



VIETNAM AGENT ORANGE RELIEF & RESPONSIBILITY CAMPAIGN

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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR AGENT ORANGE VICTIMS PRESS STATEMENT

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The Time for Compensation for Vietnamese Victims of Agent Orange is Now – Justice Delayed IS Justice Denied!

August 10th is International Agent Orange Day – a day to remember the suffering of 3 million victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin in Vietnam and around the world. August 10th was the first day that the U.S. Army began spraying Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, 46 year ago.

Vietnamese, U.S. and other allied countries' veterans continue to die on a daily basis from Agent Orange related cancers and other illnesses. In the one year since the last Agent Orange Day, thousands of people have died, including 3 people very dear to our Campaign:

- *Ms. Nguyen Thi Hong*, a veteran from southern Vietnam, who died on July 20th from breast cancer caused by her exposure to Agent Orange during the war and after, when she lived near a toxic Dioxin contaminated “hot spot.”
- *Mr. Nguyen Van Quy*, a veteran from northern Vietnam, who died on July 7th of stomach and lung cancer caused by his exposure to Agent Orange during the war. Mr. Quy leaves behind 2 children who are severely disabled developmentally and physically from dioxin.
- *Ms. Joan Duffy*, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, who died of breast cancer due to being sprayed with Agent Orange during her service as a nurse in Vietnam.

Ms. Hong and *Mr. Quy* were members of a delegation which visited the U.S. just 2 months ago to attend a court hearing on the lawsuit of Vietnamese Agent Orange victims against Dow Chemical, Monsanto and the other chemical manufacturers of Agent Orange.

Ms. Duffy was a tireless advocate for compensation for U.S. and Vietnamese Agent Orange victims and a leader in Veterans For Peace and our Campaign. She attended an International Conference of Victims of Agent Orange in Vietnam in March, 2006. After her death, the Santa Fe chapter of Veterans For Peace was renamed the Joan Duffy Chapter.

The deaths of *Ms. Hong* and *Ms. Duffy* and *Mr. Quy* are a sad testament to the fact that time is running out for millions of people suffering from Agent Orange caused illnesses – and for their families! **This human tragedy must be addressed by those responsible – the U.S. government and the chemical manufacturers.**

Joan Duffy spent her last months of life seeking justice for Vietnam's Agent Orange victims. Now we ask that our government and Dow, Monsanto and the other companies honor her memory by doing the right thing – healing the wounds of war and compensating Vietnam's Agent Orange victims NOW!

Background:

More than 30 years after the end of the U.S. war that killed more than 58,000 Americans and 3 million Vietnamese, U.S. veterans are demanding compensation for their Vietnamese counterparts. U.S. veterans received partial compensation for their injuries from the chemical companies and the U.S. government but Vietnamese veterans received **not one penny** in compensation from the U.S. government which sprayed them with Agent Orange.

- Three million Vietnamese and tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers are affected by Agent Orange
- Agent Orange causes birth defects in hundreds of thousands of children.
- Agent Orange continues to poison the natural environment of Vietnam.

The Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign, (www.vn-agentorange.org) is a grass roots organization of veterans, Vietnamese Americans, people of faith, workers, scientists, environmentalists and others who support the lawsuit of Agent Orange victims against U.S. chemical manufacturers and bring citizen pressure on the U.S. government to provide compensation for Vietnamese Agent Orange survivors.

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