VIET TAN

With members inside Vietnam and around the world, Viet Tan aims to establish democracy and reform the country through peaceful means.

VIETNAM REFORM PARTY
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Modernizing Vietnam has been the aspiration of Vietnamese for many generations. In the 19th century, Vietnam lost its independence because it was unable to adapt to changing conditions. For much of the 20th century, the country was torn apart by war and did not enjoy true peace even after unification. Now in the 21st century, Vietnam has the potential of becoming an economic tiger but the Vietnamese people find themselves restrained by a backward dictatorship.

Viet Tan believes that comprehensive development is only possible when political institutions allow for the contributions of all citizens. A pluralistic society is the best way to realize social justice and human rights for all citizens. Therefore, it is Viet Tan’s mission to overcome dictatorship and build the foundation for a sustainable democracy.

To achieve a democratic transition for Vietnam, Viet Tan is committed to peaceful, nonviolent struggle. Working with other pro-democracy groups inside Vietnam and among the diaspora, we aim to mobilize the power of the people.

We are convinced that nonviolent means are most effective for generating maximum civic participation. Because Viet Tan’s ultimate goal is to contribute to Vietnam’s modernization and reform (or Canh Tan, the basis of our party’s name in Vietnamese), we reject the use of violence. Given Vietnam’s recent history and current challenges, the struggle to overcome dictatorship cannot lead to further divisions among compatriots or hamper efforts to rebuild the country.

We embrace a humanistic vision of Vietnam where each person is valued and has the opportunity to flourish. In short, Viet Tan seeks to unleash the talents and aspirations of the Vietnamese nation.
Viet Tan engages in actions that empower the Vietnamese people. Specifically, we seek to roll back existing restrictions against two basic human rights: freedom of expression and freedom of association and assembly. These freedoms enable a civil society.

Promoting a de facto free media

Currently all newspapers, television and radio in Vietnam are controlled by the Communist Party. Viet Tan aims to erode the regime’s media monopoly by supporting independent-minded reporters, a citizen journalist movement and alternative sources of information. We use radio, unsanctioned publications, the internet and social media. Operated by Viet Tan, Radio New Horizon is heard throughout Vietnam every evening on AM1503.

Supporting grassroots movements

An increasing number of Vietnamese are joining in mass petitions, street protests and labor strikes. To address social injustices, Viet Tan is promoting civil disobedience campaigns throughout the country. Where appropriate, we provide strategic and organizational support and help to publicize grassroots activities. Viet Tan members also participate in humanitarian projects in and around Vietnam to aid disadvantaged communities. To encourage civic responsibility, we support the growth of private charity networks on the ground.
Training and capacity building

The power of every regime comes from the acceptance of the people. In a democratic system, acceptance is achieved through ballots in a fair and open election. In a dictatorial system, acceptance is achieved through coercion and terror. Yet whether it is by ballots or coercion, the Vietnamese people have the ability to withdraw their acceptance of the current regime. Disenfranchised for so long, many Vietnamese may not realize that they themselves possess the political power in the country. Through training programs held in-country, abroad and online, Viet Tan seeks to provide activists on the ground with the skills to wage an effective nonviolent struggle. We share lessons from successful democratic transitions around the world and the latest techniques in digital activism.

International advocacy

Human rights violations in Vietnam are an affront to our collective humanity and directly impact the interests of all who desire a stable, just and prosperous Vietnam. While the Vietnamese people must ultimately solve the challenges of Vietnam, international friends can offer solidarity in many crucial ways. Viet Tan works with democratic governments and international NGOs to address human rights abuses and support civil society initiatives.
The following public campaigns organized by Viet Tan involve the participation of activists on the ground, overseas Vietnamese and international supporters.

Internet Freedom Campaign

Vital to Vietnam’s development, the Internet has the power to transform Vietnamese society; in many ways it already has. In the absence of an independent media, citizens have turned to the Internet to follow the news and debate national issues.

In addition to being a source of information, the Internet is also a potent organizing tool. While the regime continues to severely restrict freedom of association, de facto organizations in the form of social networks, discussion forums and issue specific clubs are active online.

As part of Viet Tan’s Internet Freedom Campaign, we are working with the international community and activists in Vietnam to: (i) Challenge legal statutes restricting freedom of expression, (ii) Urge technology companies not to give into Internet censorship demands and (iii) Support citizen journalists and imprisoned cyber activists.
Save Tây Nguyên

Viet Tan launched the Save Tây Nguyên campaign on Earth Day 2009 to raise public consciousness of the risks of bauxite mining in one of Vietnam’s most verdant regions. Bauxite mining poses a negative impact to the local economy and creates a long-lasting environmental problem that could affect generations to come.

Viet Tan is working to support the country’s growing green movement and to shed light on the shadowy alliance between Hanoi and Beijing to exploit bauxite in the Central Highlands known as Tây Nguyên.

Freedom for Prisoners of Conscience

Many of Vietnam’s greatest intellects, independent voices, and enduring spirits remain in jail or under house arrest. This repression of peaceful dissent epitomizes the Communist Party’s human rights violations.

Viet Tan is actively challenging the arbitrary detentions supporting families of the prisoners and lobbying for international pressure on the regime to release all prisoners of conscience.
Support Viet Tan’s current campaigns and let us know if you would like to participate in the next Viet Tan activity in your area.

We welcome new members and supporters who wish to contribute to the change they want to see in Vietnam.

Visit our website, join our mailing list and help spread information about our activities and the situation in Vietnam. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

- www.viettan.org/en
- www.twitter.com/viettan
- www.facebook.com/vt4democracy

Meeting former Norwegian prime minister Kjell Bondevik at the Oslo Peace Center

How to Get Involved
Viet Tan has members and supporters throughout Vietnam and among most Vietnamese communities overseas. Our members represent a cross-section of the country and the diaspora. We are the university student in Hanoi, the blogger in Saigon, the doctor in Sydney, the engineer in California and the retiree in Paris. Our members include well-known prisoners of conscience and individuals who have sacrificed their lives for a free Vietnam.

Organized by chapters at the local level, Viet Tan is directed by a Central Committee led by Mr. Do Hoang Diem as chairman and Mr. Ly Thai Hung as general secretary.
The mission of Viet Tan is to overcome dictatorship, build the foundation for a sustainable democracy, and demand justice and human rights for the Vietnamese people through a nonviolent struggle based on civic participation.