

**Excerpts from May 2019 Statement from Communist Party newspaper *Nghe An*
(translated by Human Rights Watch)**

Taking advantage of the so-called “freedom of speech” on his personal Facebook page, Nguyen Nang Tinh has posted and shared articles, videos, and images with contents that distort the guidelines and policies of the Party and the State; vilify the people’s administration; distort history; smear the leaders; and infringe the people’s administration and the socialist regime, with the aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and infringe upon the interests of the State and the legitimate rights and interests of individuals and organizations.

Also, on his Facebook page, Nguyen Nang Tinh posted pictures “showing off” his relationship with discontented, radical, and reactionary elements. [As a famous Vietnamese proverb says,] ‘When hanging out with a ghost, one would wear a paper shirt.’ At the beginning, Nguyen Nang Tinh [merely] expressed ‘dissenting opinions;’ Later, he carried out activities such as connecting with, attracting, and being influenced by a number of radical or reactionary subjects both inside and outside the country, [and he] disseminated and propagated information that aims to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The prosecution of a criminal case against Nguyen Nang Tinh and his arrest show the strictness of the law; it is also a wake-up call to other subjects who are plotting activities against the State and activities that are contrary to national interests and traditions.

It is also a lesson for “netizens,” especially a small number of cadres and civil servants who often lack vigilance for malicious, unverified information to share as well as to press like/love indiscriminately.

Every day on Facebook, among countless information posted, we see some unfriendly and irresponsible ‘opinions’ and ‘views’ expressed by a number of cadres and public officials. Many people quickly like, comment, and share those contra ‘opinions’ and ‘views’ in order to show their own ‘sympathies’ and ‘political stances,’ without knowing that they themselves have violated the regulations of offices and organizations where they are working, and beyond that, they are breaking the law and assisting reactionary elements.