

## For Younger Generation: The Meaning of Black April 30

With the coming of April 30, I'd first like to remind the younger generation, born after 1975, of one important issue many of you still don't realize: **The National Mourning Day of April 30 is a sad day because on that day, we, the South Vietnamese, lost our country into the brutal hands of North Vietnamese communists from Hanoi.** With their aggressive and illegal invasion by North Vietnamese army they forced themselves into the free democratic territory of the South citizens, in 1975. Briefly, the National Mourning Day is the Day We Lost Our Country, the home land of all Vietnamese who cherish liberty, human rights, democracy and peace.

Despite this, many Vietnamese college students in America ignorantly gather in groups to party or socialize, have fun and dance on that day and night, as seen in the past years. This year, parents, please explain to your children the historical meaning of how tragic April 30th is. **After that day, approximately half a million Vietnamese in the South died on their way to escape communist brutality on the Eastern Sea.**

I hope Vietnamese grandparents and parents still remember to teach their children the common Vietnamese proverb that was widely taught in our Southern schools in the Republic of Vietnam before 1975: *"When one horse gets sick, the others in the whole stall don't eat."* We should reflect on how horses have the ability to share their pain and treat their own better than we, the human race, are able to.



*This file photo dated 30 April 1975 shows a line of captured US-backed South Vietnamese Army soldiers, escorted by Vietnamese communist soldiers, as they walk on a Saigon street after the city fell into the hands of the communist troops on the same day, marking the end of the Vietnam War.*

*More than 1 million South Vietnamese citizens were incarcerated in re-education camps.*



*Forced labor in re-education camps from 1975-1990. More than 165,000 prisoners died during their detention.*



*Estimated 3 million boat-people took the sea escape route to South China Sea in order to seek freedom from the big prison Vietnam. Estimated 0.5 to 2 million boat-people perished in the Eastern Sea (South China Sea)*