

## A STRUGGLE FOR HOPE

Ms TRAN TO NGA is a victim of Agent Orange, a powerful defoliant containing dioxin, that the Army of the United States of America spread from 1961 to 1971 on Central and South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. She is currently pursuing before the French Courts 26 American Chemical Companies which produced and supplied this poison to the Army.

Invited by the Humanitarian Association Orange DiHoxyn, Ms. Nga will be in La Reunion from 5th to 10th June 2016 for a series of lectures, with film screenings, to inform people of the impact of the destruction of the environment and human health resulting from the use of Agent orange/Dioxin. This chemical poison is very difficult to destroy and is, according to the Red Cross, the cause of twenty various serious illnesses and disabilities affecting 3 to 4 million Vietnamese. And nobody knows when this defoliant will cease to poison both soil and people.

With VAVA (Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin), the Vietnamese victims filed a lawsuit before the Court of Brooklyn (New York) against the American Chemical Companies. It was rejected. Then the Supreme Court of Justice of the United States did the same in 2009. Everything seemed to be hopeless.

But this changed in 2013 when France passed a law allowing a French victim of a tort committed abroad by a foreigner to file a lawsuit before the French Courts.

The French Law now allows Ms. TRAN TO NGA, who is Franco-Vietnamese, to sue the American Chemical Companies that provided defoliants to the US military. The trial is taking place before the Court of Evry (Essonne-France). Ms. Nga's current struggle is not a personal fight: it is on behalf of all victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin. That is why we support her action and we hope that the American Chemical Companies will have enough courage and humanity to recognise and repair the immense ecological and human damage they have caused.

We must not forget that the American Veterans who participated in the Vietnam War and suffer from one of the many diseases (twenty) officially recognised as being linked to Agent orange/Dioxin are automatically compensated by the United Nations of America Government. There is nothing for Vietnamese victims.

Ms. Nga's lectures will take place in June, Monday 6, from 6pm to 8pm at the restaurant L'Envers (St. Pierre); Tuesday, 7, 6pm to 8pm in the lecture hall D2 of the Faculté de Droit et d'Économie (Saint-Denis); Wednesday, 8, 6pm to 8pm; in the lecture theatre Olympe de Gouges in Tampon Campus. A benefit concert will be held on Thursday 9, from 8 pm at the Théâtre Sous les Arbres (Le Port).

Ho Quang Hai (President of Orange DiHoxyn Association) Monseigneur Gilbert Aubry (Bishop of La Réunion)

<http://www.clicanoo.re/525007-le-combat-de-l-espoir.html>

Translated into English by Ms Nguyen Dac Nhu-Mai - VAVA France