

VIETNAM UNION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATIONS
INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS, LAW AND MAGAGEMENT
D/c: 5th Floor, 99 Nguyen Phong Sac, Dich Vong Hau, Cau
Giay, Hanoi, Vietnam.
Mobile: 0962 787 222 Email: vkt.ielm@gmail.com

Organization: Institute of Economics, Law and Management

Subject: The press and law protect human rights together

Hanoi, July 9, 2018

The Institute of Economics, Law and Management (IELM) is a scientific and technological organization that do scientific research in the fields of economics, law and management, perform scientific and technological services. We realize that since the establishment of the Party, the State of Vietnam, there have been positive trends in the protection of human rights. The first Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (promulgated in 1946) was a progressive, democratic, citizen-protected constitution. After that, the constitution was amended, supplemented and improved in all fields of economics, politics, society, education ... with the highest goal is for human beings, protection of all classes. In recent sessions of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the National Assembly has passed a series of laws, in these, at any aspects, are related to human rights and human protection. Not only focus on building tools to protect the interests of the people, the Party and the state of Vietnam always take the initiative in disseminating the law to people of all classes.

In contemporary era, with the thinking of dignifying the power of information freedom, the Party and State of Vietnam have used the press as a bridge connecting the people and the government. Press has the role of propaganda and dissemination of law to every member of society. From revealing the information of collecting suggestions, modifying the Constitution, draft laws of the National Assembly, publishing in the Gazette to the promulgation of new legal documents are due to the widespread press. Meanwhile, the law has become the source of the press, through court cases, inquiries, interviews, legal science conferences, the press has timely informed to the people of all classes. The press and law contribute to monitoring and control of state power together. With the criteria of information transparency, reflecting accurately and timely, the press is considered as one of the means for people to participate in supervising the operation of state authorities and simultaneously giving the practical ideas to the government to amend the law. There have been many cases of wrongdoing in the court are investigated and retried to protect the legitimate rights of people through timely reflection of the press. The mistrial against Nguyen Thanh Chan with more than 10 years in jail has caused a shock of social conscience and was raised in the highest forum - the National Assembly. And many other mistrials have been retried by the state agencies because of the pressure of the press and public opinion. Powerfully Developing the investigative press not only increases the vitality and fighting power of the press but also actively illuminates the case, decreasing the injustice, avoiding irreparable losses for the honest and the family when they are wrongly sentenced, importantly contributing to people's belief in justice.

However, the press just plays a certain role to help the state seriously implement the commitments and treaties on human rights. The reality is that the educational level of people in our country is still low. Although the Party and State have built policies to educate, disseminate and propagate the law to people of all classes, the number of Vietnamese people knowing about the law is very limited and they do not have a sense of law observance generally. This shows that the propagating and disseminating the law of the state exist but they are not good enough, not radical in implementation. In many cases brought to trial, many defendants had not known about the law and it led to committing crime; assaults, human detentions, frightened lover's jealous assaults that caused recent murders has been reported in the press are all due to the offenders not knowing that he/she is committing a crime; ... In the labor inspection campaign in 2015, many companies are not fully aware of the provisions of the law on labor, salary, safety and labor hygiene policies to implement. It is worth noting that the employers themselves have not had the sense of law observance. Meanwhile, the awareness of workers about the law is limited: workers do not know or do not fully understand the provisions of the law on labor, so employee cannot propose, make recommendations to employers to ensure that the companies comply with the provisions of law or employees know the provisions of the law but agree with the employer does not fully implement the law to be worked at the company

When people are not fully protected, international commitments on human rights in Vietnam are not guaranteed. With the function of a scientific and technological organization engaged in scientific research in the fields of economics, law and management, the Institute of Economics, Law and Management would like to present some practical solutions to promote the implementation of human rights on the basis of law to the protect of human rights as follows:

- Strengthen and promote forms of law dissemination, education and propagation on the mass media (the press). This is the fastest, less expensive way but the effect is very high. Apart from intensifying the coverage of newly promulgated legal documents, the authorities, with their functions and tasks, should coordinate with the mass media to open specific columns to talk about the legal documents that relate to the field they are in charge of, contributing to the effectiveness of their state management. - Intensifying the dissemination and propagation of legal documents to all classes of people to equip them with basic knowledge of law. In particular, focus on legal documents directly related to many people, especially the poor, the priority, ethnic minorities. To avoid the situation of focusing only on propaganda and dissemination in towns and county towns without paying much attention to rural areas, especially remote rural and ethnic minority areas with limited knowledge of law.

- Raising the effectiveness of disseminating, propagating and educating law by building up a stable contingent of reporters and propagandists in both quantity and quality, who have good political quality, professional skills, communicate skills, knowledge in law and society, thus meeting function requirements in the new situation.

- Encourage the mutual relations among state agencies and state administrative units in the dissemination and enforcement of laws. From there, the knowledge of the law is widely spread among the people. Every citizen can take initiative in his or her own legal rights.

For every country, not only Vietnam, the legal system is directly involved in the maintenance of social order, ensuring safety and equity for the people. The law will be supplemented and improved more by the support of mass media. Press and Law together, will contribute to shape the appearance of a fair, democratic and civilized society. And in the process of powerful international integration, the participation and serious implementation of international human rights commitments and treaties has a very important meaning, contributing to the realization of the consistent policy in ensuring and promoting human rights as well as supporting Vietnam's relations with other nations and international organizations, enhancing the status and image of the nation within the national community.

> Author: M.A. Pham Van Ben - Deputy Director Institute of Economics, Law and Management