

October 3, 2018

To: The President and Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia,
and Directors of the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory

Dear Sirs and Madams:

On behalf of Boat People SOS (BPSOS), I am writing to express our full support for the International Museum for the Victims of Communism and Research Center of Communist Crimes to be established in Tallin, Estonia. It is imperative that the atrocities committed by the different communist regimes be documented for future generations to avoid the repeat of similar human tragedies.

As an organization that has, for the last four decades, rescued and protected refugees fleeing communist Vietnam, we are well aware of the crimes committed by the Vietnamese communists, including:

- The mass murder of some 1,000 land owners under the agricultural reform of 1954-1956;
- The summary execution of close to 3,000 civilians in the City of Hue during the 1968 Tet offensive;
- The incarceration of 300,000 South Vietnamese government officials and military officers after the fall of Saigon in 1975 -- scholarly studies have estimated that thousands of these detainees had been summarily executed;
- Some 1 million Vietnamese had to flee by boat to escape communist persecution, resulting in some 300,000 deaths at sea;
- The on-going imprisonment of 246 dissidents and religious leaders, including the indefinite "temple arrest" of the Supreme Patriarch of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam and the life imprisonment of the founder of the An Dan Dai Dao Buddhist Sect;
- Tens of thousands of workers sold by state-owned enterprises into modern-day slavery;
- Numerous deaths in police custody and by torture.

The list goes on.

We stand ready to collect stories, artifacts and documentary evidence to contribute to the museum and help raise funds to support its maintenance. We have also talked to different groups among the Vietnamese diaspora about the project and they have all expressed excitement and support.

Founded in 1980 by former Vietnamese refugees, BPSOS is a non-profit organization with branches in multiple cities in the United States and operations in Southeast Asia. For the past 38 years, BPSOS's international initiatives have defended the rights of asylum seekers, rescued victims of human trafficking, supported at-risk human rights defenders and built capacity for persecuted religious and indigenous communities. For its work promoting human rights and

democracy in Vietnam and Southeast Asia, the President and House Speaker of the Republic of China (Taiwan) presented BPSOS with the 2011 Asia Award for Democracy and Human Rights.

It is a privilege for BPSOS to be part of this meaningful undertaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nguyen Thang', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nguyen Dinh Thang, PhD
CEO & President