai sect).

Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng came to Rạch Ông several times to try and persuade us to stop kneeling on the sidewalk. This is why I can recognize Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng very easily.

On May 27, 2015, the Popular Council came to the Tây Ninh Holy See for the Popular Council Congress. I was at the event and recognized Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng.

I affirm that Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng is the person wearing a white safety helmet, white T-shirt, and blue jeans in the following photos.

I affirm that Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng is the fourth person from the left in the photo showing 6 individuals.

In the photo showing 3 individuals, Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng is the first person from the left.

I assume full responsibility for this certification.

Rạch Ông, February 18, 2022
Trần Quốc Tiến
(signed)

Enclosed: 2 photos on Page 2



Thay &
Tien.

TỜ XÁC NHẬN ẢNH ÔNG NGUYỄN QUỐC DŨNG.

Tôi tên Trần Quốc Tiến sinh năm 1970 ngụ tại 258/80 Dương Bá Trạc hiện là Chánh Trị Sự Hương Đạo Rạch Ông, Quận 8, TP HCM.

Năm 2007 Hương Đạo Rạch Ông quý cúng ngoài lề đường để tranh đấu cho quyền hành đạo tại Thánh Thất 891 Trần Hưng Đạo, SG 5 (bị chi phái 1997 chiếm đoạt Thánh Thất).

Ông Nguyễn Quốc Dũng có đến Rạch Ông nhiều lần để vận động chúng tôi không quý ngoài đường nữa. Do vậy Tôi biết mặt ông Nguyễn Quốc Dũng rất rõ.

Ngày 27-5-2015 Khởi Nhơn Sanh về Toà Thánh Tây Ninh trình chánh Đại Hội Nhơn Sanh. Hôm ấy tôi có mặt tại hiện trường và nhận ra Ông Nguyễn Quốc Dũng.

Tôi xác nhận Nguyễn Quốc Dũng đội nón bảo hiểm trắng, áo thun trắng quần zin xanh là người trong ảnh.

Trong ảnh 6 người Quốc Dũng đứng thứ 4 từ trái sang phải.

Trong ảnh 3 người Quốc Dũng đứng thứ 1 từ trái sang phải.

Tôi chịu trách nhiệm về việc xác nhận này.

Rạch Ông ngày 18-2-2022.

Ký tên.

TRẦN QUỐC TIẾN.

Ảnh làm: 01 trang 2 có 2 ảnh.
Tiến.
Trần Quốc Tiến.

Trang 1

Statement about Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng

We, the Undersigned, certify that on May 27, 2015, we and around 200 other adherents came to the Tay Ninh Holy See for the Congress of the Popular Council. Mr. Nguyễn Thành Tám, the leader of the 1997 Sect, ordered his security guards group whose members wore red armbands to assault us in the presence of police officers who were deployed to secure all roads around the Holy See.

Ten or so Holy See security guards attacked Mr. Trần Văn Hạp, a member of the executive committee of a parish near the Holy See. The guards threw Mr. Hạp onto the ground, kicked his face and groin repeatedly, and used their batons to strike his head and abdomen. Then, they used a strong rope to tie his wrists and dragged him for approximately 20 meters on the ground to a nearby house where 12 police officers were waiting. The officers wanted him to sign a document they had prepared before they let him go free. As Mr. Hạp was leaving the house, 3 female Cao Dai adherents rushed to assist him. The security guards working for the 1997 Sect wrestled them to the ground and beat them savagely.

We saw Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng - wearing a safety helmet and a face mask, standing with the security guards and the police officers. When some of our adherents tried to take his picture or make a video, Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng tried to hide his face. Security guards snatched a phone from one of the adherents who were holding their cell phones. However, we still managed to make a video recording of Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng standing among the Holy See security guards working for Mr. Nguyễn Thành Tám.

There were several adherents among us who knew Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng prior to this incident and could identify him in spite of his safety helmet and face mask.

We declare that this statement is truthful.

Signed,

Full name:

Trần Ngọc Sương

Nguyễn Xuân Mai

Nguyễn Cao Cường

Nguyễn Văn Hùng

Trần Văn Quang

March 8, 2022

The person whose cell phone was seized is one of our adherents, Phạm Quốc Sách from Gò Công. At this time, he suffers from the effects of a stroke.

TỜ XÁC NHẬN VỀ ÔNG NGUYỄN QUỐC DŨNG

Chúng tôi, những người ký tên dưới đây, xác nhận rằng ngày 27 tháng 5 năm 2015 chúng tôi cùng với khoảng 200 đồng đạo có mặt tại khuôn viên của Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh để thực hiện Đại Hội Nhơn Sanh. Ông Nguyễn Thành Tám, đứng đầu Chi Phái 1997, đã cho ban trật tự nội ô đeo băng đỏ tấn công chúng tôi; công an hiện diện để phong tỏa các nẻo đường quanh Tòa Thánh Tây Ninh.

Khoảng mười nhân viên trật tự nội ô của Chi Phái 1997 hành hung ông Trần Văn Hạp, Phó Trị Sự của một hương đạo Cao Đài nằm gần Tòa Thánh. Họ vật ông Hạp xuống đất, dùng chân liên tục đá vào mặt và bụng dưới rồi dùng dùi cui đánh vô đầu với bụng. Sau đó, trói tay ông Hạp bằng dây thừng, kéo lê lê ông ta trên đất khoảng 20 thước, rồi giao cho 12 viên công an đơt sắn trong một nhà gần đó. Công an buộc ông Hạp phải ký vào một văn kiện theo ý của họ rồi mới trả tự do cho ông. Khi ông Hạp bước ra, ba nữ tín đồ Cao Đài chạy đến giúp; nhóm trật tự của chi phái liền vật họ xuống đất và đánh đập tàn nhẫn.

Chúng tôi đã thấy Ông Nguyễn Quốc Dũng, đội nón bảo hiểm và đeo khẩu trang, đứng chung với nhóm trật tự nội ô và công an. Khi người của chúng tôi chụp hình hoặc quay video thì Ông Nguyễn Quốc Dũng tìm cách giấu mặt. Một người của chúng tôi cầm máy chụp hình đã bị trật tự nội ô cướp máy hình. Dù vậy, chúng tôi cũng đã thu được video về sự hiện diện của Ông Nguyễn Quốc Dũng đứng lẫn với ban trật tự nội ô của Ông Nguyễn Thành Tám.

Trong chúng tôi có những người đã biết Ông Nguyễn Quốc Dũng từ trước cho nên nhận diện được ông ta dù ông ta đội nón bảo hiểm và đeo khẩu trang.

Chúng tôi chịu trách nhiệm về lời xác nhận này.

Ký tên,

Tên Họ

Chữ Ký

Trần Ngọc Sương

Nguyễn Xuân Mai

Nguyễn Cao Cường

Nguyễn Văn Hùng

Trần Văn Quang Quang

Ngày 08-3-2022,

Ghi Chú: Người bị cướp máy chụp hình là Dao Thiên Phạm Quốc Sách ở Gò Công. Hôm nay đã bị bệnh tại bệnh mạch máu não,

Evidence No. 1. Affidavits by Luong Xuan Duong and others on Roles of DQN in the 1997 Cao Dai Sect (from an ongoing lawsuit against DQN et al).

The witnesses intended to show that DQN secretly worked with the 1997 sect and the Communist government to frame Luong Xuan Duong as an extremist opponent of the 1997 Cao Dai Sect who planned to distribute the leaflets mentioned below and use a megaphone to incite fellow Caodaists to harm the Cao Dai Sect leader, Mr. Nguyễn Thành Tám.

Dũng Quốc Nguyễn Incident

I, Lương Xuân Dương (Dương Xuân Lương), am a plaintiff in this lawsuit against Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng. In Vietnam, I lived in Tây Ninh Province. I am taking this opportunity to report what Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng, a former Saigon resident, did in 2008.

I/- Prior to March 14, 2008. Concerning the Notice and megaphone related to the Bodhi Tree Stump Event - an event that took place on March 17, 2008 on the grounds of the Tây Ninh Holy See.

In its issue of March 18, 2008, Tây Ninh Newspaper featured on Page 5 the article *The “Blasphemous and Unholy” Activities of the Extremist Group led by Dương Xuân Lương Must Not Be Tolerated.*

Summarizing the article: In preparation for the March 17, 2008 event, Lương had around 1000 copies of the “Notice” printed for distribution, aiming to disseminate the following information: on March 17 the government would punish Mr. Nguyễn Thành Tám - to pique the curiosity of many. Furthermore, Lương obtained a megaphone to facilitate the execution of his plan. Lương hoped to lure thousands to participate.

Let me give you the context below:

Who is Nguyễn Quốc Dũng?

Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng, the son of a teacher by the name Nguyễn Văn Xem who taught me French in 10th grade, was a classmate of my wife in a teacher- training college in Tây Ninh. Mr. Dũng had stopped practicing the Cao Dai religion when he and I met in 2006. I advised Mr. Dũng to resume his vegetarian diet and his religious practice. Mr. Dũng heeded my advice. Upon returning to Saigon, Mr. Dũng had the memoir of Mr. Trần Quang Vinh, his grandfather, printed. After that, the police summoned Mr. Dũng for an interrogation session. About two months after that session, Mr. Dũng went to Tây Ninh and told me that the memoir contained a page inserted by Mr. Trần Quang Cảnh (the son of Mr. Trần Quang Vinh) recounting the death of Mr. Trần Quang Vinh (who was killed by the communists) and that was the reason why Dũng was summoned by the police. Mr. Dũng also told me that “the police closed the case and only asked me to monitor and report on you. But I swear I will never hurt you.”

I started to be on guard against Mr. Dũng from then on.

It is true that in 2008 Mr. Dũng traveled from Saigon to my house in Tây Ninh to tell me that he wanted to create a notice urging others to participate on the day of prayer, March 17, 2008. I did not collaborate with him after responding that it was his own project for earning religious merit. Subsequently, Mr. Dũng returned to Saigon, had the notice printed, and found a way to get it to me, through Ms. Võ Thị Nguyễn (another Caodaist whom I knew), twice. The first time, Mr. Dũng drove to Vĩnh Nguyên Tự Temple to deliver copies of the

notice to Ms. Nguyễn. The second time, Mr. Dũng met Ms. Nguyễn at the An Sương Bus Station to give her several copies and a large megaphone whose color was gray, and asked her to deliver them to my home. According to her, he handed her as many as thousands of copies.

When Ms. Nguyễn delivered the items, I did not accept the thousands of copies but only took a single copy to read it. I accepted the megaphone. Later, I crushed it and put the destroyed thing in a scrap metal storage shed.

Below is a handwritten note from Ms. Võ Thị Nguyễn stating that Mr. Dũng had given her the copies and the megaphone, and statements from two witnesses.

1/- Handwritten note from Ms. Võ Thị Nguyễn.

On this 9th day of June 2014,

I am recording my visit in Year Two thousand eight, 2008, to the graves of our predecessors.

I departed from Tây Ninh for Bạc Liêu and wound up the trip at Vĩnh Nguyên Tự Temple in Cần Giuộc District. When our bus reached its destination, two persons riding a motorbike with red handles approached me (Nguyễn) and said that they had a gift for Mr. Lương - around 3000 copies of the notice. I asked the man for his name so that I could tell Mr. Lương. The man said that his name was Nguyễn Quốc Dũng. Mr. Lương did not want the gift. At 6 AM on the following day, I rode my bicycle and brought the gift to Lương's home, but he forbade me from bringing it inside.

Afterwards, I distributed the copies of the notice. The police interrogated me constantly after I transported 2 full bags and a megaphone that Mr. Lương prevented me from bringing into his home. I put the bags on my bicycle because I wanted to take off in a hurry, fearing that others would see them. Because of my haste, I dropped the megaphone on the ground. Mr. Lương hurriedly asked me to just leave the megaphone because he wanted me to disappear as soon as possible.

I affirm that what I wrote is the truth.

The 12th day of the 5th month of the Lunar New Year of the Horse.

Võ Thị Nguyễn (signed)

2/- Mr. Phùng Văn Phan, whose religious rank is Archival/Investigation Specialist, is a witness who rode the bus and prepared the following testimony.

In 2008, a group of clergy members associated with the Hiep Thien Tower and Cuu Trung Tower organizations of the Cao Dai Church, church functionaries, and adherents went on a tour to visit the graves of preceding clergy members who had done much to build the religion in the southern provinces. On the return leg of the trip, we stopped by Vĩnh Nguyên Tự Temple in Cần Giuộc District to visit and learn about the history and artifacts related to the teaching of our religious doctrine through seances with the Supreme Being and Divinities.

Our group included around 20 people and we rode in the 25-seat bus owned by Mr. Hiền, with Ms. Võ Thị Nguyễn acting as the driver's assistant.

When we reached Vĩnh Nguyên Tự Temple, I saw Quốc Dũng riding a motorbike with dark red handlebars and a female passenger who might have been over 60 years old riding the same motorbike, seated behind him.

Dũng handed to Mr. Khanh, the chairman of the Executive Committee of Phù Mỹ Temple Parish (in Qui Nhơn City) a stack of typewritten sheets (and subsequently, another stack to Ms. Nguyễn).

On the return trip to Tây Ninh Province, Ms. Nguyễn gave each passenger a copy. It was the notice urging fellow adherents to come to the Tây Ninh Holy See on August 10 and meet at the Bodhi Tree Stump in Đại Đồng Xã Courtyard to kick out the Governing Council and reclaim the property of the Cao Dai Church.

When the bus reached An Sương on National Highway 22, the bus stopped, Quốc Dũng gave Ms. Nguyễn a large, black bag.

Phùng Văn Phan
Archival/Investigation Specialist
(signed)

3/- Mr. Nguyễn Thành Nghiệp, Chairman of a Parish Executive Committee, rode the bus and prepared the following testimony.

I, the undersigned, am the chairman of the Executive Committee of Cần Thạnh Parish in Cần Giờ District Religious Subdivision, Ho Chi Minh City

Shortly after the noon hour on ... 2008, we met QUỐC DŨNG at Vĩnh Nguyên Tự Temple as I was a passenger on the bus driven by Ms. NGUYỄN with other adherents from Tây Ninh Province on a pilgrimage. As our bus started pulling away from the temple, Mr. QUỐC DŨNG arrived, handed a bag of documents to Ms. NGUYỄN. Ms. NGUYỄN opened the bag and saw that it contained leaflets urging Caoadaists to gather at Đại Đồng Xã Courtyard in front of the Tây Ninh Holy See Temple on to chase the Governing Council and its leader NGUYỄN THÀNH TÁM from the Temple grounds. This statement is truthful.

Nguyễn Thành Nghiệp
(signed)

II/- Event of March 14, 2008

The Cao Dai Popular Council urged fellow adherents to return to the Bodhi Tree Stump on March 17, 2008 to pray that the 1997 Sect will return the Tây Ninh Holy See to Caoadaists.

On March 14, 2008, I took a bus to Saigon to visit my children. While we talked, Mr. Dũng telephoned me, and during our phone conversation, he heard a honking sound. He asked me if I was in a moving vehicle. I replied that I had taken something to an automobile repair shop for them to work on. Mr. Dũng called me a few more times and insisted that I was to call him back when I got home. I replied that I would call him when I got back home.

In the early afternoon, Mr. Dũng called again to ask if I had come home (he called my cell phone after I left home to go into hiding because I felt that he was setting a trap for the police to arrest me). I told him that I was home but I was too tired and fell asleep. Later, Mr. Dũng called my home phone. When my wife picked up the phone, he asked her to let him talk to me. He did that several times. Each time, my wife replied: "Mr. Lương is home but he never answers the home phone." Finally, she went on some errands.

About 30 minutes later, the police entered my house to serve an arrest warrant. They couldn't arrest me because I had left the house. The police searched the scrap metal storage shed and retrieved the megaphone, a computer hard drive, and some papers.

I declare that I take full responsibility for the above material.

Plaintiff.

Lương Xuân Dương