

PROJECT HELPS STATELESS VIETNAMESE FINALLY FIND A HOME
(Nov. 7, 2008)

In the above cited article, reporter Cassandra Drudi quoted me as saying: "The Vietnamese Canadian Federation lobbied the federal government for five years to allow the stateless Vietnamese living in the Philippines to immigrate to Canada". In fact, as we stated in our Press Release of May 10, 2008, we were joined in this campaign since 2002 by Hoi Trinh, a Vietnamese-Australian refugee rights advocate and lawyer, and by a non-profit organization called SOS VietPhi since 2005.

Other organizations and individuals also contributed to the campaign, and to subsequent efforts in raising fund and in helping these stateless Vietnamese resettle in Canada.

So far, 237 persons have been approved, including 202 persons who have arrived since March of this year. In addition to Ottawa, they were resettled in other cities such as Hamilton, Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver. Thirty-five persons remain to be processed.

The Vietnamese Canadian Federation is very grateful for the decision by the government of Canada and for the support of the Members of Parliament on the House of Commons Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration through two public hearings on this file.

As well, we very much appreciate the generous financial contributions by numerous individuals and organizations to the *Freedom at Last* Project that the Federation set up to help these unfortunate people rebuild their lives in peace and freedom in Canada.

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