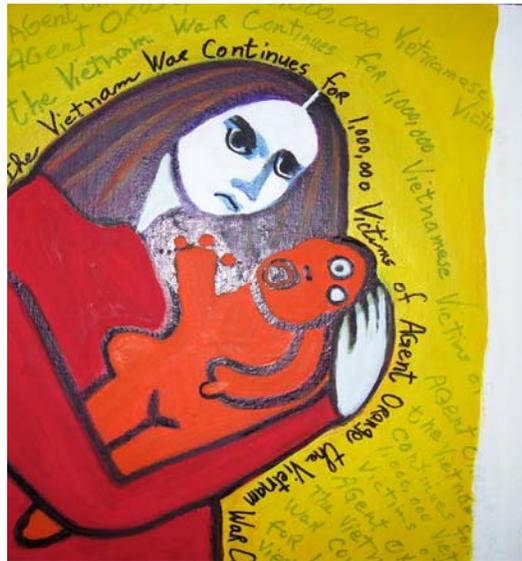




VIETNAM AGENT ORANGE RELIEF & RESPONSIBILITY CAMPAIGN

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Report to the Veterans For Peace National Convention – August 9 – 12, 2006



Painting done for Campaign by artist Sallie Latch

The Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign has achieved significant development in its activities over the past year:

Agent Orange Justice Tour

The first ever national Agent Orange Justice Tour visited 10 cities from November 12 to December 11. Agent Orange survivors and their representatives from the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin spoke to veterans, Vietnamese American and peace and justice communities in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, DC, Raleigh, Chicago, Santa Fe, Seattle, Portland and the San Francisco/Bay Area. Veterans For Peace members were key organizers in most of the cities and their hard work and dedication was a large part of the success of the speaking tour. Feature articles in Newsday, the Chicago Tribune, the Albuquerque Register and the Los Angeles Times gave national scope to the campaign's message as well as a segment on CBS news in San Francisco and numerous public radio shows.

Because of the success of this tour, we now have a real national network and other cities have indicated an interest in hosting such delegations in the future. We donated \$2,000 to the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin

Participation in the International Conference of Victims of Agent Orange

In the end of March of this year, five veterans (most of whom were members of Veterans For Peace) represented our Campaign at an international conference of Agent Orange victims in Hanoi organized by the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin. The delegation was led by David Cline. (We also organized the attendance of a the Vice President of

the Agent Orange Association of Canada) All the members of the U.S. delegation addressed the conference and were able to meet with Agent Orange survivors from Vietnam, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand to develop mutual understanding and contacts for ongoing cooperation.

Supporting the Lawsuit of Vietnam's Agent Orange Victims

As we did when the lawsuit of Vietnamese Agent Orange victims was heard in District Court last year, we are mobilizing to support the more than 3 million survivors when the appeal of the dismissal of their action is heard in the Court of Appeals this fall (the date has not yet been set). In addition to packing the courtroom in Manhattan, we will be organizing press conferences and other activities at federal courthouses/buildings in 10-20 cities across the U.S. A delegation of Vietnamese Agent Orange victims will be attending the hearing and will speak in several cities.

Introducing Legislation for Compensation

We are now beginning the process of getting Congressional legislation for compensation of Vietnam's Agent Orange survivors drafted and introduced. This legislation will serve as a major focus for our organizing and mobilizing efforts in the next years to come.

New Areas of Work

Given the serious health and environmental consequences of Dioxin, we are starting to work with people in the public health and environmental justice fields. We will be participating in the activities of the American Public Health Association in the fall and are beginning to do the ground work for a public health speaking tour next year. We will also be reaching out to communities in the U.S. who have been affected by Agent Orange and Dioxin, from continuing to work with veterans and Vietnamese Americans to beginning to work with neighborhoods destroyed by industrial poisoning from of these toxins.

We are exploring the possibility of doing work and/or speaking tours aimed at students/youth and women.

Our work has also resulted in the first major trade union, 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, adopting a resolution supporting efforts of veterans, Vietnamese Americans and Vietnamese Agent Orange victims to achieve compensation from the U.S. government and chemical companies.

Organizational developments

We have added a few new people to our National Board and to our Core Group. We have hired a part time staff person to work 5-10 hours a week. And we have city contacts in approximately 13 cities. A number of people are also volunteering to work with our Campaign and the volume of emails to our website is growing. Financially, we are solvent and will be submitting an updated financial report in the early fall.

Overall we can say that our work has produced an increased level of awareness, interest and support for obtaining justice for Vietnam's and for all Agent Orange victims, which we intend to build on in the year to come.