

# Environmental disaster in Vietnam

" the biggest environmental disaster in Vietnam since Agent Orange "

HO CHI MINH CITY, HO CHI MINH, VIETNAM, September 10, 2016 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In Vietnam occurred the biggest environmental disaster since the deployment of Agent Orange by the Americans during the Vietnam War. It happened almost unnoticed by the world while Europe was busy with the refugee crisis and America with the forthcoming presidential elections of the USA. The perpetrators of the environmental disaster come from abroad and are supported by the Vietnamese politicians, similar as it was happen at the Vietnam War.



the 5 by the environmental disaster most affected provinces and coastal regions in central Vietnam

Beginning in early April 2016 a massive

fish deaths on the coast of Vietnam was perceived. The disaster began in Ha Tinh province, in central Vietnam and then spreads to more than 200 km of coastline, into the provinces of Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue and Da Nang. Since then a few hundred thousands (well much more than 115 tons) of dead fish were purged on the beaches of the region. Thousands of Vietnamese are threatened in their existence.

" in search of those who are responsible for the environmental disaster in Vietnam "

## " Do you want fish or steel? "

A steel plant of the Taiwanese company <u>Formosa</u> Plastics Group (FPG) in Vietnamese Ha Tinh province has been begins the operation in early April 2016. The mass fish mortality started at the same time. Fishermen of the region discovered some pipelines of the Formosa Ha Tinh Steel Company (FHS), which initiated the company's wastewater directly into the sea. The fishermen were sure that they had found the cause of the environmental disaster.

This assumption of the fishermen's was then confirmed in a first unofficial statement of Formosa. Mr. Chou Chun Fan, a senior manager of the company apologized for the disaster. But he made it clear that one must lose something if ones are planning to win something. He underscored his opinion with the statement: "Do you want fish or do you want a steelworks? You need to decide!". This led to a wave of protests as well to indignation among the Vietnamese population. The allegations were vehemently disclaimed by official side of Formosa Ha Tinh Steel Company (FHS). Mr. Chou Chun Fan was dismissed on the grounds that he does not represent the opinion of the company. The Vietnamese government in Hanoi practiced restraint. However, it was emphasized that they wanted to solve the case rest. The Vietnamese Deputy Minister for Resources and Environment, Mr. Vo Tuan Nhan spoke the Formosa Ha Tinh Steel Company (FHS) free from any responsibility on the

environmental disaster during a press conference on 27.04.2016. Cause of the fish deaths was probably rather an algal bloom and the initiation of toxic chemicals by the residents of the region. Questions were not permitted by Vietnamese government during the press conference. Vietnamese civil rights activists assume that corrupt government officials were bribed by the Formosa to cover up the incident.

## " Formosa Plastics Group "

The Taiwanese Formosa Plastics Group is with an annual turnover of 78 billion USD and more than 106-thousand employees one of the largest chemical concerns in the world. The Group operates numerous subsidiaries in Taiwan, China, Vietnam as well in the United States and other countries. The owners and the management of the Formosa Plastics Group were in 2009 denounced, by the ethecon - Foundation for Ethics & Economics with the Black Planet Award as they belonging to the persons who are responsible for the largest pollution at the earth.

#### " Vietnam rebelled "

Since April 2016 until the present day, it comes almost daily in whole Vietnam to spontaneous and organized protests against the Formosa Ha Tinh Steel Company (FHS). Protests against Formosa from Hanoi up to Ho Chi Minh City. Even children in Vietnam are complaining: "Where are our fishes has remained?". Also oversea Vietnamese who have found a new home in other countries of the world are gathered together again and again for protest against the current situations in Vietnam. As special in the United States and Australia. At protest rallies of Vietnamese people in Germany it is demanded to stop the payment of development aid to the communist regime in Vietnam but no one is listening. Hundred thousands of victims and sympathizers went since April 2016 already to the streets. They demand fish instead of steel. They are urging the government in Hanoi, to act with full force against the Ha Tinh Formosa Steel Company (FHS). Whatever, they demand to expel this company out of the country.

However, the hardness of the communist regime in Hanoi is not aimed as hoped against those responsible for the environmental disaster. This is geared more towards the protesters and civil rights activists who demand clarification. Even journalists who report about the demonstrations are in the crosshairs of the communist government. Countless of uniformed and civilian security forces are arrayed against the demonstrators. Beside of the peaceful protests it always comes again and again to violent attacks by the police against the demonstrators. Ringleaders are arrested and deported by civilian vehicles. At only one protest rally in Ho Chi Minh City on 15th Mai 2015 are more than 300 demonstrators have been arrested, according to information from civil rights activists. From detention released prisoners reported about physical violence and torture by police. Numerous protesters had to be medically treated.

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Heiko Grimm ITI-HOLIDAY +49 371 2832201 email us here

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