



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

Update on the ADL report for the 78th session of CESCR

This report is a supplement to our previous report, which we published in August 2023.

The general economic situation in Laos remains very poor. While a small portion of the population enjoys prosperity, including the newly settled Chinese in the special economic zones, as well as party officials and their closest circles, who are involved in business with these zones and large-scale and mega-projects, the vast majority of the population, however, is largely cut off from the economy and suffers greatly. One of the main reasons for this development are the rampant corruption and the lack of freedom as well as the lack of justice in the LaoPDR. The People in Laos are still suppressed and every critical announcement is prohibited.

1. Economy projects

Laos is a land with a lot of resources, big area in relation to the people. Normally no one has to starve. We observe that more than 50% of the population in in a poor situation and is starving. The main reasons are land grabs megaprojects like dams. No one of these projects has made any success for the people nor gave them an employment place. The only beneficiaries of these projects are the investors, some corrupt officials and the government. The profits are transferred abroad, so there is no money left for development in Laos. Recently, the electricity market in Southeast Asia has also become oversaturated, so that the government of Laos has problems selling electricity to foreign countries. At the same time, it is not possible to improve access to electricity for one's own population. The usefulness of these projects is therefore more in question.

About 50 % of the land area in Laos is owned by foreign investors, without access for the Laos people. Another reason is the conical corruption, which is not combatted by the government. International aid is still a victim of corruption. Most of this aid didn't reach the people. The system with not independent powers in a one-party system is not able for a change or reform. The people have no participation in ruling power. The Lao People's revolutionary party has the whole power in the country. No one can participate in the ruling power. Since the government is more dependent from Vietnam and China, the Chinese and Vietnamese people has more rights in Laos than the own people. Most Laotians feel this injustice. We therefore find that Articles 6, 7 & 11 are being violated here.

Even the national parliament laments the futility of megaprojects and special economic zones. However, there is never a parliamentary resolution, let alone effective action by those in power. This also happened on June 16th 2025:



[https://www.facebook.com/reel/1212402453616323/?s=single_unit&_cft_\[0\]=AZWujjI0GaRgXBhMPKu20gErhtlh1VFWCOa1cG7vF223wLhMbWSluGINFRuAPwd_5zwvwbvomkFGgl9o1_8wnlWCvQ0h_ehVq3XLfR3FOEKsKBwWfN_gfyA2G2-6iKSWCEt_h9HWy8Y05ILktGI20_IJuohg4UNMCrdEoixjE2Gi9eg&_tn_ =H-R](https://www.facebook.com/reel/1212402453616323/?s=single_unit&_cft_[0]=AZWujjI0GaRgXBhMPKu20gErhtlh1VFWCOa1cG7vF223wLhMbWSluGINFRuAPwd_5zwvwbvomkFGgl9o1_8wnlWCvQ0h_ehVq3XLfR3FOEKsKBwWfN_gfyA2G2-6iKSWCEt_h9HWy8Y05ILktGI20_IJuohg4UNMCrdEoixjE2Gi9eg&_tn_ =H-R)

The economic mismanagement is now having a serious impact on nature and people. Due to the excessive construction of dams, the water level of the region's most important river, the Mekong, is completely out of balance. Massive flooding occurs repeatedly, and at times the Mekong almost completely dries up. The sometimes illegal deforestation, which the government is not effectively combating, is further exacerbating this situation. Criticism from the public is unwelcome, news is censored, the internet is monitored, and the work of independent journalists is made difficult.

Here a video from the Bokeo province Sept.2024



<https://www.facebook.com/reel/696599099759842>

Another flooding in Vientiane, June 2025:



<https://www.facebook.com/61553895791187/posts/122199908582129859/?rddid=L1gl1KwIDoWVgw00>

There are too many dams in Laos, but electricity is still too expensive for many citizens. On June 19, 2025, a courageous member of parliament took the podium in the National Assembly, but no consequences followed his criticism:



<https://www.facebook.com/reel/3680463362247872>

Roads and paths are also not taken care of, the same pictures everywhere in the countryside:



[https://www.facebook.com/reel/1245967170542092/?s=single_unit&_cft_\[0\]=AZXpi7hK8TPsMs35tB-4Cb2Gs9CQSScVrb05FoZYV4wyqE-5U6F5tepXvIYI4OUJfrwtakwVGe0eOnWRRz5ZsIEFcEQ4V2vAnOEnSEEFWiaLKU9_kunemZRxYeXMIpxQiiDiHt_ljGSWdy4XAEERoSOjDwDxIGSYEuBbjft-w55bgA&_tn_ =H-R](https://www.facebook.com/reel/1245967170542092/?s=single_unit&_cft_[0]=AZXpi7hK8TPsMs35tB-4Cb2Gs9CQSScVrb05FoZYV4wyqE-5U6F5tepXvIYI4OUJfrwtakwVGe0eOnWRRz5ZsIEFcEQ4V2vAnOEnSEEFWiaLKU9_kunemZRxYeXMIpxQiiDiHt_ljGSWdy4XAEERoSOjDwDxIGSYEuBbjft-w55bgA&_tn_ =H-R)

2. Land grabs

This concerns the violation of Articles 6, 7, 11 & 15.

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.

The ADL has received new cases of land grabs in the Lao People's Republic after the last report.

Case 8 Special economy zone in the Bokeo province: A Chinese investor was given free land here, on which the King Roman Casino now stands. Most of the local population had to leave the country and is now being settled by the Chinese. The casino is strongly suspected of being involved in illegal business. These include drug trafficking, money laundering, illegal hunting of endangered animals, human trafficking and prostitution. The Thai media have reported about it several times. But the Laotian authorities seem powerless here, as their own Chinese security forces have the upper hand here.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.casino.org/news/notorious-kings-romans-casino-laos-scamming-women-into-prostitution/>

<https://www.worldcasinodirectory.com/casino/kings-roman-casino#>:



The ongoing land grabs in Laos are not just affecting residents near dam projects. In the meantime, other cases of land grabbing have become public knowledge

Case 9 This case has been reported to us by people from Laos. The incident took place in the village of Lathom, which belongs to the town of Xepon in the province of Savannakhet. Mr. Lamphone Kommadam owned a piece of land in the village. He used an expensive loan to finance a rubber plantation there. In 2015, some officials suddenly appeared and took the land away from him in

order to give it to a Vietnamese under the pretext of using the land for land development. He was evicted from his land using physical force. In fact, however, the land continued to be used as a plantation for rubber trees. Mr. Kommadam received no compensation, which put him in great financial difficulties. In his distress, he made a written request to the Xepon city administration, to the Prime Minister's office, the National Assembly's hotline 156 and the Interior Ministry's hotline, but no one helped him. Only the mayor's office advised him to take legal action. But since court proceedings in Laos are very expensive and Mr. Kommandam had no financial means left after the land theft, this was impossible for him. He then posted his case on the Facebook platform with photos and videos in which he described his case. The authorities reacted promptly by asking him to delete these posts or face consequences. On September 24, 2024, Mr. Lamphone Kommadam had one last contact with our activists on site. On this occasion, he stated that if he could no longer be contacted in the near future, he would be arrested along with his family.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1XguxERj7o/>



The projects listed below were particularly striking in our research on projects related to land grabbing:

Case 10 Special Economic Zone in Bokeo Province and others: Here a Chinese investor was left with free land on which the King Roman Casino now stands. Most of the local population had to leave the country and is now settled by the Chinese. The casino is strongly suspected of being involved in illegal business. These include drug trafficking, money laundering, illegal hunting of endangered animals, human trafficking and prostitution. The Thai media have reported about it several times. But the Laotian authorities appear powerless here, since their own Chinese security forces have supremacy here.

More cases are:

1. The Casino at Phou Khao Khouay in Vientiane Province
2. The Savan Vegas Hotel and Casino in Savannakhet Province.
3. Siphandone mega-project in the 4,000 islands area. A nature reserve is to be developed here for tourism, including a shopping center.
4. The "Smart City Project" in the capital Vientiane, which was officially opened on January 13, 2022, covers an area of 1,500 hectares. The prime minister's son Mr. Phaiboun Phongsavanh, managing director of Phongsavanh Bank, is behind the project. The Phoungsavanh Group itself wants to cultivate 300Ha of it. This affects 5 villages: Chomsi Village, Nakwai South Village, Nakwai Middle Village, Nano Village and Nahai Village, plus 7 villages in Beach Phong District, namely: Dongphon Khanh Village, Kham Charoen Village, including the associated agricultural area of all villages.
6. The express train from China through Laos with a length of 414 km so far. Since Laos cannot finance itself, it was agreed that the Chinese would be allowed to use 5 km on either side of the rails without restriction. This has already led to further evictions and land grabs in many areas. More information can be found here (with a video from a protest in 2023):
<https://fb.watch/APxEyAiaNO/>
<https://fb.watch/Au8pvbF1vU/>



Case 11: The Vientiane-Vang Vieng highway was built by Chinese investors. Another highway from Vientiane to Phaksé is planned. The number of Chinese projects has increased rapidly in recent years. More information can be found here:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/land-07062022143130.html>



Case 12, the dam projects in Laos not only cause significant damage to nature, but also a not inconsiderable number of forced resettlements, in which the resettled residents are only insufficiently compensated or are resettled in unfavorable locations.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/mekong-erosion-07292022161002.html>

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/dam-05022022165410.html>



Case 13: Another cause of land grabs are the mining projects in Laos. We have reported about this repeatedly in recent years. According to information from the population, we can confirm that the situation is still unchanged.

Education

Articles 1, 10, 13 & 15 are also apparently not sufficiently implemented by the government in Laos. The problem of education in Laos is that there is no equality between rural schools and urban schools. The condition of the schools in the rural areas, where the numbers are found, is very old. There are no walls, no roof boards, fences in the rainy season, and not enough teachers. One teacher teaches up to 2 or 3 classes, students of two or three grades in the same class

The education system in Laos is currently declining the most, the reason being that teachers resign at the minute, especially the volunteer teachers. Some of the teachers who have been working for 10 years without a salary have left the school. The number of teachers has reached more than 9,800. Many of them have resigned from their positions.

The problems begin with the routes to school, as this video shows:

https://www.facebook.com/reel/781788297131517/?s=single_unit&_ft=0&_id=AZXv6PoS6Q7FBXt--u54DIEZq7sYSIJqVbL0-cyqWD54v5IZp9g89fOgihYa9vBu5NAA-oNBOB5NUZrP7p0eCX4C-LNplig3DOBq1fhJsnbqRiTbpo6FV5lvfX--Jb9MYbhgfF2qxgg3B_NhNbvmmm-UvMS27vgzd3bCsrxj8ghF3S-imGreOcdizXak6gYLIKk&_tn=H-R



For this reason, the number of students who attend public schools is only about 50%. Ordinary teachers who are civil servants also receive low salaries. The quality of education is low, learning materials and learning places are not taken care of. The main reason is that the government does not have enough budgets for education. The main problem is a lack of tax revenue due to corruption and tax fraud.

We will see many local schools without walls or desks. This kind of incident happened in many localities and provinces throughout Laos. Parents of students must pay tuition fees for students from elementary school onwards. Due to the poverty of the parents, the students could not send their children to school. Due to the poverty of the parents, the students could not send their children to school.

Videos of teachers who had to work for up to 9 years without pay and who therefore had to give up their profession reach us again and again:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1L8YPendyn/>



Other teachers have recently been offered the opportunity to join the military to work as teachers:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16ojqK46yB/>

<https://youtu.be/2ptIAfUzp7s?si=a2luBGqDUuWCXa2s>



This message reaches us from Ban Toy, Yommalath District, Khammouan Province, in which students wish for a clean and intact school:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Ct6jZ7cGw/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ptIAfUzp7s>



Education in the Lao People's Democratic Republic 2023. As usual, the Ministry of Education and Sports' flowery (fake) report on the so-called Education and Sports Sector Development Plan (ESSDP-2021-2025) states that education and The Sports Sector Development Plan (2021-2025) is to develop an education system to develop human resources with knowledge, skills, moral and right values and love for the country to create a quality workforce to meet the demands of a growing and sustainable economy Be prepared to cooperate and compete with countries in the region.

Insufficient education budget: Despite the problems of the education system in Laos, the government does not prioritize funding and spending on the education sector. Only 3.3% of Laos' total GDP goes to education - one of the lowest rates in the world. Much of the spending, both domestic and international aid, goes towards reducing poverty in Laos through the provision of basic needs such as food, water and shelter.

Impact of international aid. International aid has been crucial to improving the quality of education in Laos. A Save the Children program aimed to “improve the quality of learning for children in Laos.” With \$8 million in funding, the program enabled 3,000 children to attend elementary school between 2012 and 2021. The World Bank, backed by other nations, announced \$47 million in funding “aimed at improving preschool and primary education performance and improving education systems across the country.” Finally, according to the Ministry of Education and Sports, more than 12,000 volunteer teachers worked in schools across the country in the 2016/17 school year (Vientiane Times, July 12, 2022), suggesting that the corrupt government of the Lao People's Republic, the The communist Lao government in crisis needs government reform and not the education reform system.

Despite international help, around 9,800 teachers in Laos are suffering, none of them without being paid enough. Many of these teachers are therefore forced to make a living either by charging extra fees to the parents of school children, which only fuels corruption in Laos, or by working part-time jobs. Other teachers are now being forced to give up teaching, which is very tragic for these people.

Together with high inflation and an immense national debt, as well as revenues that are disappearing due to corruption and a lack of tax revenues from foreign investors because they have renounced their revenue due to the creation of special rights, the crisis is only getting worse.

According to our observations, the number of students is declining sharply due to the lack of prospects after they graduate from school or university in Laos. Many young people are therefore migrating to neighboring Thailand, where they are exploited as cheap labor, forced laborers, or even prostitutes. We estimate this number to be around one million.



Cultural identity and discrimination against one's own people compared to others
Here we have violations against article 1, 6,7,11,14&15.

Whereas in earlier years it was Vietnam, today it is Chinese culture that is being forced upon the people of Laos. Their own culture is disappearing under duress and is slowly being replaced by Chinese culture, along with the Laotian language. This is happening using sometimes drastic methods. Chinese are being resettled in Laos en masse and even citizenship is made easy for them, while a large part of the indigenous population in Laos does not have a valid passport because they cannot afford it. Laotian street signs are being replaced or supplemented with Chinese ones, and the same is happening with shop signs. Laotian women are being forcibly sold to Chinese people in dubious marriage markets and are also being alienated. Newly created jobs are intended for the newly settled Chinese, while the Laotians, especially young people, are forced to look for work abroad, where they often end up in forced labor, prostitution or in the drug milieu.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/prostitution-04082024184617.html>



This report was created with the help of citizens from Laos, we hope to make a contribution to the CESCR.

Signed by



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 Sacksady**, 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.Khambane Anonthisen**, regional president, ADL chapter of Canada, 84 Highgatz Rord Kitchener ,
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) Chanthas**, regional president, ADL chapter of France, Phone +33 0628252231,
24 ruedelamare 95650 Puiseux pontoise, 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