



ພັນທະມິດເພື່ອປະຊາທິປະໄຕໃນລາວ

ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY IN LAOS

Alliance pour la Démocratie au Laos

Letmather Str.71, 58119 Hagen, Germany. Phone: 0049(2334) 44 44 668, E-Mail: alliance-lao@alice.de
www.laoalliance.com

ADL Human Rights Report to the 49th Session of UPR on the Lao PDR

Prolog

The Alliance for Democracy in Laos is a global network of human rights activists and democracy activists for Laos. This report is a brief summary of all human rights violations in the last few years. Detailed reports can be found in our appendix.

Political murders and attempted murders

Here is a summary of the unsolved cases (Details can be found in our appendix):

1. The Case Mr. Maythong Sanbounkhounxay

On September 14, 2023, ADL human rights activist Maythong Sambounkhongxay was murdered on the side of a country road near the capital Vientiane.

2.The Case Mr. Bounsuan Kitiyano

On May 27, 2023, human rights activist Bounsuan Kittyano, who was living in exile in Thailand, was shot dead by suspected secret police on a country road.
sacrifice.

3. The Case of Anouxa (Jack) Luangsuphom:

Human rights activist and blogger Anouxa (Jack) Luangsuphom narrowly survived an assassination attempt on April 29, 2023. He then managed to flee abroad.

3.The Case Mr. Phouvong Xayseng

The murder of human rights activist Phouvong Xayaseng took place in August 2020.

4.The case Mr. Laokham Losavath

Another case is the murder of Mr. Laokham Losavath * 08/09/1966 a car mechanic from the village of Thin near the town of Xay in the province of Oudomxay. At 11pm on 12 June 2020, a witness saw a black Toyota Hilux Vigo pull up outside Mr Losavath's workshop. Four men dressed in black got out and beat Mr. Losavath. Startled by the noise, people from the neighborhood came and found the victim unconscious. Mr. Losavath had serious head and shoulder injuries and 8 stab wounds. He died shortly thereafter in hospital. The authorities were completely inactive after this murder. Since then, the relatives have lived in complete fear.

5.The case Mr.Heuan(Thong Khampheng)

On 22.10.2017, a hit squad from Laos murdered human rights activist Thong Khampheng, who was in Thailand.

Recommendations:

1. The attacks on human rights activists must be enlightened without gaps by an independent commission under the supervision of the UN.
2. The protection of human rights activists must be guaranteed by the Laotian state.
3. Human rights activists must be allowed to do without restrictions.

Enforced Disappearances and Political Prisoners

Here we report on our latest findings on the current cases

1. Enforced disappearance case of Mr. Chilikham

The human rights activist Mr. Chilikham disappeared on February 2, 2024 for reasons that are still unclear. Further details can be found in our appendix.

2. The Case of Ms. Muay

Ms. Houayheuang Xayabouly, alias Ms. Muay, was sentenced to five years in prison for criticizing the government's disaster management after the 2019 flood disasters. She experienced terrible years in various prisons and is now free again. However, she is under a contact ban and a travel ban.

3. The case of three bloggers

The case of Mr. Sukane Chaythat, Ms. Lodkham Thammavong and Mr. Somphone Phimmasone has been in the media since their arrest in 2016. The three are still in prison, where they are serving disproportionately long prison sentences. As we have now learned, the prison conditions are extremely poor.

3. The case of Mr. Od Sayavong

Human rights activist Od Sayavong disappeared in June 2019. Initial suspicions that he was murdered have now been revised, as the ADL has learned that he is an inmate in Tampeo Prison.

4. The case of Mr. Phetphouthon Philachanh

Human rights activist Phetphouthon Pilachanh was also apparently kidnapped and put in prison.

5. The case of Mr. Oudone Phaleud

Od Sayavong's friend and comrade-in-arms disappeared on April 20, 2023. Since then, the authorities have been trying to silence everyone involved.

6. The case of Ms. Dom Konebuapha

The disappearance of human rights activist Dom Konebuapha alias Kingkeo in 2009 was covered up until 2023 and only came to light in April 2023.

6. The disappearance of Sombath Somphone

Sombath Somphone disappeared on December 15, 2012. The officials still denies any knowledge about the ongoing of this case; instead of allowing and independent investigation they publish Conspiracy theories.

Recommendations:

1. Here too, the cases of the disappearance of human rights activists must be enlightened by an independent commission under the supervision of the UN.
2. Human rights activists must not be impaired in their freedom of expression and need.
3. Every person can and must get his human rights. It is not enough to enshrine this in a law; it also has to be implemented in reality. The enforceability of human rights in Laos must be guaranteed. For this, the country needs profound reforms in all institutions. Only through independent separation of powers, which is also implemented in reality.
4. Stop Decree 117, Decree 238 on the work of NGOs must be overturned. The NGO law needs to be redone so that the NGOs are free and able to move independently according to international standards.
5. The separation of powers in Laos must finally become a reality. Political interference in judicial matters must be avoided. Like the independent judiciary, Laos must enforce its freedom of choice. Convictions of suspects without legal representation do not meet international standards. This also means that judgments made without legal representation are invalid and may need to be retried. The torture of suspects also does not comply with the UN's general human rights and must be stopped immediately. Violations by police officers should be punished. The proportionality of the penalties must be examined. Judgments from higher authorities can be helpful in this regard. These must be carried out as quickly as possible.
6. The preference of the party cadres must be ended. All people are equal No one is allowed to be above the law.

Land grabs

Corruption and land grabs go hand in hand in Laos. In most land grab crimes, money goes to corrupt officials so these foreign companies can grant land concessions and initiate evictions. Anyone who protests against the land grabs is immediately arrested or threatened by members of the Lao authorities.

The Laotian government wants to turn land into capital. More and more land is now owned by foreign investors, about 50 percent of Laos, most of it from Vietnam and China. In the capital city of Vientiane, we stand up for our right to residents' property that has been taken from local people by the government. It has confiscated property from people in several provinces across the country and leased it to foreign investors for up to 99 years, regardless of population.

Now the government has created a new land law. The people have to pay more fees for their land title certificates; the problem is that the fee is more than the people can pay. Each village and town has a different fee; there is no national regulation on how much people have to pay to the authorities.

Land grabbing in Laos is leading to increasing poverty. Most of the projects carried out in the land-grabbed areas hardly create any jobs for Laotians. Foreign investors usually bring the workers from their home countries with them. This refutes the government's thesis that the country is developing as a result of these projects.

Recommendations:

1. The landing of the Laotian population must be ended.
2. The land rights of the local population must have priority.
3. Large projects must be checked for the benefit for the population and, if necessary, revised.
4. Land modifications that are related to corruption must be reversed and the population must be adequately compensated.
5. Foreign investments are only meaningful if they are required to engage local workers. Exceptions may only be made if specialists who are not available in their own country are needed. A quota of 90% of domestic workers should be a minimum.
6. The trade unions must be independent. It is not sensible to bind union and party because the interests are not always the same. For this purpose, the NGO law in Laos must be changed.
7. Fighting corruption under public scrutiny needs to be promoted, as this is the only way to ensure that the funds for civil servants do not disappear and that the spiral of corruption continues to revolve.

Corruption

Corruption has still only been fought half-heartedly in Laos. Often the officials and politicians who were already suspected of corruption were deployed to fight corruption. You can find more information in our appendix with the details.

Recommendations:

1. Public orders must be made public and require the participation of the population.
2. Comprehensive fighting corruption with the help of international institutions is inevitable.
3. A reform of the judiciary for more independence is enforced when clarifying corruption.

Human and drug trafficking in Laos

Human and drug trafficking in Laos continues to run rampant. Women are sold to China like animals, young people end up abroad as prostitutes or forced laborers under false promises.

The lack of prospects for many young Laotians is driving these young people into drug addiction. You can find a detailed report in our appendix.

Recommendations:

1. Drugs and human trafficking can only be combated with strict cooperation between the police and authorities of all neighboring countries from Laos.
2. State help for the victims also require urgent increase with the support of the United Nations.

Religious freedom in Laos

Religious freedom is guaranteed in the constitution of the Lao People's Republic. However, the reality is very different. While the large group of Buddhists in Laos can largely practice their religion, which was not always the case, the Christians in the country in particular are discriminated against. We keep getting reports of destroyed churches, persecutions of Christians and expulsions. Christians are often denied access to education. Christians get no work from the state. Arrests of Christians without warning or for no reason occur again and again.

Recommendations:

1. Religious freedom must be better guaranteed by the state, training and seminars for authorities have to be significantly expanded.
2. The cases of attacks on representatives of religions must be informed of an independent side.

The foreign influence in Laos

Laos has been completely dependent on Vietnam since the signing of the Lao-Vietnamese Friendship Agreement in 1977. This has been made much worse by the addition of a further dependence on China, which threatens to completely wipe out the Lao nation and people.

Recommendations:

1. The one -sided dependency of the Laotian nation of China and Vietnam must be converted into an aftermeal partnership at eye level.
2. All contracts and agreements between the countries require public control on mutual benefits.
3. Contracts and agreements that do not serve the Laotian population must be revised.



Dr. Bounthone Chanthavong- Wiese
President of the ADL

Office in Germany: **Dr. Bounthone Chanthavong- Wiese**, ADL President, Letmather Str.71, 58119 Hagen, Germany
Phone: +49-2334-44 44 668 or +49 1732930267, E-mail: chanthalavong@aol.com

Australia: **Mr.Pheng Saksady**, Vice -President and regional president, ADL chapter of Australia, 6 Quambone Place, Isabella Plains A.C.T, Phone+61-41 37 66 216, E-mail: pheng.sone52@gmail.com

Canada: **Mr.Kambane Anonthisen**, regional president, ADL chapter of Canada, 84 Highgatz Rord Kichener , ONT, Phone: +1-519-58 80 502, E-mail: khambane@hotmail.com

USA: **Ms.Khamphene Souvannasane**, regional president, ADL chapter of USA , 3837 Rusty Dell St., Fortworth, TX 76111, Phone:+1-682- 554- 6675 , E-mail: khamhene@yahoo.com.

France: **Mr.Bounhom (Christian) Chantha**, regional president, ADL chapter of France, Phone +33 0628252231, 24 ruedelamare 95650 Puiseux pontoise 95650,E-Mail: chris.chantas@wanadoo.fr

New Zealand: **Mr. Somchine Sithivong**, regional president, ADL chapter of New Zealand, 6 Ropata Cres, Lower Hutt. 5010 Wellington,phone: +64- 49 34 86 35, E-Mail: xsittivong24@gmail.com