



## Fighting for Justice & Compensation for Vietnamese Agent Orange Victims and All Agent Orange Victims!

Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign, United States

August 2008



**National Coalition Formed on February 28, 2005**

In support of justice for Vietnamese Agent Orange victims, a national coalition of veterans, Vietnamese-Americans and other community leaders announces the formation of the **Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign** (VAORRC) on February 28, 2005. This corresponds to the first court hearing on the lawsuit of Vietnamese Agent Orange victims against 37 U.S. chemical companies in U.S. federal court.



since February 28, 2005...



We have been working in partnership with the **Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin (VAVA)**.

VAORRC  
in  
solidarity  
with  
VAVA  
in Danang



The Agent  
Orange  
victims'  
lawyers  
meeting  
before the  
Court  
hearing.  
Brooklyn, NY.



# VAVA: The Voice Agent Orange Victims



- Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin (VAVA) is the representative of Vietnam's 3 million+ Agent Orange victims.
- VAVA has chapters from the national to the commune level with experienced leaders including many veterans, scientists and public health experts.
- VAVA advocates for victims in Vietnam and internationally and conducts a wide range of aid and assistance programs for victims and their families.



# Organizational Structure

VAORRC is a project of Veterans For Peace.

- VAORRC is a non-profit organization under the fiscal sponsorship of Veterans for Peace.



# National Board of VAORRC



VAORRC is led by a National Board of 48 people from many cities. Our Board includes veterans, Vietnamese Americans, labor activists, lawyers, scientists, clergy, artists and other activists.

# VAORRC Core Group

Our National Board is coordinated by  
a Core Group of 8 members:

- Paul Cox (CA)
- Bui Van Dao (TX)
- Sanford Kelson (PA)
- Ngô Thanh Nhân (NY)
- Merle Ratner (NY)
- Dawn Reel (NY)
- Susan Schnall (NY)
- Steve Sherlock (MN)



# VAORRC Core Group

Along with attorneys:

- Jeanne Mirer
- and
- Jonathan Moore





# Goals of Campaign



- We support the Vietnamese Agent Orange survivors and their representative, the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin in their lawsuit against the U.S. chemical companies. Their lawsuit is a historic first effort by Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange to achieve compensation from the manufacturers who profited from this chemical warfare.
- We call upon our government to meet its responsibility to compensate the more than three million Vietnamese people suffering from the effects of Agent Orange. The U.S. government has a moral and legal obligation to heal the wounds of war.
- Our Campaign will continue until justice for Vietnamese Agent Orange victims is achieved by winning significant U.S. government compensation.

# Advancing the cause of AO victims



- VAORRC believes that in order to win justice, we must base our activities on grassroots support including **organizing national tours of Vietnamese victims and pressing the U.S. government to compensate the victims.**
- VAORRC formalized a strategic alliance between the Vietnam veterans and Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange (VFP Resolution, July 2004).
- VAORRC has been participating in international solidarity with all victims of Agent Orange from the U.S., Vietnam, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea (Conference in Hanoi, March 2006).
- VAORRC is raising awareness on the public health and environmental problems persisting in Vietnam within the U.S. public and scientific communities (APHA policy on Agent Orange passed on November 6, 2007).

# What We Have Done



- From 2004 to the present, we have organized national educational campaigns circulating a brochure. The brochure can be read online, go to [Basic Brochure](http://www.vn-agentorange.org) under the tab [Educational Materials](http://www.vn-agentorange.org) at [www.vn-agentorange.org](http://www.vn-agentorange.org)

# What We Have Done, cont.



- We have helped get signatures on the petition online and organizing local events to build support.



Greeting Dr. Phi Phi after the first court hearing at the 1199 SEIU Bread & Rose Gallery - March 6, 2005.

# What We Have Done, cont.



- We have hosted three speaking tours together with VAVA and visited Vietnam to study the situation of Agent Orange victims:
- **Tour 1** - Fall, 2005
- **Tour 2** - Spring, 2007: Corresponded with Court Hearing, NYC
- **Tour 3** - Fall, 2007: Public Health Tour



- As Part of Healing the Wounds of War  
Join us in welcoming the Vietnamese survivors:  
**VIETNAMESE VICTIMS  
OF AGENT ORANGE  
NEED JUSTICE !**



**Dr Nguyen Trong Nhan**  
Former President of  
the Vietnam Red  
Cross, representing  
the Vietnam Ass'n  
for Victims of Agent  
Orange / Dioxin



**Dang Thi Hong  
Nhut**  
From Hồ Chí Minh  
City who suffered  
multiple miscarriages  
due to exposure to  
Agent Orange in  
1965.



Visa denied by the US government.



**Ho Sy Hai**  
Veteran army truck driver

**FACTS:**

- Three million Vietnamese and tens of thousand of U.S. soldiers affected by Agent Orange used by the U.S. during the war.
- Agent Orange causes birth defects in hundreds of thousands of children.
- Agent Orange continues to poison the natural environment, soil and crops of Vietnam.

**WELCOME. SHARE. HELP!**

- **Share** the experiences of those who suffer from the affects of Agent Orange in Vietnam and in other wars our government has waged.
- **Build solidarity** between U.S., Vietnamese American and Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange.
- **Achieve justice** for Vietnamese Agent Orange victims by supporting their lawsuit against the chemical manufacturers and urging the U.S. government to provide compensation. Sign the petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/ACVN>.
- **Support the work** of the Vietnamese Ass'n for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin.

**6:30 PM**  
Wednesday, November 14, 2007  
**COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**OF NEW YORK**  
40 EAST 35TH STREET  
Manhattan (Madison & 3rd Ave.)

**Endorsed by** (partial alphabetic list):  
Black Radical Congress • Citizen Solidarity Center for Social Action/Manhattanville  
International Action Center • Korea Tri-  
Nodutdol • Physicians for Social Respon-  
sibility • Peace & Justice • Veterans For Peace  
Against the War • Women's International  
Federation •

**Sponsored by the**  
Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Respon-  
se Fund  
P.O. Box 303 • Prince St. • New York • N.Y.  
10013-0303  
info@aoa.com  
www.aoa.com



The Vietnamese Agent Orange delegation includes (l-r) Ho Si Hai (victim), Dr. Nguyen Trong Nhan (head of delegation, former President Vietnam Red Cross), Mme. Dang Hong Nhut (victim), and Mr. Vu Binh (translator).



# First Vietnam Agent Orange Justice Tour

The Vietnamese delegation visited Boston (MA), New York (NY), Philadelphia (PA), Washington (DC), Raleigh (NC), Chicago (IL), Santa Fe (NM), Seattle (WA), Portland (OR), and San Francisco (CA).



Speaking at Harvard University, Boston, MA

# Visiting Washington DC



At the mass of the Plymouth Congregational Church, and at the Veterans Memorial Wall...





# In Philadelphia during Thanksgiving



The American  
Friends Service  
Committee...

Thanksgiving at Ellen, Eric and  
Tai... The parade of pies



# First Vietnam Agent Orange Justice Tour



**Seattle/Kirkland WA**



**Speaking in Raleigh, NC**



**Portland, OR**



**Speaking in Chicago, IL**



# Visiting Santa Fe, New Mexico



Meeting with Native American leaders...



# At a high school in San Francisco, CA



And interviewed  
by CBS5 Bay  
Area TV...



A student hugged Chi Hong after the talk...



# First tour ended...

At the San Francisco International Airport...



# Second Vietnam Agent Orange Justice Tour



Spring, 2007: Second Vietnam Agent Justice Tour – 5 cities. Strong support at, and in solidarity with, Court hearing on the lawsuit brought by VAVA against 37 U.S. chemical manufacturers.



Many U.S. veterans came in support of the lawsuit (gold, front doors of courthouse)



# Delegation Members



Prof. Tran Xuan Thu



Mr. Nguyen Van Quy



Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hong



Mr. Vo Thanh Hai &  
Mr. Nguyen Muoi

**Come Hear**  
**Vietnamese Victims of Agent Orange**

Sat., June 16, 2007  
6:30pm  
MLK Labor Center/1199  
310 W. 43rd Street  
bet. 8th & 9th Aves.,  
A,C,E to 42nd St.  
Manhattan, NYC

			
Nguyen Thi Hong From Bien Hoa. Suffered multiple premature births and serious illness.	Nguyen Muoi. Son of ARVN vet suffering from spina. bifida from father's exposure.	Nguyen Van Quy Vet from Thai Binh suffers from liver damage, stomach cancer & more.	Vo Thanh Hai Forestry worker from Hue who suffers from Hodgkins Disease. Post-war victim.

Meet Vietnamese survivors of Agent Orange poisoning. Despite being ill, they are here to attend a court hearing on their lawsuit against 37 U.S. chemical companies; tell their stories to Americans; and bear witness to the ongoing human and ecological devastation caused by war, environmental racism, and chemical weapons. Join peace and justice activists in supporting their demands for compensation by the chemical companies who profited from the manufacture of Agent Orange, and the U.S. government that sprayed it.

National Justice Tour co-sponsors: Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Resp. Campaign, Veterans For Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, National Lawyers Guild, and United For Peace & Justice

# Second Vietnam Agent Orange Justice Campaign



## Vietnamese Delegation Arrives to tour New York (NY), Washington (DC), Midland (WI), Chicago (IL) and San Francisco (CA).



Greetings in San Francisco International Airport



Greetings at the 777 United Nations Plaza



# U.S. Court of Appeals Hearing



Organized nationwide support for the US Court of Appeals Hearing June 18 2007.



Eloquent testimony from all victims at crowded press conferences before and after the court hearing.



# VAVA Survivors Speak at MLK Labor Center, New York



## Audience Applauding Mr. Nguyen Muoi, June 16, 2007





## Veterans Dave Cline (US) & Veteran Mr. Nguyen Van Quy (Vietnam)



Dave Cline gave Mr. Nguyen Van Quy his Purple Heart at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Labor Center, June 16, 2007, New York City.



# Second Nationwide Tour:

Agent Orange Survivors & U.S. Veterans at the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.



# Second Tour: Visiting Congress



Congressman John Conyers (MI)



Congressman McDermott (WA)

# Dr. Thu Visits a “Hotspot” in Midland



Prof. Tran Xuan Thu at the dioxin contamination area in Midland, MI, June 21, 2007



# Speaking in Chicago, IL

Speaking to national antiwar delegates at the United for Peace and Justice Congress, June 23, 2007.



Press Conference in Chicago



## Third Agent Orange Justice Tour: Public Health Tour



Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong  
November 3, 2007, National Lawyers Guild  
Convention, Washington, DC.





# Third Vietnam Agent Orange Justice Tour



Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, Vice President of the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange (VAVA) toured Washington DC where a policy of the American Public Health Association on Agent Orange was passed on November 6 2007



## Dr. Phuong speaks at APHA

The first ever policy of the American Public Health Association (APHA) on Agent Orange.

APHA is the largest public health organization in the world.



# Third Tour



- Speaking with Prof. Arnold Schechter, before the American Public Health Association.



# Third Tour: Visiting Congress



Congressman John Conyers



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee



Congressman Bob Filner



# First Congressional Hearing - May 2008



VAORRC participated in the first ever congressional hearing held, *“Our Forgotten Responsibility: What Can We Do to Help the Victims of Agent Orange?”*

U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs:  
Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific,  
and the Global Environment  
Eni F. H. Faleomavaega (D-AS) Chairman





# Veterans for Peace are Active



- VAORRC participated in Veterans For Peace National Conventions in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007,...



At the Veterans For Peace National Convention at the University of Washington in Seattle, August 9-12, 2006.

# International AO victims solidarity

International solidarity...

Vietnam, March 28-29,  
2006 **Unprecedented!**  
**International Conference**  
**of Victims of Agent**  
**Orange** from Vietnam,  
Korea, United States,  
Canada, New Zealand, and  
Australia with social  
movements from France,  
Germany, Switzerland,  
Russia and Great Britain,...



U.S. delegation jamming with artists and AO children, March 2006.

# Supported South Korean Veterans

International solidarity...



- 32 South Korean Victims of Agent Orange bring their case to the United Nations (New York) and to the White House (Washington DC), August 21 - September 1, 2006.





# 4th Vietnam Agent Orange Justice Tour



Ms. TRAN THI HOAN (21), was born on December 16, 1986 in Duc Linh district of Binh Thuan province in Central Vietnam. She is a second generation victim of Agent Orange. Her mother was exposed to Agent Orange as a result of the war. She was born without two legs and one hand is seriously atrophied. From the time she was 12 years old, Hoàn has lived in Peace Village II, the Agent Orange center at Tu Du Hospital, Ho Chi Minh City. Hoàn is now a college student in computer science in Ho Chi Minh City and is fluent in English. This is her first visit to the U.S.



# 4th Vietnam Agent Orange Justice Tour



Ms. DANG HONG NHUT was born on December 12, 1936, married in 1959 and gave birth to a healthy son in 1960.

Between 1961 and 1966 she joined the resistance forces in the Southeastern region of Vietnam (included Tây Ninh, Binh Duong, Cu Chi), which was heavily sprayed with Agent Orange. She was directly exposed to Agent Orange and suffered from skin rashes and diarrhea. Between 1966 and 1972 she was arrested and imprisoned by the US-supported government. In 1973 and again in 1975 and 1980 Ms. Nhut suffered miscarriages early in her pregnancy. In 1977, she gave birth to a congenitally deformed still-born child. In 2002, she had surgery to remove an intestinal tumor. In 2003, she underwent another operation to remove a tumor from her thyroid. She now has cancer. Ms. Nhut's husband was a resistance fighter in the same region between 1960 and 1975 and was also exposed to Agent Orange. He was later diagnosed with intestinal cancer, metastasizing to the lung and the liver. He died in May, 1999.



# 4th Vietnam Agent Orange Justice Tour



**Ms. DINH THI MINH HUYEN is accompanying as an Interpreter. Ms. Huyen is from the Vietnam Peace & Development Foundation and Vietnam Association for Protection of Children's Rights.**

# 4th Vietnam Agent Orange Justice Tour



- **Vietnamese Women Agent Orange Victims Visit 10 U.S. Cities, Sept. 29 - Oct. 30, 2008**
- Organizing committee are planning events in:
  - New York City, 9/29 - 10/4
  - Washington DC, 10/5 - 10/8
  - Birmingham AL, 10/9 - 10/11
  - Pittsburgh PA, 10/12 - 10/14
  - Detroit MI, 10/15 - 10/18
  - Chicago IL, 10/19 - 10/22
  - Portland & Eugene OR, 10/23 - 10/25
  - Los Angeles, CA, 10/26 - 10/28
  - San Francisco CA, 10/28 - 10/30

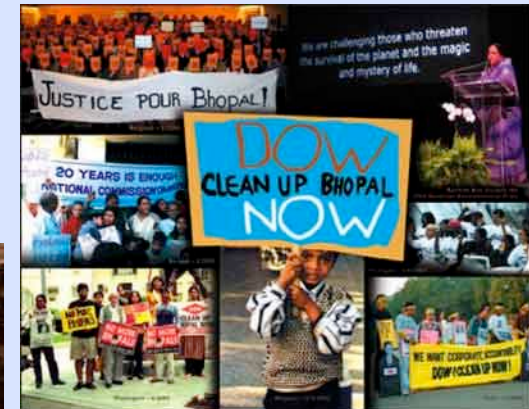
# Upcoming Work



- Work to get hearings on Agent Orange and a bill introduced in Congress to compensate Vietnamese Agent Orange victims as well as Vietnamese Americans, and additional compensation for US veterans and their families.



# Corporate Accountability



The Yes Men, Acceptable Risk, 2005  
Photo courtesy of The Yes Men



# Corporate Campaign-Dow & Monsanto



- Initiating a corporate accountability campaign to demand that the two biggest Agent Orange manufacturers - Dow Chemical and Monsanto - meet their responsibility to compensate the victims of their corporate greed in Vietnam

*Details to come...*

# Upcoming Work, continued



- Building our national network, adding additional cities and strengthening our organizing to achieve our goals.
- Achieving more national TV media coverage.
- Doing a survey of the Vietnamese American community to assess effects of Agent Orange on the community.
- Increasing cooperation with veterans, health care, environmental and peace sectors.

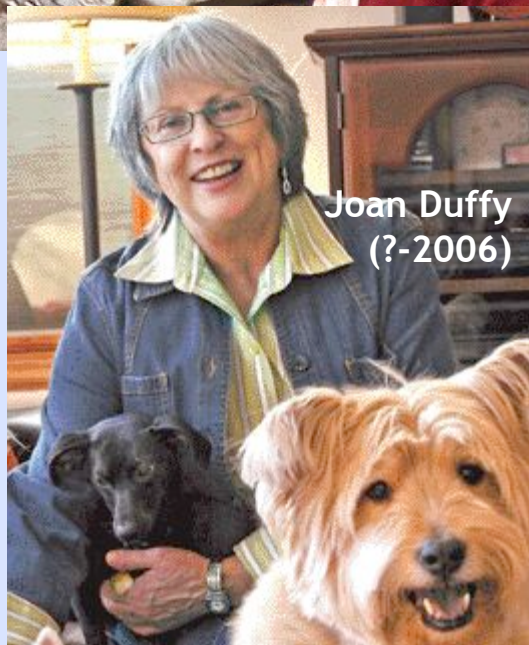


# We never forget...



Nguyen Thi Hong  
(1947-2007)

... our dear sisters and brothers who gave their lives in the struggle for justice: Mme. Duong Quynh Hoa, Nguyen Thi Hong & Nguyen Van Quy,... Joan Duffy, David Cline & Bill Davis.



Joan Duffy  
(?-2006)



Bill Davis  
(1948-2007)



David Cline  
(1947-2007)

Nguyen Van Quy  
(1955-2007)

# In memory of Dang Vu Hiep



**Liberation fighter, victim of Agent Orange,  
VAVA President & Founder of Vietnam  
Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin**



# Thank you very much.



*We miss  
you Dave!*

