

#### **NEWSLETTER**

2107 Sherry St., Arlington TX 76010 \* 682-777-2384 \* info@acffoundation.org

Board Directors/Advisors: Hien Tran – Kim Phung – Van Ngo – Quang Pham – Dan Tran

## **Mission Statements**

Support the livelihood of Vietnamese Refugees in 4 areas: Food, Shelter, Healthcare and Education

# **Achievement**

- > Bailing 43 VN Refugees out of IDC
- ➤ Providing COVID-19 Relief fund to help registered VN Refugees

### **Immigration Detention Center (IDC)**

Thailand has not signed the 1951 Refugee Convention and this International Covenant protocol. Therefore, the Thai government treats refugees like other foreigners who immigrate illegally or overstay in this country.

In August 2018, Thai police raided the Wat Sao Thong Hin area and arrested 133 adults and children (including 87 women, men and 46 children aged 1 to 16 years old).

133 Vietnamese refugees were detained in the IDC because of their illegal status even though they have refugee status given by United Nations.



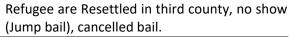
In August 2018: Vietnamese women were arrested and their young children were separated and detained elsewhere.

# Thai Government Allows Bailing Women With Young Children Out of IDC.

The Thai government cannot return refugees to their homeland, where they may face persecution; The only option for refugees detained in IDC is to "wait" and "wait" for a change in rules to be bailed out of IDC.

After 133 Vietnamese refugees were arrested - mother in one place, small children detained in different place-many human rights organizations campaigned the Thai government for women with young children to be released on bail under the following conditions:

- 1. The husband was also arrested in IDC or single mother, no one was raising children,
- 2. Deposit 50,000 Baht (US \$ 1,667) per detainee,
- 3. Must have a Thai or an organization registered with the Thai government to be Guarantor,
- 4. Every month, the sponsor & bailee must report to IDC,
- 5. IDC will re-pay the bail back to the guarantor after 3-4 weeks under the following situations:



ACFF provides financial support to bail the first 15 women out of IDC to reunite with their young children.

#### Life in IDC

Life in IDC is normally very hard and now with this Wuhan COVID-19, life in IDC is ten times harder: food is not enough (rice is 1 small bowl of rice and soup) only with some vegetables or boiled water after spinach cooking), the meals are the same every day. And the refugees have no money to buy food in IDC prison (food in IDC sells 3 times more expensive than the same food bought outside).

That's the food, the sleeping space is even more pitiful! All Vietnamese people (refugees and illegal workers sharing the same room), it was very very crowded (in average 180 people stay in one room) and the room area is only 700 square meters. Detainees can only lie on their side and have to bend their legs, because there is not enough room to sleep normally on their backs, and at times there are more than 200 people in the room and some have to sleep in the toilet.

For refugees who have been in IDC for a long time, they got a lot of illnesses: confusion, sickness, paralyzed legs and some have had strokes in IDC. When I was with them, I felt that they were very psychologically negative, disoriented as they have no hope (not sure if it is possible to get out of IDC), and married men whose wife and children were outside, were even more distracted as some individuals outside sexually harassed their wives; some of them made unsuccessful attempts to commit suicide in IDC.



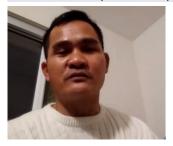
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"They don't know who to ask for help, and don't know how much longer they can endure.

I now heard that ACF Foundation is providing bail money and going through legal procedures to bail them out, I am very happy because they (detainees) have a little hope. Thank you everyone." Said Mr.



Nay Thieu Siu was detained for a month in IDC, shared his story via Messenger on October 17, 2020 after resettlement in Canada for more than 2 weeks.

His wife Nay Them Siu is one of 15 women sponsored out of IDC by ACFF in January 2020

Nay Them Siu, who himself contacted ACFF to inform ACFF that there were more than 50 helpless refugees detained in IDC ncluding 4 women, including 3 biological sisters and 1 daughter, were held in IDC near The Campuchea

ACFF contacted Thai authorities directly, within 24 hours we could determine which IDC camp it was. The ACFF Board of Directors met urgently and decided to proceed with the procedure to bail the first list of 28 refugees including a man who has been jailed for more than 11 years and the above 4 women.

CONT	<b>TRIBUT</b>	ION	<b>FORM</b>

Full Name:			
City:			
State:, Zip			
Tel Phone:			
eMail Address :			
☐ I want to help bail one refugee \$1.6 ☐ \$1,000.00; ☐ \$500.00; ☐ \$250.			
□ <u>\$100.00</u> ; or □ \$  100% of the donations will be used to B refugees who are being held in Thai 'S I			

# Giở Bảo trợ qua:

- 1. Zelle to: info@acffoundation.org
- 2. https://paypal.me/dmtran56
- 3. <a href="https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted">https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted</a> ted button id=AKSVFY6Z947UL
- 4. Gửi check về/Please mail check to:



ACF FOUNDATION 2107 Sherry St Arlington, TX 76010

#### **ACFF Accomplishment:**

From January 2019 to January 2020, ACFF provided \$ 20,863 to bail 15 refugee women with young children out of IDC.

- ✓ Paid for X-Ray scans for female refugees.
- ✓ Paid for eye operation cost for 2 elderly women.
- ✓ Advanced hospital cost for a female refugee, who was sick and must be operated. After discharge, BRC (Bangkok Refugee Center) returns the advanced fund to ACFF.
- Help to transfer fund from family to pay hospital fee for a male refugee was in traffic accident.
- ✓ A total of US\$28,135 relief fund was sent in 3 COVID-19 relief campaigns to help 426 refugee families, totaling more than 1700 people

#### **ACFF** is Currently Working on:

Completed 28 applications to file with IDC to bail 28 refugees who are detained in IDC, with 1 person who has been detained for more than 11 years (since 2009). Total fund for phase 1 listing is \$26,152 for 18 applications, while 10 applications are self-financed.

#### **ACFF will Do**:

More than 30 Vietnamese refugees, who do not have the financial capabilities to apply for a bail to IDC. ACFF is mobilizing compatriots and friends to donate about \$50,000 to bail 30 refugees in IDC.