

**Speech by victim Mai Giang Vu, Ho Chi
Minh City**

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Distinguished participants
Esteemed Organizers
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am allowed by this Conference to take the floor,
so I will present story of may family and my own
life form the time we were in the former regime's
machine up to now time.

My name is Mai Giang Vu, 70 years old, residing
regularly in 195/4A, Binh Thoi Street, P9, District
11, Ho Chi Minh City.

- I got married in 1965, in 1966 to 1968 I served
in the U.S armed forces' Long Binh arsenal,
Bien Hoa (currently the Industrial Quarter of
Bien Hoa, Dong Nai).
- My function in this arsenal was to receive and
send military utilities, ammunitions, chemical
etc.,... At this time, my wife delivered our
first daughter in 1967 and then the second one
in 1968. In June 1968, I was forced in and then
dispatched to Battalion 3/50/, Infantry

- Division 25, stationing in Luong Hoa Ha, Ben Luc District, Long An province.
- In a night of July 1968. I was ordered to equip myself a M79 and go along with an American captain acting as military advisor. We had the task of covering a group of 3 soldiers who were going to carry and swim to the other bank of the river materials in order to spray defoliants on nipa bushes and thick straw grass growing over area where were normally used as starting points for various artillery attacks against our military camps; just only after one week, this area was completely clear.
 - In certain early days of 1970s, I was transferred to Air force. In April 1970, I was a member of Helicopter Squadron 221, Air Division 3, stationing in Bien Hoa Airbase. I normally took part in troop-landing missions and 3 defoliants-spraying helicopter missions over jungles of Snoul (Cambodia), Phuoc Long (currently called Binh Phuoc).
 - The last time, in April 1971, our spraying mission was conducted over North-West area of Thien Ngon Military Base, Tay Ninh, near cross-road of Kreck, Cambodia.

- At the end of 1970, my wife gave birth to one son, who later died in 1993.
- At the beginning of 1972, I was allowed to take a training course in the United States, following Credible Chase Program, Eglin AFB, Florida.
- After completing this training , I was assigned to Air Squadron 293, Air Division, Da Nang Air Base
- In January 1973, I was wounded, the war did rob away my left-eye, and after military discharge, I went back home and lived a civil life.
- In 1974, my wife gave birth to another son and in April 1975 another one. All of my children, sons and daughters, were delivered in Tu Du Hospital, all - heavier than 3 kg, healthy. But, normally after completing 3rd form schooling, or at 15 years old, they began to walk with difficulties, then stop learning, and gradually get weaker and weaker; their bodies and limbs began to curl up and hence impossible to walk. They had to drag on his legs, crawl until 18 years old, before they were almost paralyzed and had to stay in bed. Two of them

passed away at 23 years old, and the third at 25.

At the end of 1984, my wife delivered another child, weighed 4,500kg. He is now healthy, 1.68m high and 54 kg of body weigh. He is working as a mechanist in a company in Ho Chi Minh City.

During toxic chemicals sprayings, I thought these defoliants were similar to those were used by peasants. I did not expect they badly impact on our human health and on many generations after the war. Thirty years have passed, victims residing in the sprayed areas still delivered children with congenially-lethal diseases. Of course, if I had known these sprayings were dangerous, I would have never done so and three of my children would have never died these wrongful deaths.

- I was lied, every body was deceived.

- Admiral Zumwalt himself also followed his Secretary of Defense "Monsato" and then ordered his own son, a Lieutenant, to take part in the "Ranch Hand Operation" that resulted in his son's cancer and miserable death and subsequently his grandson's paralysis.

- In this Admiral's report to the U.S War Council, the U.S House of Representatives on 26 June 1986, he concluded that the toxic chemicals were laced with dioxin which might cause several diseases and deformities on the U.S veterans and their descendants.

While living in poverty now, my health is very weak with nose and throat infection and several other bad conditions that need continuous medication. I have been always haunted by this "quiet and lethal toxic chemical" which is daily paralyzing victims.

I would like very much to ask all those families subject to my similar condition to share our common sympathy, our common pain and common losses. Please understand that I was then under conditions which did not allow me to know the truth and hence following my superiors. I was and am now a victim.

- Not only Vietnamese were victims of Agent Orange/ dioxin, but also many others and their descendants from the Republic of South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and the United States, who were involved in the Vietnam War.

- The U.S producers of toxic chemicals who knew only of enjoying their benefits by supplying their products to the U.S military in the war and hence deceiving their victims and twisting truth and now they are trying to ignore their victims and to deny their crimes.
- While Vietnam American veterans and their children enjoying certain compensation, the Vietnamese victims were left by the perpetrators to cope with various aspects of war legacies lonely with limited resources and assistance.
- I would like to ask organizations as well as governments all over the world to support the Vietnamese victims in their quest for justice, demanding that the U.S chemical producers of these toxic substances should take courage enough to acknowledge their responsibilities and to provide compensations to the victims who are now being in agony, waiting for coming death and to alleviate certain parts of their great damages. This may consequently console them to some extent.
- The U.S companies, please cease to commit too much and too long arguments about!

- Allowing me on behalf of families of Vietnamese victims extent our thanks to our benefactors in country and abroad who have offered their help to our victims in the past years and will stretch their arms to more victims in the near future.

- Before concluding my speech, allowing me to convey my many thanks to all participants who have the pleasure of listening to this presentation of my inert feelings and aspirations in this conference.

- Best wishes to all participants, ladies and gentlemen. Good health and good luck! Great success to our conference!

Respectfully,

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