

This is a compilation of speeches and slideshows at the Candlelight Vigil July 28, 2018 at Spokane Tribal Gathering Place (the plaza next to Spokane City Hall)

In 5,000 years of Vietnamese history, Vietnamese people have consistently fought against the Han Chinese. Currently there is a resistance and fight against the Communist Chinese invasion and for Vietnam's sovereignty.

The Chinese army currently occupies the entire Eastern Sea belonging to Vietnam, calling it the South China Sea. China has built extensive military bases on the Paracel and Spratly Islands, on which Vietnam makes ownership claim. Vietnamese fishermen have been killed or drowned. Tons of ocean fish have died because of toxic materials dumped into the Eastern sea from Formosa, a heavy-industry Chinese company.

The Vietnamese Communist Party has sold large, sacred lands to China, including forests, mountains, rivers, seaports and islands of Vietnam. Many Vietnamese cities are occupied, under direct rule of communist China. There are already 15 "Special Economic Zones" (SEZ) now in Vietnam for industrial development. China's "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR) Initiative is an ambitious, insidious plan to dominate world trade. The Vietnamese government is sacrificing citizens well-being and natural national treasures in exchange for greed and profit.

China already signed contracts with over 60 nations along the OBOR belt, worth about 1 trillion USD for SEZ – including a 99 year "lease" plan, to lend 3 Vietnamese seaports to China. The Vietnamese border is now open to China, allowing the flood of millions of people, troops and military equipment into Vietnam.

Meanwhile, Vietnamese dissidents are terrorized, persecuted, killed, jailed or put under house arrest. Vietnam is a one-party communist system without a free press, which is crucial to prevent corruption. Ordinary citizens struggle to make ends meet—many of them poor or homeless—while corrupt government officials are millionaires living in luxury.

In 1973, United States pulled out of South Vietnam. Saigon fell in 1975. The entire free society in South Vietnam collapsed and was taken over by the communist government of the North. Imagine the terror, pain, and suffering that these families have endured, including violations to human rights and religious freedom. Hundreds of thousands of South

Candlelight Vigil July 28, 2018 Freedom for Vietnam

Vietnamese were imprisoned.

Currently, freedom is restricted. The Internet is restricted. Speech and social media are controlled and censored. Intellectuals and religious leaders are imprisoned. Churches, lands, and private homes continue to be confiscated. Religions are controlled, and all media is state-controlled. Demonstrations are violently suppressed.

People are hopeless and angry. This time the uprisings are substantial. The government cannot continue to block social media networks. Millions of ordinary people, from all walks of life, take to the streets. In many places, police forces have given up. Massive demonstrations happen without leadership. More than 200 prominent activists are put in jail, but people are unafraid. ■



ĐÊM THẮP NẾN CẦU NGUYỆN cho Việt Nam đã được tổ chức ngoài trời, giữa phố, Thứ Bảy 28 tháng 7-2018, ở downtown Spokane, sát cạnh tòa thị chính Spokane. Chưa khi nào ở downtown Spokane rợp cờ vàng bấy giờ phất phới trong gió chiều như thế. Điều này có gây thắc mắc cho nhiều khách bộ hành đi ngang qua plaza/công viên Spokane Tribal Gathering Place.

Thư mời của Hội Cao Niên Spokane ghi: "Cuộc thấp nển này sẽ có triển lãm, diễn văn, video, slideshow, nhạc, cầu nguyện. Để trình bày cho thế giới thấy tình trạng khủng bố đàn áp ở Việt Nam và dân chúng nổi dậy phản kháng. Chúng ta có mời quý vị lãnh đạo tinh thần, cựu chiến binh Mỹ, giới chức chính quyền, giáo sư đại học, dân Á Châu và dân Mỹ địa phương để cùng cầu nguyện, yểm trợ người Việt cứu Nước!"

Khách đọc thấy 2 băng-rôn lớn 8x3ft ghi: "Human Rights for Vietnam", "Freedom for Vietnam". Ngoài ra là các biểu ngữ cầm tay "China: Stop Invading Vietnam", "China: Stop Destroying Vietnam", "China: Stop Organ Harvesting", "Set Free Political Prisoners in Vietnam"... Rải rác đó đây là các banner vinyl 2x2ft ghi: "China Back Off", "Thank You America", "God Bless America", "No Freedom of Speech in Vietnam", "Remembering Vietnam", "We are Vietnamese Political Refugees"... ■



Photos by Thai Phuong, Tan Do & Internet