

HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN GIA BINH

UPDATE REPORT

Nguyen Van Quynh Charged: Growing Fear of Speaking Out in Gia Binh

Viet Nam, September 2026

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1. What happened

In July 2026, VDM, VHRDI and DCT submitted an emergency dossier on the human rights crisis in Gia Binh, documenting the impact of the Gia Binh International Airport project on local people and communities, including land loss, housing, livelihoods, family life and community ties.

A new development directly connected to that dossier is the case of Nguyen Van Quynh, born in 1989 and living in Tam Đa Commune, Bac Ninh Province.

On 21 August 2026, *An Ninh Thu Do* reported that the Security Investigation Agency of Bac Ninh Provincial Police had charged Mr. Quynh under Article 331 of Vietnam's Criminal Code, concerning the alleged "abuse of democratic freedoms" to infringe upon the interests of the State and the lawful rights and interests of organizations and individuals.

According to the police information reported by the newspaper, Mr. Quynh had repeatedly used social media to post and share information that the authorities described as "distorted" and "untrue". The police said that many of the posts were related to the Gia Binh International Airport project. The authorities also said that Mr. Quynh had previously sent petitions and pursued complaints, and continued posting and sharing information after being "educated, reminded and warned" by the authorities. The case is currently under investigation.

2. What is known and what is not yet public

The information released by the authorities describes the allegations in general terms. However, the authorities have not publicly provided the full content of the specific posts, images or other materials that led to the criminal charge, nor have they publicly explained in detail what evidence was used to establish that each disputed piece of information was false. It is also not yet clear from the public information how the disputed posts were connected to specific concerns raised by people affected by the Gia Binh project, including land acquisition, land prices, compensation, assistance and resettlement. These details remain important and should be followed as more information becomes available.

3. This did not start with Nguyen Van Quynh

The case of Mr. Quynh comes after a number of other cases involving people who posted, shared or commented on information about the Gia Binh project. According to information released by Bắc Ninh Provincial Police in May 2026, 37 people had been dealt with since March 2026 over online activities related to the project. Of these:



- 33 people were questioned, warned or given what the authorities described as education;
- 4 people were administratively fined;
- the total amount of the administrative fines was VND 26.25 million.

The authorities said the information involved issues such as project planning, construction progress, land prices, compensation, assistance and resettlement policies. The August 2026 case of Nguyen Van Quynh represents a further step, with criminal proceedings being initiated. The publicly reported sequence is therefore: questioning and warnings → administrative fines → criminal prosecution.

4. Why this matters to the people of Gia Binh

The July VHRDI dossier documented what is happening to people and communities as their land is taken and their lives are changed. The new developments raise another very practical question: *Can people still speak openly about what is happening to them?* For families affected by the airport project, issues such as land, compensation, resettlement, housing and livelihoods are not abstract political issues. They are everyday matters that affect where people live, how they earn a living and what happens to their families and communities.

People need to be able to talk about these problems, ask questions, file complaints, provide information and share what they are experiencing. But when people who speak about the Gia Binh project are repeatedly questioned, warned, fined, and eventually one person is criminally charged, fear can spread beyond the person directly targeted. People may begin to think twice before speaking. They may stop sharing information. They may be afraid to provide documents or evidence. They may be afraid to tell outsiders what is happening in their villages. And they may become afraid to speak up when their own rights and interests are affected.

5. VHRDI's concern

VHRDI is concerned that this growing fear may make the human rights crisis in Gia Binh more serious, not less. The crisis is already affecting land, housing, livelihoods, families and communities. If people who are experiencing these changes also become afraid to speak about them, their ability to protect their own rights becomes weaker. And when people are afraid to speak, it becomes harder for anyone outside the affected communities to know the full truth about what is happening on the ground.

For this reason, VHRDI is adding the case of Nguyen Van Quynh, together with the publicly reported cases of other people dealt with over information concerning the Gia Binh project, as a new update to the Gia Binh human rights dossier submitted in July 2026.

This update is provided so that the international community can see not only what is happening to the people of Gia Binh, but also what is happening to the people who try to speak about it./.

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Human Rights Crisis in Gia Binh dossier:

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