

CỘNG ĐỒNG NGƯỜI VIỆT TỰ DO ÚC CHÂU - VICTORIA

ABN: 99 356 098 668 1/56 Nicholson Street, Footscray VIC 3011 90 Knight Avenue, Sunshine North VIC 3020 P.O. Box 2115, Footscray VIC 3011 Tel: 03 9689 8515 | yeavic.org.au

26 May 2020

For Immediate Media Release

Vietnamese Community in Victoria strongly opposes the Victorian Government's BRI with China.

After the Vietnam War, there was a massive exodus from Vietnam. Millions of Vietnamese refugees escaped the Vietnamese communist regime and eventually found their freedom in many countries around the world. It is necessary to be reminded that there was no South Vietnamese leaving Vietnam during the war, they all decided to stay and fight the North Vietnamese communist invaders.

Over 300,000 Vietnamese refugees were granted their freedom in Australia, but they have never forgotten the atrocities nor become complacent towards the threats that communist regimes like China and Vietnam continue imposing on Australia. This explains the strong opposition to communism within the Vietnamese community in Victoria and Australia.

President of the Vietnamese community in Victoria, Mr Bon Nguyen states: "We, the Vietnamese community who fled the Vietnamese communist regime to settle in Australia, understand the dangers posed by communism, particularly by the Chinese communist regime. This is why the Vietnamese community were very actively vocal in alerting the Australian Government at all levels, Australian business and the public on the dangers of dealing and trusting the Communist regime. Well before this disastrous COVID-19 pandemic, our Community already organised and held numerous public demonstrations in front of Victoria's Parliament House, the State Library, Federation Square, Flinders St. Station and Crown Casino, handing out flyers and calling on our fellow Australians to be aware of the dangers, and the insidious and evil nature of communist regimes and to protect Australia against the dark intentions of China's increasing encroachment and interference".

"As Australians, we are currently incredulously witnessing how the Chinese communist regime is asserting its influence on the Australian Government, almost coercing it to silence by way of restrictions from purchasing meat products from 4 abattoirs, putting 80% tariffs on Australian barley exports and Australian iron ore where they face severe customs procedures on arrival at their ports.

We value our trade with every country, but trade is only fair when there are reasonable and "non-bullying". We should use this opportunity to form stronger and more democratic partnerships and trades with other countries and diversifying our trading risks" said Mr Nguyen.

Mr. Dinh Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese Veterans Association of Victoria, said, "We risked our lives, in the fight against the Vietnamese communists, to protect the freedom that South Vietnam once had, we lost that freedom and found it again in Australia. We must stop any form of infiltration by the Chinese communist regime and protect Australian values for us and for our children. We must do what we can to terminate the Belt Road Initiative. We are also particularly appreciative of parliamentarians from across political parties who stand strong, putting Australian interests first, demanding an independent enquiry to be transparent about the Coronavirus origin"



CỘNG ĐÔNG NGƯỜI VIỆT TỰ DO ÚC CHÂU - VICTORIA

ABN: 99 356 098 668 1/56 Nicholson Street, Footscray VIC 3011 90 Knight Avenue, Sunshine North VIC 3020 P.O. Box 2115, Footscray VIC 3011 Tel: 03 9689 8515 | vcavic.org.au

An Australian digger and Vietnam veteran, Mr Steve Lowe said "Many of our mates and allies lost their lives in fighting the communist regime, protecting the values of freedom. We will not forget those who paid the ultimate price, nor the many that have suffered because of that war against communism. To make their sacrifice have lasting meaning, we live by the motto of the Vietnam Veterans of Australia, to 'Honour the dead, but fight like hell for the living'. We need to protect our sovereignty, our freedom and our future", not sell it off to China. He was not elected to make such deals with China."

"The Vietnamese community is waiting for things to get back to normal and when it's safe to do so we will mobilise our people in protesting against the BRI. We call upon all Australians to rise up and join with us when we take action. Together we can protect our nation, Australia as an independent and a sovereign country" said Bon Nguyen.

For further inquiries, please contact Mr. Bon Nguyen on 0411 616 453 or at Bon.Nguyen2012@yahoo.com.au