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May 24, 2006

Response to the statements made by the Vietnamese government

The Vietnamese government publicly denied on 24 may, 2006 any military activities in Laos, or to conduct genocide against our people, the Hmong Lao –In –hiding.

For a matter of fact, it is common knowledge that Laotian soldiers are dressed in Vietnamese uniforms. Laotian soldiers are trained by Vietnamese high rank officials, Vietnamese military troops are inside Laos. It is further widely understood that Laos is ruled by Vietnamese doctrines.

This was again confirmed by Vietnam speaking on behalf of Laos yesterday.

The Lao Human Rights Council holds filmed records, and countless photographs of Vietnamese soldiers, belonging to large military units based in the Special Zone in Laos, where our helpless people are massacred for Laotian/Vietnamese soldiers. We hold countless oral and written testimonies by Laotian citizens, confirming the presence of Vietnamese soldiers in the areas. The presence of Vietnamese soldiers in Laos, and in the villages surrounding the large Special Zone closed to foreigners, the UN and journalists is no secret to the world.

Our desperate Hmong Lao relatives, hiding in the remote mountainous jungle areas, are surrounded by massive military forces, Vietnamese and Laotian.

The Hmong Lao –in-hiding are used for merciless, cruel special military units training purposes inside Laos.

We request that the Vietnamese/Laotian government stop using our people for their special units military training purposes.

Indigenous Peoples are humans = not a training tool for soldiers to learn how to kill.

We further respond to the first statement by Vietnam, claiming that the Indigenous Representatives from Vietnam present at this Forum are 'separatist movements'.

We fully support our indigenous brothers and sisters from Vietnam, which are as desperate as we are to help our people back home.

We want to ensure that our people in Laos and Vietnam can enjoy basic human rights, freedom of religion, speech, language and their way of life.

We do not promote "separation", we want to ensure that our trapped people are allowed to integrate into the main stream society without discrimination, intimidation or oppression.