

Families of Vietnamese
Political Prisoners Assoc.
P. O. Box 5435
Arlington, VA 22205-0635

Sunday morning, October 11, 1987

Final
Edition

San Jose Mercury News

Serving Northern California Since 1851



750 RIDDER PARK DRIVE, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95190 (408) 920-5000

OCT 19 1987

Dear Mrs. Tho,

Enclosed is a copy of the report
I prepared on the re-education
camps. Thank you for all
your help. I hope you and
your husband will be together
soon.

Cordially
Heena Rohatkar

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■ Vietnam's Re-education Camps ■

A few work to keep issue alive

By Dennis Rockstroh
Mercury News Staff Writer

formation from confidential in-
terviews with more than 800 for-

When the Vietnam War ended

former re-education camps prisoners

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The hidden horror of Vietnam's camps

By Dennis Rockstroh
Mercury News Staff Writer



Thousands still slave
in re-education camps

Vietnam's hidden horror

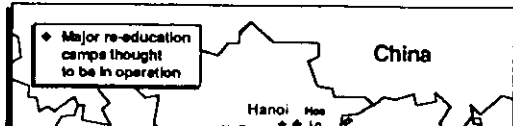
CAMPS, from Page 1A

they fear could lead a counterrevolution — lived out their lives in hard labor, humiliation, sickness and deliberately inflicted pain.

Their stories are backed up by the findings of school

nied as punishment, and some former prisoners said they drank their own urine. Others reported that some prisoners were chained so long that maggots grew in the wounds on their wrists or ankles.

Forced inmates to perform



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Vietnam's Re-education Camps



Bich Thuy — Special to the Mercury News

These drawings illustrate the brutal treatment of inmates at the re-education camps. The painting above is an artist's depiction of a work detail, based on former prisoners' descriptions. At left, a survivor's sketch shows a man shackled around a post in a "punishment hole."

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14A Sunday, October 11, 1987 ■ San Jose Mercury News

■ A Mercury News Special Report

‘I will always be afraid. I will never
have peace in life again.’

— Vu Trong Khanh

A former prisoner, scarred by torture, now writes of love

By Dennis Rockstroh
Mercury News Staff Writer

"You want to see torture?"

with a metal tip about three inches long.

Other times, a metal cage was

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Millions were sent away to be 're-educated'

By Dennis Rockstroh
Mercury News Staff Writer

Just days after the fall of Saigon
to the North Vietnamese army on

CAY-CAY

(see news at
page C-1)

kill communists. It was stupid."

Even after an autobiography
showed the right attitude, several
former prisoners reported, the stu-

form hard labor in quarries, in the
fields or in the jungles felling bam-
boo for expansion of the prisons.

Although the hours varied, it
was not uncommon for prisoners

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A Marine called Nam

Garwood spent
14 years in camps

By Dennis Rockstroh
Mercury News Staff Writer

One of the
most intriguing



Chased with a stick

A 46-year-old former cap-

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12A Wednesday, Sept. 16, 1987 ■ San Jose Mercury News

Vietnamese refugee leaders skeptical of prisoner release

By Dennis Rockstroh
Mercury News Staff Writer

Vietnamese refugee leaders are skeptical of Hanoi's announcement

“We can't really

ernment to shape normalization between the two countries,” Nhuan said.

But most political prisoners will

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14A Wednesday, August 19, 1987 ■ San Jose Mercury News

Vietnam plans to give amnesty to some in re-education camps

**Officials deny refugees' charges
of torture, execution of inmates**

By Dennis Rockstroh
Mercury News Staff Writer

The government of Vietnam will release or reduce

Jose, Los Angeles, Orange County and the Washington, D.C., area.

Similar accounts have been gathered by the Auror Foundation of Atherton, an offshoot of Amnesty International, researchers for the University of California at Berkeley and the Asia Watch Committee of New