

# THE CONSPIRACY AND TRICKS OF HOSTILE FORCES TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS ISSUES TO DESTROY THE GREAT NATIONAL UNITY BLOC IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY

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The conspiracy and tricks of hostile and reactionary forces take advantage of ethnic and religious issues to incite and entice believers and people to destabilize political security and social safety order, creating a pretext for intervention from the outside, in order to carry out a conspiracy against our country. In ethnic minority and mountainous areas, remote and extremely difficult areas, they often associate religious issues with ethnic issues to incite hatred and divide the great national unity bloc, set up organizations hiding in the shadow of religion to infiltrate, gather and entice all ethnic groups. These are the plots and revolutionary cause of our Party and people. These are conspiracy of hostile forces to destroy the revolutionary cause of our Party and people. Therefore, identifying a number of conspiracy and tricks of hostile forces taking advantage of ethnic and religious issues to oppose the Vietnamese revolution to be very important and urgent in the current situation.

**Keywords:** *Conspiracy; Tricks; Hostile and reactionary forces; Ethnicity; Religion; The great national unity bloc; Ethnic minorities and mountainous area; Vietnam.*

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## 1. Introduction

Vietnam is a multi-ethnic country, with 54 ethnic groups living in all parts of the country, multi-religious (including 46 religious organizations), and there has never been an ethnic or religious conflicts in its history. In general, religions and ethnic groups live in solidarity, harmony, respect and help each other to coexist and develop. The interweaving distribution of ethnicities and religions in the areas creates exchanges and integration in terms of economy, culture and society, enriching the traditions and national cultural identity unified in the diversity of Vietnamese cultural identity. Along with the comprehensive renovation of the country, our Party and State have also gradually renewed awareness, developed theoretical thinking and perfected the policy on ethnicity and religion according to the unified viewpoint. between theory and practice. It can be said that after 37 years of implementing the national renewal policy, under the leadership of the Party, especially the impact of the Party's line and policy on ethnicity and religion; the situation of ethnicity and religion has stably developed in all fields.

Resolution of the 13<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Party affirms: “Achieving well the goal of religious unity and national unity. Ensuring everyone's freedom right of belief and religion in accordance with law”. Thoroughly grasping the ideological and guiding viewpoints of the Party and State, over the past time, under the unified leadership of the entire political system from the central to grassroots levels, Party committees at all levels and local authorities in affected areas has actively led and directed forces in the political system to effectively deploy many solutions to ensure political security, enhance socio-economic development in the locality, people's lives are constantly being improved; activities infringing upon national security were promptly detected, prevented and handled,... contributing to creating a stable environment in the affected areas. However, due to many objective and subjective reasons, ensuring political security in some localities in ethnic minority and mountainous areas still has many limitations, the ethnic and religious situation in the area still has many complicated issues; the grassroots political system in some places has not met the requirements and tasks... has created

conditions for hostile forces to continue to take advantage of anti-sabotage activities, potentially posing many risks of instability in some localities in the ethnic minorities and mountainous areas.

## 2. Research overview

Regarding the issue of fighting against plots and tricks of hostile forces in the field of ethnicity and religion in Vietnam, there have been many research works. Among them are some typical research works such as: Nguyen Huy Dong, “Actively identifying and fighting against plots to take advantage of ethnic and religious issues by hostile forces”, *Electronic Journal of National Defense*, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016; Tran Quang Phuong: “Struggling with plots to take advantage of ethnic and religious issues to cause riots and separatism in the Central Highlands”, *Electronic Journal of National Defense*, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019; Song Thuong, “Unmasking the face of the reactionary organization “Christian Protestant”, *Electronic Newspaper of People’s Public Security*, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021; Doan Trieu Long, “Struggling to prevent and combat the plots and tricks of hostile forces taking advantage of ethnic issues in the Central Highlands today”, *Electronic Journal of Communist*, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022; Nguyen Van Minh, “Some theoretical and practical issues about the ethnic issues, hostile forces taking advantage of distorting and sabotaging our country and initially building a counter-information system”, the *Electronic information website of Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences*, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022; Le Thi Chien, “Preventing and combating plots and anti-destructive tricks of hostile forces in the fields of ethnicity, religion, democracy and human rights”, *Electronic Journal of Political Theory*, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022; Binh Nguyen, “Conspiracy to take advantage of ethnic and religious issues to incite sabotage in the Central Highlands”, *Electronic Newspaper of People’s Public Security*, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023; Phuong Ha (Vietnam News Agency), “Failing to defeat the plot to exploit religion to sabotage the great national unity bloc”, *Electronic Journal of Propaganda*, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023... In general, the above research works are valuable documents for the author to inherit, supplement, complete and clarify the content of this research.

## 3. Research methods

In this article, the author uses some basic research methods such as: Secondary data collection method; Methods of synthesis and analysis to clarify the content of this research.

## 4. Research results

### *4.1. Some conspiracies and tricks of hostile forces taking advantage of ethnic and religious issues to oppose the Vietnamese revolution need to be identified*

In recent years, hostile forces have tried their best to propagate and distort Vietnam’s achievements in the fields of ethnicity and religion, falsely accusing “the Vietnamese government of religious persecution”, “discrimination with ethnic minorities”. In addition, reaction elements, political opportunists at home and abroad also tried to collude, take advantage of a number of dignitaries and reputable people in religious and ethnic communities to propagate and gather forces, form an opposition organization against the people’s administration; inciting the masses, organizing illegal involvement, with the intention of disrupting social order and safety, causing political riots. The purpose of the above activities is to obscure and change people’s perception of ethnic and religious issues; dividing the great national unity bloc, inciting narrow-minded and extreme nationalist ideology leading to the formation of unstable social psychology, the desire and expectation for a political change; even organizing and promoting that upheaval by rioting and overthrowing. That scenario played out in the Soviet Union and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe. Not only fighting against ethnic and religious fields on a general basis, hostile forces have thoroughly exploited the differences in ethnicity, religion, belief... in regions of our country such as the northern mountainous provinces, the western provinces of Thanh Hoa - Nghe An, the central region - the Central Highlands, the Southwest region... to distort and oppose the Party, State and government; dividing ethnic groups and the unity between religions, destroying the wage-religious unity. In the provinces in the Northwest region, hostile forces take advantage of the difficult and backward situation in some ethnic minority communities, especially the Mong ethnic group to promote activities to sabotage the great national unity bloc; causing instability in political security, social order and safety; taking advantage of religious issues to cause discrimination and division of the nation; linking objects, establishing organizations, associations and groups hiding in the name of religion to win over the masses, gathering forces to oppose the government, increasing heretical and strange activities... creating conflicts between religions. In the Central Highlands provinces, there are dozens of reactionary organizations that regularly take advantage of ethnic and religious

issues to infringe on national security such as the “Fulro Organization in exile”, “The Montagnard Fund” (MFI) taking advantage of the spread of Protestantism to operate; “Association for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion and Belief”... These exiled reactionary organizations have created both material and spiritual support for reactionary and dissident objects in the country to operate. Recently, some reactionary organizations such as “Association for Christian Church in the Central Highlands” or heresy “Ha Mon”... have also emerged with many complex activities. In the western provinces of the Southern region, hostile forces distort the history of the Southwest region, distort the ethnic and religious policies of the Khmer ethnic group in order to incite extreme nationalism and separatism among a part of the people; at the same time taking advantage of the so-called “right of the nation to self-determination” to incite a part of ethnic minorities in the Mekong Delta to fight for the establishment of an autonomous state. These are very sophisticated and dangerous conspiracies and tricks that cannot be subjective, taking lightly.

**4.2. A number of problems for the fight against plots and tricks of hostile forces in the field of ethnicity and religion in Vietnam**

*Firstly*, the national-ethnic consciousness and law observance of a part of people in ethnic minority and mountainous areas still have shortcomings and limitations. The law observance of people in some border areas is still not strict. The level of knowledge and awareness of the people is limited, life is difficult, there is no self-consciousness in understanding the law. Many mountainous localities still have outdated customs and practices that have been deeply ingrained in a part of the population, so the dissemination of legal education still faces many difficulties. Notably, the criminal activities of trafficking, illegal transportation of drugs, human trafficking, illegal labor to China... In order to improve legal knowledge for the people, it is necessary to step up the communication on the mass media about the Party’s guidelines and policies, the State’s laws to the masses in the border areas. Propaganda for people to actively participate in the movement of all people to participate in protecting national sovereignty and border security in the new situation.

*Secondly*, the socio-economic development level of ethnic minorities is still low and subject to many risks compared to ethnic minorities in other regions, so it is easy to cause panic. Taking advantage of the limited awareness level, difficult

economic conditions of a part of ethnic minorities to propagate and evoke history and land; inciting nationalist ideology of narrowness, separatism and self-rule; propagating and distorting the guidelines, policies of the Party and State.

*Thirdly*, the situation of ethnic minorities in migration is complicated. Due to the low starting point and the characteristics of the ethnic minorities who mainly live in highland, remote and isolated areas, transportation is difficult, the educational level of a part of the people is still limited, many customs and practices are still backward; some customs are slowly being eliminated; economy is mainly cultivation, agricultural production, animal husbandry which is self-sufficient; not paying attention to the application of science and technology to production, restructuring of plants and animals,... Therefore, a part of ethnic minorities is still in poverty, their lives are still facing many difficulties, leading to the intention to migrate to other places to have a better life. In addition, reactionary individuals and organizations outside thoroughly take advantage of issues of ethnicity, religion, customs and habits of ethnic minorities, through whispering, word of mouth, mass media, especially radio stations in ethnic languages to propagate and divide the great national unity bloc; propagandize, entice a part of ethnic minorities to migrate, illegally exit to Laos, Myanmar, Thailand... aim at gathering forces to establish a “separatist, autonomous state”. To be wary of conspiracy, methods and tricks to take advantage of ethnic and religious issues to propagate and incite people to migrate freely, contributing to socio-economic development, maintaining order and security, ethnic minorities need: *Firstly*, to well observe the guidelines and policies of the Party, the laws of the State, the regulations of the local government where they reside; focusing on labor, stable production and life; not migrate, exit illegally, do not participate in activities that cause instability in the locality. *Secondly*, raising the spirit of vigilance, caution, alertness before malicious, untrue information, do not listen, do not believe, do not share information related to propaganda, inciting and enticing the free migration of bad objects. *Thirdly*, when detecting bad objects that have propaganda, influence, entice and incite compatriots to migrate freely, illegally leaving to go abroad or doing illegal activities, they must urgently report to local authorities and police forces for timely prevention and handling.

*Fourthly*, the non-traditional security issue in the border area continues to develop complicatedly,

directly threatening the environment, life, security, human safety and cultural identity. Non-traditional security challenges in border areas negatively impact, directly or indirectly threaten people's lives, stability, development and security in border areas. Non-traditional security challenges, if not controlled and handled, can have serious and unpredictable consequences, because natural conditions are often fragmented, population characteristics, lifestyles, specific cultures and the low level of socio-economic development, the ability to cope with the grassroots political system and resident communities... Non-traditional security challenges in the border area manifest in a number of areas: *Firstly*, non-traditional security challenges from human security factors, focusing on human trafficking crimes and human security violations tend to increase. In particular, human trafficking is a prominent security issue, causing a lot of frustration. "Victims of human trafficking have all suffered huge losses in terms of health, mind and physiology. The consequences do not stop at individuals and families, but also affect the whole society. *Secondly*, non-traditional security challenges come from smuggling and illegal transportation of goods across the border. On the road to the border gate, smuggling and illegal transportation of goods often occur in provinces such as Dien Bien, Lao Cai, Lang Son, Quang Ninh, Quang Tri, Tay Ninh, Long An, Dong Thap, and An Giang... Objects take advantage to smuggle, committing commercial fraud, illegally transporting all kinds of goods from tobacco, sugar, gold, foreign currency, fake Vietnamese money and human trafficking. On the waterway border, criminals smuggle and illegally transport gasoline, oil, timber, minerals, wild animals/plants, scrap, electronic equipment, refrigeration, furniture used household goods, consumer goods, food, functional foods, livestock, poultry... Their use of many sophisticated tricks makes stopping these activities even more difficult in the border provinces. *Thirdly*, non-traditional security challenges come from illegal immigration; Vietnamese citizens illegally enter, leave and stay abroad, adversely affecting Vietnam's reputation, foreign policy and relations with other countries, negatively affecting the development of tourism and labor export industries. Illegal entry and leaving significantly affects the security and order situation in the locality, the risk of arising crimes of human trafficking and fraud. Vietnamese citizens entering and leaving illegally are easy targets for hostile forces to increase recruitment activities, transport documents and weapons, lure people abroad

for training and bring them back for conducting activities against Vietnam. *Fourthly*, the challenge of disease, food hygiene and safety; free migration activities, taking advantage of visiting relatives and working in the fields. Many objects cross the border, potentially causing the risk of disease transmission to enter and spread from abroad, directly affecting people's lives. Besides, the transportation and smuggling of "dirty" food across the border is also a challenge that needs to be prevented, because it is very dangerous to people's health.

*Fifthly*, hostile and reactionary forces are thoroughly taking advantage of ethnic, religious and historical issues, ethnic relations, religious relations to incite and divide the great unity bloc, oppose the government. At present, the plots and tricks of hostile forces taking advantage of ethnic and religious issues to oppose our country's revolution are diverse, with very dangerous nature, openly, legally, secretly, illegally both at home and abroad, in all economic, political, ideological, cultural and social fields with many organizations and forces... to go to the higher goal of eliminating the leadership role of the Communist Party of Vietnam, overthrowing the socialist regime, dividing Vietnam into many "countries" under their control. Therefore, clearly identifying the main tricks of the hostile forces in taking advantage of the national problem to oppose the current Vietnamese revolution is to contribute to preventing the destruction of the hostile forces, the bad elements against the Vietnamese revolution, protecting the regime, protecting the peaceful life of ethnic minorities in particular and the Vietnamese people in general in the process of national renewal and socio-economic development under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

## 5. Discussion

In the face of increasingly sophisticated and drastic counter-insurgency activities of hostile forces, it is necessary to pay attention to solutions to fight against conspiracies and tricks in the field of ethnicity and religion as follows:

*Firstly*, strengthening the leadership and direction of party committees at all levels for ethnic and religious affairs. Renovate the contents and methods of propagating and disseminating the Party's guidelines, the State's policies and laws on ethnicity and religion. For remote and border areas, it is necessary to be flexible in methods of propaganda and dissemination suitable to the characteristics of languages, customs, practices and natural conditions of the locality and ethnic minority community, in order to raise the "resistance" of the people against



the distorting and opposing claims of hostile forces.

*Secondly*, strengthen the consolidation and construction of a clean and strong grassroots political system. Focusing on improving the leadership capacity and combat strength of party organizations and authorities at all levels, taking care of building a contingent of cadres, especially key cadres who are ethnic minorities and strong religious areas in all aspects; well implementing the style of mass mobilization, respecting the people, closing to the people, understanding the people, learning the people, to be responsible to the people, thereby promptly detecting and definitively solving outstanding and pressing problems, cases arising related to ethnic and religious issues right from the grassroots level; avoid letting hostile forces take advantage of enticing and inciting the people.

*Thirdly*, pay attention to investing in and supporting the implementation of ethnic and religious policies with creative ways, suitable to the characteristics of each locality and each ethnic region. Consolidate the political system, especially at the grassroots; pay attention to doing well the planning, training, use and rational arrangement of ethnic minority cadres for key positions at the grassroots level, promoting the role of party cell secretary and village elder, village chief, a person with prestige in the community in propagating and educating the masses; assign cadres who understand the customs and habits of the people about working in ethnic minority and mountainous areas to propagate, guide and help the people.

*Fourthly*, proactively and actively integrate measures and contents to mobilize diplomatic struggle in the fields of ethnicity and religion, especially in the roadmap to promote stable and long-term relations with other countries; strengthen information, external propaganda to promote policies, laws and achievements of Vietnam, both resolutely struggle, express their goodwill to dialogue and cooperate with other countries on the basis of

equality, respect for independence, sovereignty and non-interference in each country's internal affairs. It is necessary to continue to institutionalize provisions in international conventions to which Vietnam has joined, increasing participation in international activities, demonstrating Vietnam's role as an active and responsible member of the United Nations and international conventions.

*Fifthly*, combine and use a combination of methods of struggle against "peaceful evolution", "subversive riot", with the core of which is mass mobilization, in order to neutralize the exploitation of hostile and reactionary forces; proactively preventing, taking education, persuasion and advocacy as the main ones. When dealing with complex issues that arise, hot spots related to ethnic and religious issues must be handled resolutely, flexibly, flexibly, cautiously, decisively, in accordance with the law, not allowed to spread, not to form independent political organizations, not to let hostile forces use excuses to interfere.

*Sixthly*, promote theoretical research, practical summary, fight against wrong and hostile views on ethnicity and religion. Through practical summary, timely adjust and supplement policies to suit the situation. Strengthening coordination between the Party and State, socio-political organizations and the whole society in the fight against false and hostile views in the fields of ethnicity, religion, democracy and human rights to forming a wide-ranging, synergistic battle on a large scale.

## 6. Conclusion

The issue of ethnicity and religion is very important, but also very sensitive, easily exploited by hostile forces to sabotage, plot to transform the socialist regime, erase the leadership role of the Communist Party of Vietnam for the whole society. Good implementation of the above solutions will contribute to defeating the strategy of "peaceful evolution" of hostile forces in any conditions and circumstances.

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## ÂM MƯU, THỦ ĐOẠN CỦA CÁC THỂ LỰC THÙ ĐỊCH LỢI DỤNG VẤN ĐỀ DÂN TỘC, TÔN GIÁO NHẪM CHỐNG PHÁ KHỐI ĐẠI ĐOÀN KẾT DÂN TỘC Ở NƯỚC TA HIỆN NAY

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Những âm mưu, thủ đoạn chống phá của các thể lực thù địch, phản động là lợi dụng vấn đề dân tộc, tôn giáo để kích động, lôi kéo tín đồ và người dân gây mất ổn định an ninh chính trị, trật tự an toàn xã hội, tạo cơ cho hành động can thiệp từ bên ngoài, hòng thực hiện âm mưu chống phá nước ta. Tại vùng đồng bào dân tộc thiểu số và miền núi, vùng sâu, vùng xa, vùng đặc biệt khó khăn, chúng thường gắn vấn đề tôn giáo với vấn đề dân tộc để kích động hận thù, chia rẽ khối đại đoàn kết dân tộc, lập ra các tổ chức núp bóng tôn giáo để thâm nhập, tập hợp, lôi kéo đồng bào các dân tộc. Đây là những âm mưu của họ nhằm chống phá sự nghiệp cách mạng của Đảng và nhân dân ta. Vì vậy, nhận diện một số âm mưu thủ đoạn của các thể lực thù địch lợi dụng vấn đề dân tộc, tôn giáo chống phá cách mạng Việt Nam là rất quan trọng, cấp thiết trong tình hình hiện nay.

**Từ khóa:** Âm mưu; Thủ đoạn; Thể lực thù địch; Dân tộc; Tôn giáo; Khối đại đoàn kết dân tộc; Vùng đồng bào dân tộc thiểu số và miền núi; Việt Nam.