



# LAO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, INC

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December 7, 2006  
General Sonthi Boonyaratkalin  
National Security Council Chair  
Government House  
Phitsanalouk Road  
Dusit, Bangkok 10300 Thailand

Dear Honorable General Sonthi Boonyaratkalin;

A group of 152 Lao Hmong refugees and 16 asylum seekers are in imminent danger of being forced to return to Laos from Thailand where they will be in danger of severe human rights violation including torture and deprivation. These individuals have been moved to a detention center on the Lao border with Thailand.

Included in this group of people are 77 children and 8 infants. The conditions under which they are being held are extremely crowded and are at immediate risk of forcible return to Laos, where they will not have any access to international human rights organization who might offer them humanitarian aid.

On 5 December 2005, the Thai authorities forcibly returned a group of 27 Ethnic Hmong refugees, 22 of them are children separated from their parents, to Laos. According to Amnesty International, "these children have been held incommunicado since and have reportedly been ill-treated; some have been tortured".

On 15 November 2006, the Thai Authorities handed over 53 Hmong asylum-seekers to the Lao Authorities, there is no international access to these people and they have been unknown since then.

On 2 December 2006, Lao Hmong in-hiding in Phou Kong Khao, Phou Hok, Phou Bang, Phou Yeui Vangvieng Province and Phou Chia Louang Prabang, Phou da phao, Xieng Khoua Laos have reported that there has been heavy attack by the Laotian military forces.

The Hmong in Laos have been forced to be soldiers for the LPDR and ordered to hunt down and kill their brothers and sisters who are in hiding. Those who refused to carry out these orders will be killed, tortured, and face serious persecution.

To forcibly return these innocent people to Laos will undoubtedly cause them to face serious danger, including persecution and death. This is a violation of human dignity and the rights of these people and violates international human rights laws. If the Thai government cooperates in this effort with the Lao government, they will be equally guilty of ethnic cleansing perpetrated against the Hmong people.

We are asking the Thai government to reconsider the plight of these innocent people and allow them to stay in the refugee camps already established in the northern provinces of Thailand.

These 152 people have been identified by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and should be protected under international law which prohibits the forcible return of refugees who would be at risk of serious human rights abuses.

The relationship between the Thai Government, its citizens, and the Lao Hmong is a long and friendly chapter in history. We implore you to act to continue this friendly relationship and let these Lao Hmong refugees live in peace in Thailand. We are asking the United Nations to act swiftly to bring humanitarian aid to these people, so that their remaining in Thailand will not impose any burden for their care on the Thai government. Thank you for considering the plight of these innocent people.

Cordially,



Vaughn Vang

Vaughn Vang, Executive Director of the Lao Human Rights Council, Inc

Cc:

Genral Surayud Chulanont, Prime Minister

Nitya Pibulsonggram, Ministry of foreign Affairs

Secretary –General Prakit Prachonpachanuk, National Security Council

United Nation Higher Comminssioner of Human Rights

Southeast Asia Team Amnesty International

Thai Ambassador to the United States of American

National Human Rights Commission, Thai Land

European Parliament Union

Thai Ambassador to United Nation, New York

Members of U.S Congress

Members of U.S Sanators

Hmong Origanizations bas in the U.S

Radio Free Asian, VOA, Lao Hmong Radio

