

JUSTICE FOR THI LUU AND VAN LUY



On May 28, 1984, Pham Thi Luu was murdered and her husband Nguyen Van Luy critically wounded in front of their San Francisco home. Thi Luu died almost instantly; Van Luy survived but with massive abdominal and leg wounds.

On October 13, 1984, Professor Edward L. Cooperman was shot and killed in his office at California State University, Fullerton.

Van Luy was one of the founders of the Association of Vietnamese in the U.S. and today remains its honorary president. Thi Luu worked at his side for many years against the U.S. war in Vietnam and for normalization of relations between Vietnam and the United States.

Cooperman was chairman of the Committee for Scientific Cooperation with Vietnam and worked closely with Vietnamese scientists in research on Agent Orange and soil fertility. He was the first non-Vietnamese to be murdered in a three-year series of attacks on individuals who have worked to improve relations between the United States and Vietnam.

A group called the "Organization to Exterminate Communism and Restore the Vietnamese Nation" claimed credit for the attack on Van Luy and Thi Luu. It had also taken responsibility for the murder of Duong Trong Lam, another progressive Vietnamese activist, in San Francisco three years ago. Minh Van Lam, a 20-year-old Vietnamese student, was arrested for Cooperman's murder.

In response to these deadly assaults, concerned friends and activists in peace, civil liberties, and

Committee for Justice

The Committee for Justice for Thi Luu and Van Luy was established to mobilize public opinion. Initiated by the Association of Vietnamese in the U.S. and the U.S./Vietnam Friendship Association, it was quickly endorsed by a wide range of individuals from religious, civil liberties, peace, labor, women's, Asian community, and solidarity organizations. The Committee for Justice has two main goals:

- Justice for Thi Luu and Van Luy
- An end to political assassinations

What you can do:

Spread the word about this issue: Bring it to the attention of your local representatives. Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper. Discuss it with your friends. Invite a representative of the Committee to address your organization. Distribute this brochure.

Ask for a federal investigation of civil rights violations in the murders and harassment of peace activists friendly to Vietnam. Write:

Hon. William Clark Smith
U.S. Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Hon. William Webster, Head
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Rep. Don Edwards, Chairperson
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Send copies of your letters to the Committee.

Add your name to the list of Committee endorsers.

Make a contribution to the Committee.

Committee for Justice for Thi Luu and Van Luy

c/o U.S./Vietnam Friendship Association

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Asian community organizations have come together to form committees for justice which seek the apprehension and conviction of the killers and an end to all such assassinations in the United States.

Vietnamese Activists

Nguyen Van Luy left Vietnam for France in 1930, stowing away on a ship to escape the grinding poverty of his own country under French colonial rule. It was in France that he first became involved in the Vietnamese people's national liberation movement. When the French government yielded to Nazi war aims, leading to the defeat of the French Popular Front in 1939 and to Nazi occupation in 1940, Van Luy fled to the United States. Here he worked for the U.S. War Department Language Unit in New York and the Office of War Information in San Francisco.

In 1960 Van Luy became a U.S. citizen and an active member of San Francisco Local 44 of the Cooks Union. As the U.S. war against Vietnam escalated, Van Luy became one of the first Vietnamese to play a major role in the American antiwar movement. In 1972 he joined other Vietnamese in this country to form the Union of Vietnamese in the U.S. After the war, the Union became the Association of Vietnamese in the U.S., with goals of facilitating reconstruction aid to Vietnam, working for normal relations between the United States and Vietnam, providing mutual assistance in the Vietnamese community, and creating conditions for Vietnamese to contribute to the reconstruction of their homeland.

As the honorary president of the Association, Van Luy continues active work. Even ten years after the war's end, the final peace cannot be achieved until relations between Washington and Hanoi can be put on a more normal basis, allowing trade, scientific and cultural ties, family reunification, and the final healing of the many wounds of the U.S. war in Vietnam.

The Vietnamese Community

After the war, many thousands of Vietnamese emigres came to the United States. Most of these new residents want only to rebuild their lives. But

a small number of the Vietnamese emigres, including many military and civilian functionaries of the defeated government of South Vietnam, continue to disrupt the community, claiming that they are fighting to overthrow the socialist government of their country. In the context of present U.S. government hostility toward Vietnam, these people feel free to intimidate, attack, and even murder those in the Vietnamese community who dare to speak out in support of Vietnam or for the normalization of relations between Vietnam and the United States.

It is these few right-wing elements in the Vietnamese community who are responsible for the murders and the ongoing attempts to silence the voices of peace. There is no question that the U.S. government's failure to respond to the earlier attacks on Vietnamese has emboldened the terrorists by appearing to condone their activities.

Civil Liberties/Peace Movement

The attacks on Thi Luu and Van Luy and on Ed Cooperman represent a threat to all who express opinions contrary to current U.S. policies. They remind us of the murder of Orlando Letelier in Washington by agents of the military government in Chile and the murders of anti-Marcos trade unionists Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo in Seattle by thugs associated with the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines.

As the Rev. Jesse Jackson said in his message of support to the Committee for Justice for Thi Luu and Van Luy, "Black, brown, red, yellow or white, we all deserve the right to live freely in our society, without fear. Every American should condemn the taking of another's life for their political beliefs. It is a great tragedy when those who work for peace and justice in our land meet with violence on our city's streets."

Full investigation of the attack on Thi Luu and Van Luy must include prosecution for the violations of the Civil Rights Act inherent in such an assault. Likewise, an adequate investigation of the murder of Ed Cooperman must consider political assassination. Congressional hearings and Justice Department action are necessary. A concerned and mobilized public can ensure that the assassins and their backers are found. There must be no more of these attacks!

Yes, I want to help:

- I will become an endorser of the Committee
 Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____
 Please send me additional copies of this brochure. (25¢ for one; \$1.50 for 10; \$10.00 for 100)

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Address _____

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