**Report on Activist Nguyen Thuy Hanh**

By [Huynh Ngoc Chenh](https://the88project.org/profile/395/huynh-ngoc-chenh/)

Ms [Nguyen Thuy Hanh](https://the88project.org/profile/350/nguyen-thuy-hanh/) was born on 5/5/1963 in Hai Duong. When she was five years old, her father passed away and her mother remarried. Hanh and her older sister, age seven, went to live with their paternal grandparents.

Hanh is married to journalist Huynh Ngoc Chenh, born in 1952. After graduating from college, she worked for a state-owned tourism company. In 2000 she went to work as director of public relations for the cane sugar company KCP Vietnam, a subsidiary of the KCP conglomerate of India. She retired from KCP in 2015.

Ms Hanh became a civil society activist in 2011 when she participated in nearly all of the marches to denounce China’s encroachment in the East Sea [South China Sea]; to protect green trees; to protect the ocean environment; against the proposed Special Economic Zones; to demand basic human rights. She also joined  activities to help land grab victims and other human rights activists who were assaulted and jailed, and to help their families as well.

From 2011 to 2018, beside her activities to promote human rights and democracy, Ms Hanh also helped raise fund to assist other activists who have financial difficulties, who were harassed or imprisoned. In the beginning, she used her own money. But as the number of political prisoners grew while she herself was retired, Ms Hanh started a fundraising campaign to get others to contribute as well.

In 2014, Ms Hanh joined a fundraising campaign for land grab victims to help villagers from all the 65 provinces who were camping out in Hanoi as they tried to sue the government; many of these people were violently attacked by the authorities.

In 2018, Ms Hanh founded the 50K Fund to assist families of political prisoners when their main breadwinners got arrested and imprisoned. 50K, or 50,000 VND [$2.00 USD], is the minimum amount one could contribute to this account. This relative small amount was designed not only to encourage many people to participate but also to discourage harassment from the authorities since it’s too insignificant for them to bother.

In the beginning, the Fund received most of its support from overseas Vietnamese. The number of contributors inside Vietnam was very modest — most people chose to remain anonymous so as not to attract attention from the authorities. However, as time went on people began to overcome their fear; participation grew, contributions rose from 50,000 to 50,000,000 VND. After just one year,  nearly 80 percent  of contributors came from people inside Vietnam.

Once the money was received Ms Hanh alone managed its distribution to the families —anywhere from 2M to 5M depending on needs. She transferred the funds to the recipients’ bank accounts and settled the transactions as soon as she could, doing the work all by herself. Ms Hanh balanced the books two or three times a month. Any money left over would be rolled over to the next cycle. She kept a public list of contributors with the amount of their contributions as well as a list of recipients and the amount they received. Anyone could access and check these lists online. Due to its transparency, the 50K Fund quickly gained credibility and was trusted by many; it started to spread widely among Vietnamese both inside and outside of Vietnam.

At first many needy families were afraid to take money from the 50K Fund due to veiled threats. Ms Hanh had to convince and explain to them what their rights were, that the law does not prohibit receiving humanitarian aid. In time, nearly all of the poor families of political prisoners set up bank accounts to receive the monthly help. Beside helping the families with living expenses and the costs of visiting and supplying their relatives in jail, the 50K Fund also sets aside some money to help pay for tuition and school supplies for the children of the prisoners who are under 18 years old at the beginning of each school year (about $100-$150 USD for each student).

Due to the Fund’s expanding reach and meaningful impact, the authorities decided to block it. They tried scare tactics against recipient families and threatened Ms Hanh, making her work more difficult. Twice she was assaulted when she joined their marches. The worst incident happened when she went to Thanh Hoa Prison #6 to lend support to a group of political prisoners who had gone on a hunger strike to demand more humane treatment.

Toward the end of 2019, Hanoi’s security police opened a case file on Ms Hanh and began investigating her activities. They posted guards around her house, followed her around, and on several occasions even stopped her from leaving her house for several days. She had been abducted in the middle of the streets more than once and taken to the police station for questioning about the 50K Fund.

On January 9, 2020, the Dong Tam attack took place. Mr Le Dinh Kinh, the village elder leading the commune against the land grab by the government, was shot to death. The entire commune was surrounded; no one could go in or out. No one from the outside was allowed to come pay their respect to Mr Kinh at his funeral. Many people throughout the country wanted to send donations to the family. Activist Trinh Ba Phuong, himself a land grab victim from Duong Noi, asked Ms Hanh to open a bank account to receive the donations. Three days after the account was opened, more than 700 people had donated about 570M VND [$25,000 USD].

Fearing that public support for Dong Tam village would increase through the growth of this fund, the authorities ordered the bank to freeze the account without offering any explanations.

On January 15, 2020, while on her way to the bank to file a complaint to retrieve the money, Ms Hanh was abducted by security police and taken to the investigation agency of the Ministry of Public Security for questioning and threats. Between that time and her recent arrest, she was summoned for questioning a total of five times — all about the 50K Fund, and was constantly under surveillance.

On April 3, 2021, Ms Hanh asked a lawyer to send a letter to the Ministry of Public Security to complain about the frozen donations for the family of the late Mr Le Dinh Kinh.

Nguyen Thuy Hanh was officially arrested on April 7, 2021, based on a warrant issued by the investigation agency of Hanoi police. She’s currently being held at pre-trial detention center #2 in Hanoi. She has not been allowed to see either her family or a lawyer, so her conditions are unknown at this time.

We sincerely ask that the international community and agencies step in to help.

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BÁO CÁO VỀ NHÀ HOẠT ĐỘNG NGUYỄN THÚY HẠNH

- Huỳnh Ngọc Chênh

Bà Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh sinh ngày 5/5/1963 tại Hải Dương

Bố mất sớm, lúc 5 tuổi, mẹ tái giá, Hạnh và chị (7 tuổi) sống với ông bà nội. Chồng là nhà báo Huỳnh Ngọc Chênh, sinh năm 1952

Sau khi tốt nghiệp đại học, bà Hạnh là nhân viên cho công ty quốc doanh dịch vụ du lịch. Vào năm 2000, bà chuyển qua làm giám đốc đối ngoại cho công ty mía đường KCP Việt Nam thuộc tập đoàn KCP Ấn Độ, đến năm 2015 thì nghỉ hưu.

Bà Hạnh có mặt trong phong trào xã hội dân sự từ năm 2011, khi tham gia hầu hết các cuộc biểu tình chống Trung Quốc xâm lấn Biển Đông; Biểu tình bảo vệ cây xanh, biểu tình bảo vệ môi trường biển; Biểu tình chống luật đặc khu; Biểu tình đòi hỏi nhân quyền và tham gia các hoạt động cứu giúp dân oan, cứu giúp những người đấu tranh cho nhân quyền bị đánh đập và bị bắt tù và gia đình họ.

Từ năm 2011 đến năm 2018, bên cạnh các hoạt động đấu tranh cho nhân quyền, cho dân chủ, bà Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh còn lo kiếm nguồn tài chính để cứu giúp những người hoạt động xã hội bị khó khăn, bị đánh đập, bị bắt tù. Ban đầu bà Hạnh bỏ tiền túi ra giúp đỡ trực tiếp các nạn nhân. Sau này số lượng nạn nhân tăng lên nhiều, và bà Hạnh đã về hưu, không đủ tiền để giúp nên vận động kêu gọi nhiều người đóng góp.

Năm 2014, bà Hạnh tham gia quỹ cứu lấy dân oan, quyên tiền giúp đỡ những người dân oan bị mất nhà đất từ khắp 65 tỉnh thành kéo về khiếu kiện lâu ngày ở Hà Nội, và những người này thường xuyên bị nhà cầm quyền đàn áp.

Năm 2018, bà Hạnh lập ra quỹ 50K để giúp đỡ tất cả các gia đình tù nhân lương tâm gặp khó khăn khi lao động chính trong nhà bị bắt đi tù. 50K là 50.000 đồng, là số tiền tối thiểu có thể đóng vào hoặc chuyển vào tài khoản ngân hàng. Bà Hạnh kêu gọi đóng 50 ngàn đồng, để có thể có số đông người tham gia đóng góp, đồng thời với số tiền ít ỏi đó, người đóng góp không sợ nhà cầm quyền đàn áp, bắt bớ.

Ban đầu quỹ nhận được phần lớn sự ủng hộ của người Việt ở hải ngoại, còn số người đóng góp rất trong nước còn ít và phải ẩn danh (để tránh sự chú ý của nhà cầm quyền). Nhưng càng về sau, nhiều người vượt dần qua sự sợ hãi, tham gia nhiều hơn và đóng góp với số tiền ngày càng lớn hơn, từ 50 ngàn đồng đến 50 triệu đồng. Sau một năm hoạt động, tỉ lệ nhà hảo tâm trong nước chiếm đến 80% số người đóng góp.

Nhận được tiền, bà Hạnh tự điều phối chuyển cho các gia đình mỗi tháng từ 2 triệu đồng đến 5 triệu đồng tùy vào mức độ khó khăn nhiều hay ít. Số tiền gởi về đến đâu, bà Hạnh phân ra chuyển ngay cho các gia đình qua tài khoản ngân hàng, rồi quyết toán ngay.

Mỗi tháng như vậy, bà Hạnh quyết toán từ 2 đến 3 lần. Số dư nếu có của đợt quyết toàn trước, nhập vào đợt quyết toán sau. Danh sách người gởi cùng số tiền đóng góp, và danh sách người nhận cùng số tiền nhận được đưa lên công khai sau mỗi đợt quyết toán, ai cũng có thể vào kiểm tra được.

Do cách làm công khai minh bạch như vậy, quỹ 50K đã tạo ra uy tín lớn, được mọi người tin cậy, nên ngày càng lan rộng trong cộng đồng quốc nội lẫn quốc ngoại.

Do bị đe dọa nên nhiều gia đình TNLT ban đầu không dám nhận tài trợ dù rất khó khăn. Bà Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh phải ra sức thuyết phục, giảng giải cho các gia đình đó hiểu thế nào là quyền của mình, hiểu luật pháp không cấm nhận trợ giúp nhân đạo. Dần dần, hầu hết các gia đình TNLT nghèo khổ đều đồng ý mở tài khoản để nhận trợ giúp hàng tháng. Ngoài việc giúp tiền sinh hoạt và tiền đi thăm nuôi người tù, quỹ 50K còn trích riêng ra số tiền trợ giúp tiền mua sách vỡ và học phí cho con em TNLT dưới 18 tuổi vào đầu mỗi năm học (mỗi cháu khoảng 2 đến 3 triệu đồng).

Tác dụng và ý nghĩa của quỹ 50 K rất lớn và ngày càng lan rộng, nên nhà cầm quyền tìm mọi cách ngăn chặn. Hù dọa các gia đình TNLT nhận trợ giúp, và tìm mọi cách đe dọa gây khó khăn cho Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh. Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh bị đánh hai lần khi đến thăm và đồng hành cùng gia đình TNLT, trong đó nặng nhất là lần lên trại tù số 6 ở Thanh Hóa, đồng hành cùng các TNLT đang tuyệt thực để đấu tranh nhân quyền.

Cuối năm 2019, công an Hà Nội lập chuyên án theo dõi và điều tra về Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh. Từ đó bà Hạnh bị canh gác, bị theo dõi và thậm chí bị chặn không cho ra khỏi nhà nhiều lần và nhiều ngày. Bà Hạnh nhiều lần bị chặn bắt cóc giữa đường để đưa về đồn công an, tra hỏi, khủng bố về quỹ 50K.

Vào ngày 9/1/2020, nổ ra vụ tấn công vào xã Đồng Tâm, bắn chết cụ Lê Đình Kình, thủ lĩnh của những nông dân giữ đất. Cả xã bị bao vây, không cho ai ra vào. Đám tang cụ Kình diễn ra trong hoàn cảnh không có người đến trực tiếp thăm viếng. Do vậy, nhiều bà con có nhu cầu gởi tiền viếng thông qua ngân hàng. Nhà hoạt động Trịnh Bá Phương, cũng là dân oan, đã nhờ Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh mở tài khoản nhận tiền phúng điếu. Tài khoản mở ra sau ba ngày, đã có 700 người dân gởi tiền phúng điếu với số tiền lên đến 570 triệu đồng.

Nhà cầm quyền sợ sự lan tỏa của quỹ phúng điếu, nói lên lòng dân ủng hộ dân Đồng Tâm nên đã ra lệnh phong tỏa ngay tức khắc tài khoản mà không nêu lý do.

Ngày 15/1/2020, bà Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh trên đường ra ngân hàng khiếu nại đòi lại tiền phúng điếu, đã bị an ninh chặn bắt cóc giữa đường, đưa về cơ quan an ninh điều tra bộ công an để xét hỏi và khủng bố tinh thần.

Từ đó đến ngày bị bắt, bà Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh bị 5 lần triệu tập, chỉ làm việc về quỹ 50 K, và liên tục bị canh gác/theo dõi.\

Ngày 3/4/2021, bà Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh nhờ luật sư gởi đơn lên bộ công an, khiếu nại về việc phong tỏa tài khoản tiền phúng điếu đám tang cụ Lê Đình Kình.

Đến ngày 7/4/2021, bà Nguyễn Thúy hạnh bị bắt chính thức theo lệnh tạm giam của cơ quan an ninh điều tra công an Hà Nội. Hiện bà bị tạm giam tại trạm tạm giam số 2 Hà Nội, người thân và luật sư không được phép tiếp xúc để biết tình trạng của bà hiện nay như thế nào.

Rất mong các tổ chức can thiệp giúp đỡ.