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## Articles

### Cooperation Against Human Trafficking: Case Study of Cambodia-Vietnam Border Point

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#### Abstract

After its border with China, Cambodia is Vietnam's second key borderline for human trafficking with neighboring countries. Human trafficking is seriously affecting people's lives and security on the Vietnam-Cambodia border. Vietnamese authorities have discovered and destroyed many cross-border trafficking lines. However, human trafficking activities have become increasingly complex, with foreign elements and transnational activities. Collaborative activities against human trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia have contributed to reducing these crimes in the border areas of the two countries. This article discusses the cooperation process between Vietnam and Cambodia against human trafficking on the border between 2009 and 2019. It describes the situation of human trafficking and the characteristics of crime groups on the Vietnam-Cambodia border. It reviews the results of cooperation between the two countries on this issue. The article discusses proposing some solutions to improve cooperation effectiveness in the coming time. The article concludes that cooperation between Vietnam and Cambodia against human trafficking will be strengthened but requires more efforts of the two countries' authorities.

**Keywords:** border crime, border security, human trafficking, protections against, Vietnam-Cambodia cooperation.

#### 1. Introduction

Crime of trafficking in people is a social problem, complicated and tends to increase on a global. According to United Nations estimates, each year around 800,000 to 1,000,000 people worldwide are trafficked, so about 3,000 people are traded in one day, and about 510 human trafficking lines around the world (152 countries have trafficked victims), and profits from human trafficking are about 150 billion dollars per year (ILO, 2017). In Vietnam, an average of 900 people are traded each year, over 90 percent of human trafficking in border areas (Dan, 2018). To effectively combat human trafficking, Vietnam has strengthened international cooperation in combating human trafficking with neighboring countries, including Cambodia. In 2009, during a visit to Cambodia by Vietnam's Minister of Public Security Le Hong Anh, the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam and the Ministry of the Interior of Cambodia signed a cooperation plan for the 2009–2010 period. In order to implement cooperation plans, the functional forces of Vietnam and Cambodia have implemented many activities to coordinate and organize the detection and arrest of

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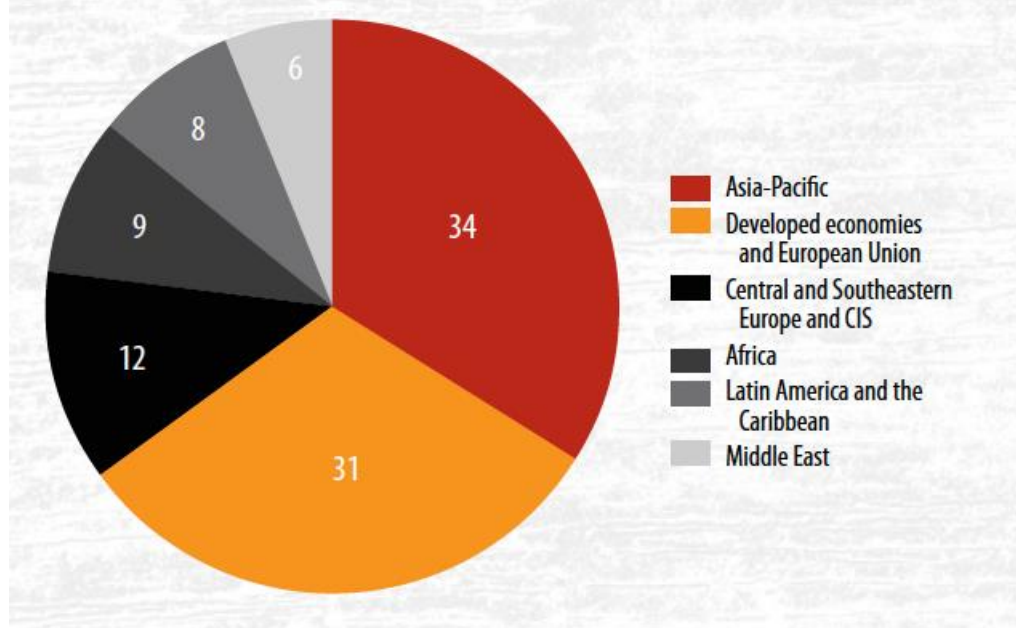
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objects, destroying many lines and organizing crime human trafficking transnational. However, for many different reasons, the types of crimes in the Vietnam-Cambodia border area have not been prevented and repelled. Their activities are increasingly more sophisticated (Tuan, 2011). The coordination between the authorities in the two countries in this area also reveals many limitations that need to be overcome, especially in information sharing (Khanh, 2018). Therefore, Vietnam and Cambodia need to strengthen coordination and improve efficiency in combatting human trafficking, contributing to maintaining stability, peace and friendship on the border.

### Lucrative trade

Human trafficking is estimated to be one of the most profitable forms of organized crime, generating \$150.3 billion a year in profit globally. The Asia-Pacific region is the most lucrative.

(estimated average annual profits generated from trafficked forced laborers, percent of global profits)



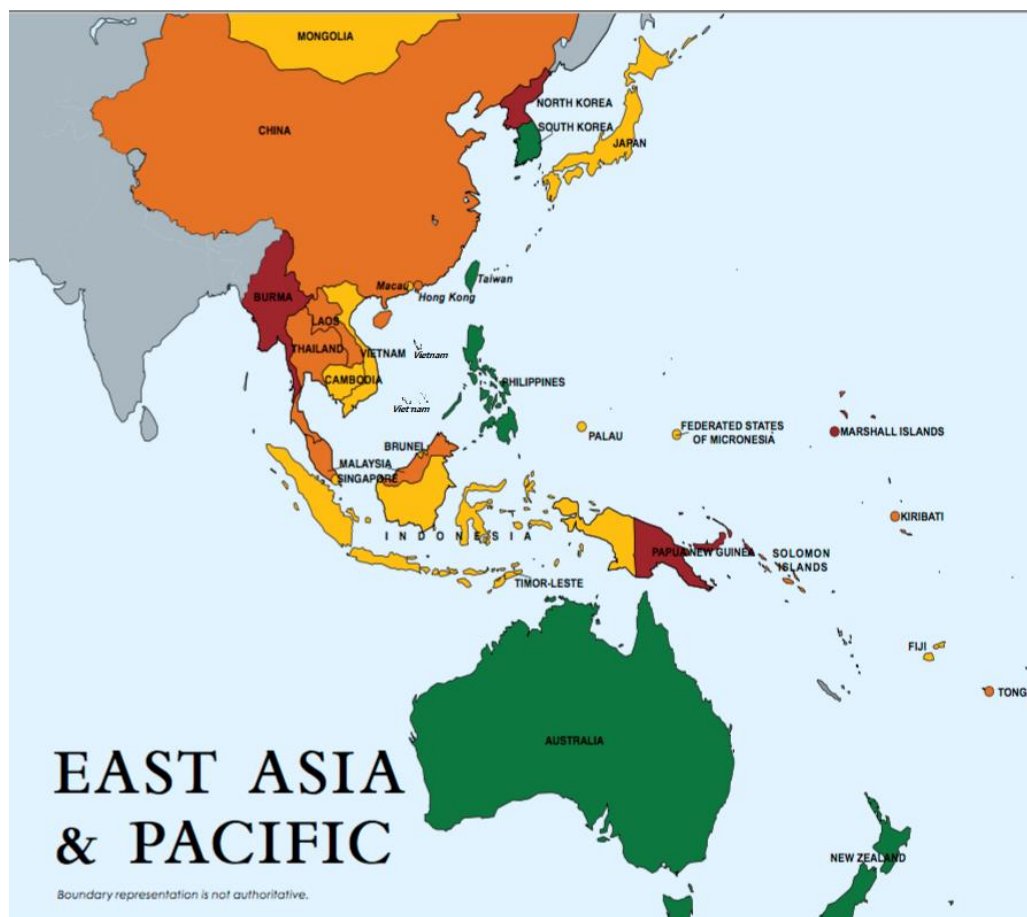
**Fig. 1.** Results of human trafficking in the world in 2015

Sources: International Labour Organization (ILO); The Economics of Forced Labor

### Characteristics of the Vietnam-Cambodia border for human trafficking

Vietnam-Cambodia border was formed along with a series of changes in the history of the two countries. The process of establishment of Vietnam-Cambodia border line lasted nearly 300 years, from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (Liem, 2017). Vietnam and Cambodia have the border lines of 1,137 kms from Indochina T-Junction to Kien Giang province of Vietnam and Kampot province of Cambodia. This border passes through 31 districts and towns, 102 villages and sub-districts in ten provinces in the Central Highlands and Southwest of Vietnam (including: Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Binh Phuoc, Tay Ninh, Long An, Dong Thap, An Giang, Kien Giang) and adjacent to 80 villages and sub-districts of nine provinces of Cambodia (including: Ratanakiri, Mondulakiri, Kratié, Tbong Khmum, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kandal, Takéo, and KamPot). The Vietnam-Cambodia border passes through two types of terrain characterized by plains and mountains with more than 585 km of border lines following rivers and streams. There are border sections in the flood season that cannot determine the border, especially the section from Long An province to Kien Giang province (opposite from Svay Rieng to KamPot). So it's easy to get back and forth across the border. There are about 60 pairs of border checkpoint on the Vietnam-Cambodia border, including: 10 pairs of international border checkpoint, 19 pairs of national border checkpoint. Additionally, there are dozens of quotas opened by the two sides (Khanh, 2018). Traffic here is

quite diverse including roads and waterways. Along with inter-provincial roads and trails, interlocking canals convenient for people to travel. Due to the above natural characteristics, the exchange between the two countries on the border line is very convenient, creating many benefits in economic and trade cooperation, but also causing certain difficulties for border management and against crime in border areas.



TIER PLACEMENTS

- TIER 1
- TIER 2
- TIER 2 WATCH LIST
- TIER 3

YEAR	PROSECUTIONS	CONVICTIONS	VICTIMS IDENTIFIED	NEW OR AMENDED LEGISLATION
2009	357 (113)	256 (72)	5,238	3
2010	427 (53)	177 (9)	2,597	0
2011	2,127 (55)	978 (55)	8,454 (3,140)	4
2012	1,682 (115)	1,251 (103)	8,521 (1,804)	4
2013	2,460 (188)	1,271 (39)	7,886 (1,077)	3
2014	1,938 (88)	969 (16)	6,349 (1,084)	3
2015	3,281 (193)	1,730 (130)	13,990 (3,533)	10

**Fig 2.** Map of Southeast Asia on combating trafficking in persons  
Sources: US Department of State; Trafficking in Persons Report

On the Vietnamese border, there are nine ethnic groups living in the ethnic group of the Rhade, Jarais, Bahnar, Mnong, Gie Trieng, Stieng, Khmer, Chams and the Kinh people's (Tinh, 2017). In the Tay Ninh province to Kien Giang province, mainly the Kinh, Chinese Vietnamese and Khmer together residing. The Cambodian border from Tbong Khmum province to KamPot province is mainly inhabited by the Khmer and the Chinese Cambodian (Khanh, 2018). The rest of the population living on the vast plateau in the north of the country consists of many ethnic groups

belong to two major groups such as the Austronesia (Mon-Khmer) and the Malayo-Polynesian, with ethnic groups such as the Phnong, Khmer Loeu, Stieng, Jarais and the Montagnard (Khanh, Binh, 2018). Residents on both sides of the border have their own characteristics of culture, customs and religion and often have ethnic relations with the other side of the border, especially the Khmer people. The Khmer in Vietnam and Cambodia are the same ethnic group, ethnic culture between these two groups have many similarities such as language, writing, belief and religion. The difference between these two groups can also be recognized through dialects or some customary habits influenced by Vietnamese and Chinese people, such as costumes, and lifestyle. Historically, the Khmer people on both sides of the border and Vietnamese in the locality were soon united. During the war of resistance against the French invasion at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, in the Insurgency of Truong Quyen (Truong Dinh's son) and some other uprising along the border there were numerous participation of the Khmer and ethnic groups on both sides of the border (An, 2010). For centuries, between the two ethnic groups of the Kinh, Khmer and other ethnic groups along both sides of the border, there has been exchange and association in many aspects such as economy and culture.

Poverty, low income and cognitive disparities are problematic here. In 2006, the poverty rate of the Central Highlands averaged 23 percent of the total households, of which 30 percent in Kon Tum, 25 percent in Gia Lai, Dak Lak and Dak Nong (Nhung, 2010). By 2016, the poverty rate of the Central Highlands averages 17.14 percent of the total households compared to the national average of 9.88 percent (Thi, 2016). The educational level is generally low, the illiteracy rate in the border communes is quite high. For example, Kon Tum, Gia Lai and An Giang provinces have a high proportion of ethnic minority people over the age of 15 who cannot read or writing accounts for about 22 percent of the population (Nhung, 2010). A large part of the people have not yet fully and correctly recognized the guidelines and policies of the Party and laws of the State, and lack of awareness of protecting territorial sovereignty and national borders. And the participation in the protection of security and order in the border areas of people are still limited and even violates the law and infringes on the border in many forms, different levels. The grassroots political system in some localities is not strong enough, not really grasping the situation of the area, leading to being passive and embarrassing in population management, handling arising problems, especially illegally crossing, smuggling, human trafficking, smuggle drugs...

People living in the Vietnam-Cambodia border area are mainly influenced by indigenous folk beliefs and some major religions exist for a long time such as Buddhism and Christianity. In the Southwest region of Vietnam, the majority of the remaining Buddhists are Protestants, Muslims and some other religions. Particularly, the Khmer community lives in the districts and towns of Cambodia-Vietnam border, the rate of Buddhism is higher than that of the Khmer community living in other areas and greatly influenced by Buddhism in Cambodia (of the 1.2 million the Khmer in Vietnam, about 90.9 percent are Buddhist. In the Khmer community living along the border line adjacent to Cambodia, about 92 percent Buddhists). In fact, in the days of festivals in Cambodia, Khmer people in Vietnam cross the border very much, especially on the occasion of Chol Chnam Thmay, Ok om bok, Phchum Ben, Um Tuk... In addition, the task force to against and prevent crime very thin, equipment and technical facilities is insufficient and not synchronized, so the border inspection and control work still face many difficulties. People in border areas live scatteredly, have low social awareness, lack of legal knowledge, and lack of vigilance so they can become victims of human trafficking. Economic development in border areas, especially tourism development projects and entertainment services such as dance halls and casinos in the provinces bordering Vietnam-Cambodia, entails the need to recruit many employees, especially women. This is a condition for the development of human trafficking. Information from officials such as the Ministry of Public Security, Vietnam Border Guard Command, over 90 percent of trafficked victims are women and children. It is often concentrated in rural and mountainous areas, especially in deep-lying, remote and border areas. The main cause of the victim's fall into the trap of trafficking is due to poor economic life, low intellectual standards and lack of knowledge.

#### **Human trafficking on the Vietnam-Cambodia border**

Vietnam is primarily a source country for women and children trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Women and children are trafficked to the People's Republic of China (P.R.C), Cambodia, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Macau for sexual exploitation. Vietnamese women are trafficked to the P.R.C., Taiwan, and the Republic of Korea via

fraudulent or misrepresented marriages for commercial exploitation or forced labor. The government stepped up prosecutions and strengthened cross-border cooperation on sex trafficking with Cambodia, P.R.C, and Thailand to rescue victims and arrest traffickers Vietnam collaborated with law enforcement from Cambodia, the P.R.C, and Laos to rescue victims and arrest traffickers suspected of sex trafficking (US Department States, 2004).

Recently, functional forces of Vietnam and Cambodia have discovered and destroyed many organized human trafficking lines, operating both inland and border lines. The situation of cross-border human trafficking is very complicated, occurring in most localities across the country. Crime of trafficking in people in Vietnam and Cambodia takes place increasingly complicated in both the number of cases, the number of objects and the nature, tricks and scope and location of operation. According to the report of the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam, in five years (2012–2017), there are more than 3,090 victims of trafficking and suspicion of being trafficked, of which mainly women and children (accounting for over 90 percent). Investigation agencies have prosecuted 1,021 cases and 2,035 accused, accounting for over 97 percent of the reported and denunciation information received and processed (Dung, 2019), in which 90 percent of human trafficking cases in border areas (Dan, 2018). The conference to summarize attack, suppress human trafficking crimes between Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam in 2018 held in Vietnam on March 26, 2019 evaluated:

*In 2018, Vietnamese authorities discovered 211 cases, 276 objects, 386 victims and prosecuting 200 cases, 261 accused of crimes on human trafficking. People's Procuracies at all levels have prosecuted 109 cases, 194 accused. People's Courts at all levels accept the proceedings according to the first-instance procedures of 130 cases, 233 defendants are committing human trafficking; the number of cases of trafficking abroad is about 80 percent' (Linh, 2019).*

The situation of human trafficking on the Vietnam-Cambodia border line is quite complicated. The gangs of trafficking criminals on the Vietnam-Cambodia border have a close connection with each other, forming a transnational line with a closed process from the selection, deception, transportation, trading and exploitation. The victims, mainly Vietnamese women, were tricked into selling to Cambodia to take to a third country to force illegal marriage, prostitution, forced labor, and hiring; children are exploited for labor in service business establishments, construction sites and mining industry. Recently, the authorities of the two countries also discovered that some foreign women and children were illegally sent to Vietnam to Cambodia to sell to other countries; status of trafficking in men for forced labor, infant trading. And Cambodian, Chinese and Vietnamese hook up to form lines and organizations to trick Cambodian women into Vietnam, through Quang Ninh province or Lao Cai province to sell to Chinese (Thai, 2016).

**Table 1.** Results of cooperation in prevention of human trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia (2015–2019)

Year	Nationwide in Vietnam			Vietnam-Cambodia border			Vietnam-Cambodia Cooperation		
	Cases	Objects	Victims	Cases	Objects	Victims	Cases	Objects	Victims
2015	407	489	1.000	62	121	232	07	18	23
2016	354	463	927	48	92	201	10	26	27
2017	376	568	965	51	112	169	11	19	38
2018	211	276	386	36	51	88	16	33	62
2019	318	475	687	45	69	128	17	34	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.666</b>	<b>2.271</b>	<b>3.965</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>221</b>

On the Vietnam-Cambodia border, from 2012 to 2018, the authorities have discovered about 300 human trafficking cases, accounting for more than 20 percent of the total number of human trafficking cases on the border line, ranking second after the Chinese border (Tuan, 2018). According to the Table 1, between 2015 and 2019, Vietnam and Cambodia cooperated in destroying 61 cases, arresting 130 subjects, rescuing 221 victims of human trafficking. This accounts for 25.2 percent of the cases, 33 percent of the subjects and 27 percent of the victims destroyed by the Vietnamese authorities in 10 provinces bordering Cambodia. The functional forces have investigated and determined 17 routes (inter-provincial and district) and service points in the border areas regularly attracting about 300-500 Vietnamese and Cambodian women prostitution

shows signs of trafficking (Dao, 2018); 21 routes, 49 localities appeared 70 spots, 56 casinos and 36 chickens school regularly attracting Vietnamese people to gamble, forced labor, loan interest (Binh, Khanh, 2018). Victims of human trafficking cases through Cambodia are mainly women and children and concentrated in the provinces of the Central Highlands, Binh Phuoc, Tay Ninh, Long An, Dong Thap, An Giang and Kien Giang... These victims who fall into the trap of trafficking in trafficking will be forced to work as prostitutes in hairdressers, disguised massage or labor exploitation in service businesses, construction sites and mineral exploitation industrial zone. It is noteworthy that Vietnamese people were tricked into selling to Cambodia to take to a third country to force illegal marriages, prostitution, forced labor, and hiring (VNA, 2016). In addition, some foreign women and children were illegally sent to Vietnam to Cambodia to sell to other countries and to buy men for forced labor and sale of babies (Cuong, 2018). These criminal gangs have a close connection with each other, forming a transnational line with a closed process from selection, deception, transportation, transaction and exploitation.

In recent years, functional forces have discovered that Cambodian, Chinese and Vietnamese people link to form lines and organizations to deceive Cambodian women into Vietnam, through Quang Ninh or Lao Cai to sell to Chinese. For example, on September 16, 2016, after receiving news from the Cambodian Embassy in Vietnam, Quang Ninh Police and Border Guard forces coordinated patrol, administrative control and detection, rescuing three Cambodian women who are subjected by Le Thi Van (born in 1985, residing in Thuan Thanh hamlet, Tan Tien commune, Dam Doi district, Ca Mau province) in room 401 – Thien Huong hotel (zone 2, Ka Long ward, Mong Cai city, Quang Ninh). Through Van's testimony, on September 9, 2016, Van was hired by a woman named Thuy (unknown background) to bring three Cambodian women from Ho Chi Minh City to Mong Cai city, Quang Ninh province give to Chinese named Hoang Tai Toan (born in 1974, residing in Dong Hung, Guangxi, China) (Thai, 2016). Mr Vo Tan Dung, Captain of the Preventive and Fight against Social Evils Team on human trafficking in Tay Ninh Province said:

*"The methods and tricks of the subjects are becoming more sophisticated, professional and discreet. The latest method of human trafficking crimes today is not to directly organize recruiting and sending to foreign countries to sell. Accordingly, after searching, selecting women, subjects taking photos and sending messages to foreigners to see the selection. Selected women will be instructed to fly by air to Hanoi capital or directly to China, while the subjects will not be accompanied directly by the victim. Another sophisticated trick is that female subjects often take advantage of social networks to make friends and get acquainted with women in the provinces, especially in rural areas. After a period of familiarity, these subjects seduced the victim to go home to play, then cheated to sell to foreign countries" (Phuong, 2018).*

### **International cooperation – the most effective solution to combat human trafficking**

*Cooperation in propagating and disseminating laws to prevent and combat human trafficking.* The cooperation agreement documents between Vietnam and Cambodia in this area have provisions on dissemination of laws, exchange of related legal documents to against human trafficking across borders between two parties. Recently, the dissemination of laws on prevention and control of human trafficking has been paid attention by the governments of the two countries. Thereby, helping the functional forces of the two sides fully aware of the nature, requirements and tasks of international cooperation in the against human trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia. However, the dissemination of laws still has many shortcomings, so the signed documents only exist in the form. In fact, the fact that some documents signed but did not organize dissemination, propaganda and did not instruct the implementation, so the functional forces and officials working in the field did not know the contents of the documents so they were very embarrassed when having international cooperation requirements in the against human trafficking.

*Cooperation in negotiating, signing and organizing the implementation of multilateral and bilateral international treaties.* Negotiating, signing and organizing the implementation of international treaties relating to the prevention of human trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia is an important form of international cooperation. Since 1997, the Ministry of Home Affairs, now the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam and the Interior of Cambodia have signed a bilateral agreement on cooperation in fighting and combating crimes in general, including fighting against human trafficking. In October 2005, the Government of Vietnam and Cambodia signed a bilateral cooperation agreement, working together to eliminate trafficking in young women and

help trafficked victims. These are important legal bases for the authorities of the two countries to work together to fight in this field. Up to now, the State and ministries, functional branches and localities of the two countries have negotiated and signed many bilateral cooperation documents on crime prevention and combat, including crimes on human trafficking (Agreement on prevention and combat of human trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia in 2005; Agreement to amend and supplement Vietnam-Cambodia Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on human trafficking prevention and control in 2012; Agreement on extradition between Vietnam and Cambodia in 2013). However, the reality of organizing the implementation of these treaties is very much inadequate and inadequate, especially the transformation of the contents of international treaties into internal laws that are very slow to implement; assigning and assigning specific responsibilities to each agency and force in coordination work has not been specified; less review of lessons learned has been done so there is still a situation of signing cooperation documents but not paying attention to organizing implementation...

*Cooperation in providing and exchanging information on human trafficking.* Functional forces of the two countries have proactively developed a mechanism for cooperation and exchange of struggle experiences, as well as information on how and tricks of human trafficking crimes in each country and new types of trafficking crimes arising, and experience of detecting, and preventing... Through INTERPOL Office, Criminal Police Department, Criminal Police Force of the Police of the provinces sharing the border with Cambodia, exchanging information, serving the struggle against trafficking in human trafficking on border areas, especially information for detecting crimes and cooperating in wanted, tracing and extraditing offenses committed. Trafficking prevention agencies of the two countries have conducted regular meetings and briefings, especially the police of the provinces and districts on both sides of the border quite regularly (Khanh, Binh, 2018). The exchange content is about information related to criminal activity, including crime of human trafficking, and coordinate in the investigation and verification to collect information, documents of cases, and objects...

Over the past time, on the common border, the two countries have established five pairs of Cross-border Liaison Offices (BLO) in Tay Ninh and An Giang provinces (Quang, 2018). The BLO have done a good role as a contact point, exchanging information on the prevention and combat of human trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia, being a direct contact point and implementing the collection and evaluation of the situation crime in border areas, promptly advise the leaders of the two countries in directing functional forces to implement coordinated activities to improve the effectiveness of the prevention and combat of human trafficking. However, the process of coordinating information exchange and coordination to solve some cases is still slow, the efficiency is not high. The mechanism of co-operation is still rigid according to administrative procedures, especially in coordination of resolving urgent and important cases, thus failing to meet the requirements and not fully promoting the conditions of both sides. The coordination of information exchange, experience in prevention and combat of human trafficking among border provinces has not been conducted regularly. The conferences and regular and irregular briefings between the two countries' forces have a place, and the level is not deep, the content is not specific and formal, so the effectiveness is still low.

*Cooperation in the training and retraining of staff working in crime prevention and control.* Through the signed agreements, protocols, agreements, cooperation activities in training and retraining of staff working in crime prevention and fighting between Cambodia and Vietnam are taking place actively. The two countries joined the cooperation in conducting training programs on criminal investigation, human resources, informing each other about the annual training schedule as well as planning, visiting, surveying and giving exchange managers, training and management models, training parties. However, training cooperation activities between Vietnam and Cambodia are not commensurate with the potential and needs of both parties. The number of training staff is not much, not yet trained in professional skills to against human trafficking crimes. Most training classes are organized by Vietnam, the Cambodian side is very little.

*Cooperate in implementing measures to prevent, investigate and arrest criminals.* At the five years preliminary meeting of the Agreement on amendments and supplements to the Vietnam-Cambodia Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on the prevention and control of human trafficking (2012) in the period of 2012–2017, the two governments have evaluate:

*"The Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam and the Interior of Cambodia and the Ministry of Security of Laos organized a conference on the implementation of fighting and suppressing*

*trafficking crimes on three border lines, detecting nine cases and arresting ten subjects, and rescued ten trafficked victims. Verification and determination of repatriation were concentrated by the two countries, whereby the Vietnamese government received nearly 20 requests to verify victims from Cambodia, received and returned 192 victims of which 77 victims were Cambodia returns..." (Viet, 2017).*

At the conference, the authorities of the two countries assessed the results of cooperation between the two countries' authorities in human trafficking prevention and control, which are not commensurate with the potentials, relations between the two countries and still exist the number of issues to be overcome such as the situation of criminals involved in trafficking in the two countries is still complicated. There are many objects with new tricks but the results of the struggle are still low. Cooperation in information exchange, investigation between, transferring human trafficking crimes between the two countries is still slow or many cases are deadlocked and prolonged, and lack of documents guiding the implementation of the bilateral cooperation agreement on criminal extradition between Vietnam and Cambodia.

*Cooperation in training and retraining of cadres engaged in crime prevention and fighting.* Through signed agreements, Cambodia and Vietnam conduct cooperation in training and retraining cadres in 03 forms such as formal training, short-term supplementary and staff training. The training courses for officials between the two sides mainly focused on the contents of training general knowledge about the Police force (system, structure, development path ... of the police force) ; update crimes and criminal activities in the world, region and border of the two countries on operation methods and tricks ...; experience in combating crime prevention; leadership, command and management of the Crime Prevention and Combat Police; using information technology in the prevention and combat against me of violations on the border line; professional measures of the police force in the fields related to the fight against crime ... According to data from the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam, Vietnam annually trains 100 candidates for Law enforcement in Cambodia with levels such as PhD, Master, bachelor degree (Lam, 2018: 3). According to data from the Ministry of Defense, there are currently 20 regular establishments and schools of the Vietnam People's Army participating in training Cambodian army personnel and winning 250 scholarships for the Cambodian Army each year (Nhan, 2017: 89). However, the training cooperation activities between Vietnam and Cambodia are not commensurate with the potential and needs of both sides; the number of training is not high, not professionally trained in the fight against transnational organized crime. And the majority of the training classes are organized by Vietnam, while the Cambodian side is very few.

In the coming time, it is forecasted that human trafficking situation will still be complicated, with many potential causes such as taking advantage of illegal migrants, labor export, marriage and adoption of weak children foreign elements; taking advantage of loopholes in state management, social management on order and security and lightness of the people; the coordination between Vietnamese and Cambodian authorities in many localities is still lacking and incomplete; the equipping of means for fighting crimes by border localities is still limited due to the lack of funding... crime of trafficking in people on the Vietnam-Cambodia border will increase activities. In addition, taking advantage of the open-door policy, international integration, prioritizing socio-economic development in border areas, as well as the terrain of the provinces on the borderline of Vietnam-Cambodia difficult to control, human trafficking will constantly expand the area and scope of activities, especially in connection with criminals on the border between Vietnam-Laos and Vietnam-China makes the crime situation human trafficking here is more complicated... The above situation requires Vietnamese and Cambodian authorities to further improve the effectiveness of coordination in prevention of human trafficking, contributing to building a peaceful, friendly, stable and development. In which, Vietnam and Cambodia need focus on some solutions as follows:

*Firstly*, effectively implement legal documents on cooperation in preventing and combating human trafficking between Vietnam and Cambodia. Both need to conduct preliminary and final reviews of signed documents; promote the dissemination and propagation of signed documents (published in the press, through radio and television newspapers...) to raise the awareness of people and officials involved in related cooperation between Vietnam and Cambodia in preventing human trafficking, and assigned and decentralized in implementing the signed documents between Vietnam and Cambodia. Vietnam and Cambodia strengthen inspection and guidance of units and localities to implement international treaties on prevention and combat of human trafficking



crimes. In addition, the authorities of the two countries should continue to develop agreements, and memorandums of cooperation in the against crimes including human trafficking.

*Secondly*, border guard forces of the two sides coordinate well to patrol and protect border lines. The two parties coordinate to control cross-border activities in accordance with the laws of each country. For the management of entry and exit, security of border gates need to coordinate smoothly, facilitate the circulation across the border, when there are unexpected situations, the two sides actively exchange information and coordinate work together quickly. When there are human trafficking cases, it is necessary to actively coordinate to check the handling of crimes and conduct criminal extradition in accordance with the agreements signed by both parties. The two sides should strengthen the coordination relationship between the police, customs, border guards on the Vietnam-Cambodia border line in preventing and combating human trafficking crimes in border areas and border gates. Both regularly conduct briefings to summarize, summarize and propose the direction of cooperation in preventing and combating crimes on human trafficking in the coming time. The Government and Vietnamese functional forces should strengthen Cambodia in training, staff training, funding support, means of detecting and investigating human trafficking crimes. In addition, the two sides need to strengthen cooperation with Laos, countries in the Mekong Sub-region, ASEAN countries to strengthen cooperation in prevention and control of human trafficking.

### 3. Conclusion

In the coming time, cross-border trafficking in Vietnam continues to have complicated developments. Due to the high profits from human trafficking, along with the advantage of Vietnam's open integration policy, complex and dangerous terrain in the border areas makes it difficult for patrol and control of agencies. Therefore, traffickers have increased their activities, formed lines and become increasingly active. In order to improve the effectiveness of the prevention of human trafficking in border areas, Vietnam-Cambodia needs to strengthen further cooperation in the fight against human trafficking, which focuses on key areas in the General Action Plan for the implementation of the Agreement on prevention and control of human trafficking and victim assistance between Vietnam and Cambodia in the period of 2017–2020, including: coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Agreement; prevention of human trafficking; verify, identify, receive and protect and repatriate victims; coordinate in investigating and handling human trafficking; supervise and evaluate the coordination of the implementation of the Agreement; study, propose, amend and supplement the standard process in verifying, identifying and repatriating trafficked victims.

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