

Nguyen Van Lia

Adoption Status: Adopted by Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)

Country: Vietnam

Occupation: A longtime adherent of Hoa Hao Buddhism, a religious group often suppressed by the government, and the co-author of several Hoa Hao Buddhist religious instruction texts and books

Detained Since: 2011

Charges: Violating article 258 of the penal code for “abusing democratic freedoms to infringe upon the interests of the state”

Sentence: 5 years in prison

Additional: According to state media, he possessed printed materials, CD’s, and DVD’s criticizing the Vietnamese government’s religious record. He had previously met with the U.S. Consulate and USCIRF officials in Saigon.



Adopted