



LAO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, INC

P.O. Box 1844

Green Bay, WI 54305-1844

Phone & Fax: (920) 544-5369

Email: laohumanrightscouncil@hotmail.com

Website: www.laohumanrightscouncil.org

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To the United Nations, the Thailand and Laos governments, and all Human Rights Organizations:

At this very moment our U.S. based Lao Human Rights Council have just received credible reports from long san, Thailand that 31 Hmong-Lao refugees are being forcibly deported back to Laos.

We strongly urge you to protect the Hmong-Lao refugees against the inhumane forced deportation. We hold recorded evidence of each of the individuals expressing clearly that they, under no circumstances, want to return to Laos. They further explain that their lives would be in great danger as they are part of the Hmong-Lao who were living a life in hiding and running from merciless and unprovoked military attacks. These Hmong Lao should be protected by the United Nations and international human rights.

The Hmong-Lao do not voluntarily seek Thailand as a new place of residency, but are forced involuntarily to seek refuge due to military oppression, starvation, torture, persecution and death.

"It has been estimated that 20 rebel groups are surrounded by Lao military and have been reduced to starvation and disease in the forest where they have sought refuge. Many of them have fled to Cambodia and Thailand, where there have been reported of hundreds of deportations" Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples in Asia.

Forcing the deportation would be cooperating with the Lao DPR mission of persecution, human rights violation against these innocent Hmong people.

We hope that you will be able to intervene in a timely manner so that this atrocity of forcing desperate refugees back to the very country which they involuntarily had to leave will not happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vaughn Vang".

Vaughn Vang

Executive Director of Lao Human Rights Council