

DAILY WORLD NEWS ON VIETNAM

May 04, 2016

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1. Massive Fish Deaths in Vietnam

Activists Arrested Over Fish Protests in Vietnam

Vietnam Right Now - May 02, 2016

newamericamedia.org

Two former political prisoners have been arrested by the authorities and accused of stirring up public anger over the mass fish deaths in central Vietnam.

State television reported that Truong Minh Tam and Chu Manh Son had gone to Ha Tinh, one of the worst affected provinces to "interview local people, produce TV reports and post them on anti-state web sites".

Police are reported to have presented Tam with a receipt confirming that he drew a monthly salary from the Vietnam Path Movement, an unregistered civil society organisation that campaigns for human rights.

They and other activists say they were monitored closely by the security services from the moment they arrived in the four central provinces affected by the environmental disaster.

Activists from another independent group, VOICE Vietnam, who have been trying to arrange relief supplies for local people, say they are being besieged by police at a church in Ha Tinh and fear arrest if they go outside

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Rare rallies in Vietnam over mysterious mass fish deaths

May 1, 2016.

www.reuters.com

Hundreds of people demonstrated in Vietnam on Sunday against a Taiwanese firm they accuse of causing mass fish deaths along the country's central coast, with some also blaming the government for a sluggish response to a major environmental disaster.

Though an official investigation has found no links between the fish deaths and a \$10.6 billion coastal steel plant run by a unit of Taiwan's Formosa Plastics, public anger against the company has not abated.

Hundreds gathered in Hanoi holding banners that said: "Formosa destroying the environment is a crime" and "Who poisoned the central region's waters?"

Others said: "Formosa out of Vietnam!" and took aim at the government for being aloof in what it now describes as one of its worst environmental disasters.

Demonstrations are rare in Vietnam and uniformed and plain-clothes police are usually quick to suppress them. On Sunday they cleared traffic to allow demonstrators to do a lap of a big lake in the heart of Hanoi.

Huge numbers of dead fish have appeared at farms and on beaches since April 6, impacting 200 km (124 miles) of coastline in four provinces, with no known cause.

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Amid Fish Deaths, Social Media Comes Alive in Vietnam

By Thu Huong Le
May 04, 2016
thediplomat.com

In Vietnam, a scandal surrounding the mass die-off of fish has created an explosive wave of debate and activism on social media, particularly Facebook. Responding to the social media outcry, many rallied in cities across Vietnam on Sunday, during a national four-day holiday. The rallies took place at an unprecedented scale, spanning three regions.

The protests responded to the mass deaths of fish, a crisis that has been ravaging Vietnam's four central-coast provinces since early April. The environmental disaster has killed thousands of fish and caused financial and environmental damages to fishermen and people living in what was already one of the country's most vulnerable regions. The cause is unconfirmed as yet, but many Vietnamese suspect pollution from a steel plant operated by a subsidiary of Formosa Plastics Group.

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