

## **HR. 3096: Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007**

To promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam.

*9/18/2007--Passed House amended.*

*This bill has been passed in the House. The bill now goes on to be voted on in the Senate. Keep in mind that debate may be taking place on a companion bill in the Senate, rather than on this particular bill.  
Sep 19, 2007: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.*

### **Summary: Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007 - 2008**

#### **Title I - Prohibition on Nonhumanitarian Assistance to the Government of Vietnam**

Section 101 -

Prohibits U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to the government of Vietnam for FY2008 in excess of FY2007 levels unless the President certifies to Congress that the government of Vietnam has made substantial progress respecting: (1) the release of political and religious prisoners; (2) the right of religious freedom, including the return of church properties; (3) the rights of ethnic minorities; and (4) access to U.S. refugee programs by Vietnamese nationals.

Prohibits U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to the government of Vietnam for subsequent fiscal years in excess of FY2007 levels unless the President certifies to Congress that in addition to such requirements: (1) no government of Vietnam official, agency, or entity wholly or partly owned by the government of Vietnam was complicit in a severe form of trafficking in persons; or (2) the government of Vietnam took all appropriate steps to end any such complicity and hold any official, agency, or entity accountable for such conduct.

Authorizes the President to waive such prohibition for reasons of national interest.

#### **Title II - Assistance to Support Democracy in Vietnam**

Section 201 -

Authorizes the President to provide assistance through nongovernmental organizations and the Human Rights Defenders Fund for the support of individuals and organizations to promote human rights in Vietnam.

Authorizes FY2008-FY2009 appropriations.

#### **Title III - United States Public Diplomacy**

Section 301 -

States that it is U.S. policy to take necessary measures to overcome government of Vietnam jamming of Radio Free Asia.

Authorizes FY2008-FY2009 appropriations for such activities.

Section 302 -

States that it is U.S. policy that educational and cultural exchange programs with Vietnam should promote progress toward freedom and democracy in Vietnam.

Title IV - United States Refugee Policy

Section 401 -

States that it is U.S. policy to offer refugee resettlement to Vietnam nationals (including members of the Montagnard ethnic minority groups) who are eligible for the Humanitarian Resettlement program, the Orderly Departure program, the Resettlement Opportunities for Vietnamese Returnees program, the Amerasian Homecoming Act of 1988, or any other U.S. refugee program, but who were deemed ineligible for reasons of administrative error or certain circumstances beyond their control.

Authorizes funds to be made available from FY2008-FY2010 Department of State refugee assistance for the protection and resettlement of Vietnamese refugees and asylum seekers, including Montagnards in Cambodia.

**Title V - Annual Report on Progress Toward Freedom and Democracy in Vietnam**

Section 501 -

Directs the Secretary of State to report annually to Congress respecting activities under this Act toward freedom and democracy in Vietnam.