

Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Assembly, and the Rule of Law:

A snapshot of the case of Vietnam

Le Thi Thuy Huong, PhD Candidate, School of Law,
Vietnam National University Hanoi

Introduction

Religion, Freedom of Religion and Belief in Vietnam

Freedom of Assembly: A challenge

The rule of law: A promise

Legal Framework on FORB and FFOA

The case of the Revival Ekklesia Mission Church

Recommendations

Vietnam

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Just replace the screenshot with your own.





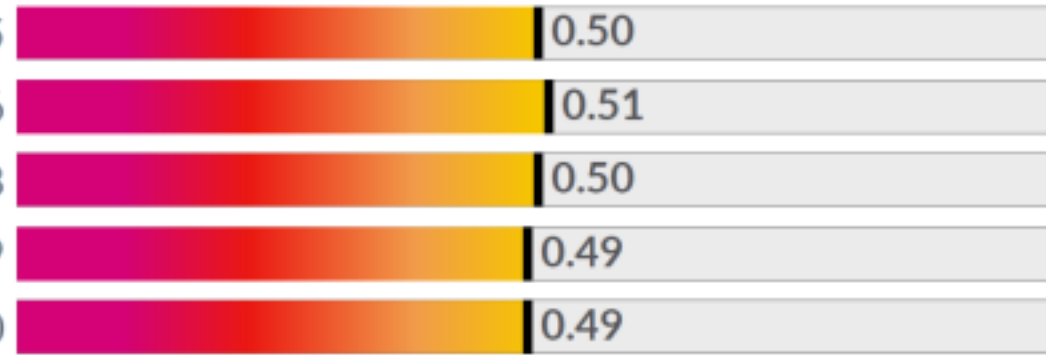
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Make it easy for your audience to understand and respond.

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Over Time, 2015 - 2020



**Add
your
title
here**

Countries, 2020

Between global, East Asia & Pacific

GLOBAL REGION INCOME GROUP

85 / 128



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Vietnam: country of multiple religions

6 major religions: Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Muslim, Caodaism and Hoa Hao Buddhism

Other religions: Hindus, the Baha'i Faith, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (Church of Jesus Christ), the Vietnamese Pure Land Buddhism Association, Baha'i Religious Community of Viet Nam, Bửu Sơn Kỳ Hương, Đạo Tứ Ân Hiếu Nghĩa, Minh Sư Theravada Buddhist Sect, Minh Lý Sect – Tam Tông Miếu, Cham Brahmanism, Tịnh Độ Cư Sĩ Phật hội Việt Nam, Phật giáo Hiếu Nghĩa Tà Lơn, and Giáo hội Cơ đốc Phục lâm Việt Nam

13 mil. religious adherents, **14%** of the total population (96,208,984); **53** ethnic minorities out of 54 national ethnic groups (14% percent of the population) practicing different beliefs, many are adherents of Protestantism or Theravada Buddhism (*National Population and Housing Census 2019*).

Wooden Cathedral, Kon Tum province



St. Joseph's Cathedral, Hanoi

Saint Nicolas Cathedral, Da Lat City



Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica, Ho Chi Minh City



The Po Nagar
Cham



Towers, Nha Trang
City



Subramaniam Temple, HCMC

Khmer
Temple,
Tra Vinh
province



Two Vietnamese-origin religions

Hoa Hao Buddhism



Cao Dai Temple, Tay Ninh province

Religion, Freedom of Religion and Belief in Vietnam

- Practice
- Issues of concern
- Trends of development

Tran Quoc (*Nation Guardian*) Pagoda, Hanoi Hung King Temple, Phu Tho province

Freedom of Assembly: A challenge

- Practice



- Issues of concern
- Trends of development

Hanoi August Revolution 1945 in front of the Colonial Government Premise. Photo: VNA

Saigon 1963 Demonstration against the Government of South Vietnam in front of Giac Minh Pagoda. Photo: AP

The rule of law: A promise

- CPV's Guidance
- GVN Action
- Opportunities and Challenges

The
National
Assembly
and The
Supreme
People's
Court



Legal Framework on FORB and FFOA

- The 2013 Constitution
- The 2016 Religion Law
- Sub-laws and Regulatory Rules

Major issues:

- pending draft law on FFOA;
- incompatibility with international HR law; - weak

protection mechanism and limited capacity

The case of the Revival Ekklesia Mission Church

FORB vs. covid-19 restrictions

- Registered as a religious group at a meeting point;
 - Not yet recognized as a religious organization and head of the group is not yet a recognized pastor;
 - Pandemic spreading case: more than 200 COVID-19 cases related to the cluster had been confirmed;
- Being prosecuted in a criminal case related to the COVID-19 infection

cluster at
“Hoi thanh truyen giao Phuc Hung”
(Revival Ekklesia Mission) in the discharge
of “spreading dangerous infectious
diseases in humans” under Article 240 of
the revised 2017 Criminal Code.

Recommendations

- Revision of legal
framework on FORB for
improved compatibility with
international norms and

standards;
- Development of legal
framework on freedom of
association and assembly in
line with international HR
law;

- Application of non
discrimination principle: registered

vs. unregistered; major vs. minor religions/religious organizations;
- Consideration of application of civil law for FORB and FFOA;
- Consideration of NHRI establishment;

- Acceleration of HR education, including FORB and FFOA;
- Capacity building for judicial personnel, law enforcement forces,

and policy implementers and practitioners;
- Expansion of collaboration with religious organizations and individuals in development work, including support to vulnerable population.

Thank you!

