

Geographic areas

» 11/04/2010, 00.00

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Editor's choices

CHINA - VATICAN
In China-Holy See talks, silence shrouds future of underground priests

Zhao Nanxiong



Later this year, all priests must register to receive a certificate that allows them to exercise their ministry. But the request has to go through the Patriotic Association, whose statutes are "incompatible" with Catholic doctrine. Many priests, official and unofficial, now face an enormous dilemma.



Books
"Il mistero nuziale e le sfide del gender"
 by Fabrizio Meroni
 pp. 288



IRAQ
Alqosh, despite the Islamic State, the Church celebrates the first communion of one hundred children



On the feast day of the Assumption the whole community attended the function, celebrated by Mar Sako. For the patriarchal vicar, this is an historic moment for the frontier town long threatened by jihadists. The Chaldean primate calls on children to "contribute to the community." In Kirkuk His Beatitude opened a grotto dedicated to Our Lady.

"Gli altri visti da vicino. Il vissuto di 50 anni di sacerdozio"
 by p. Pasquale Simone



TOP10

23/08/2016 SRI LANKA
Military not returning land to 9,000 civil war displaced people in Jaffna
 Melani Manel Perera



25/08/2016 INDIA
For Card Gracias, the victims of Kandhamal can be raised on the altar of martyrs
 card. Oswald Gracias*



26/08/2016 INDIA
Some 400 people remember Kandhamal, a "threat to democracy"

Angelo Ramazzotti. Attualità del fondatore del Pime
 by Gerolamo Fazzini,
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Giovani e martiri in Asia: la missione di papa Francesco in Corea
 by Vincenzo Faccioli

VIETNAM

Opposition still strong to government plans to develop bauxite mines

Vietnam plans to develop its rich bauxite reserves. Opponents object that the potential for an environmental disaster outweighs any limited advantages it might offer the country. Chinese companies head the project.



Hanoi (AsiaNews/Agencies) - Vietnamese lawmakers and environmentalists have come out against plans to mine bauxite, warning that the risks and costs are higher than any potential advantages, most of which go at any rate to Chinese mining companies.



Bauxite is considered the most important ore for making aluminium. In Vietnam, mining began in 2008 in the Central Highlands, a predominantly farming region home to some of the country's ethnic minorities, located upstream from the densely populating Mekong River Delta.

Protests broke out back in 2008. Critics noted that developing this resource is energy intensive (a problem in a country with limited electrical power generating capacity), and required the construction of a 250 km railway and a new harbour, all this in exchange for limited local spinoffs.

The government crushed this incipient protest movement, but a recent toxic spill in Hungary reawakened opposition. On 4 October, the containment reservoir at an aluminium plant collapsed in the European country, flooding nearby villages with a high alkalinity "red mud" that killed dozens of people and injured more than 150, with disastrous environmental consequences for the Danube River.

Prof Nguyen Minh Thuyet, a Member of Vietnam's National Assembly (MNA) representing Langson Province, told *Radio Free Europe* that the project has few economic benefits but high risks. If Hungary failed to prevent a disaster, he wonder how could Vietnam expect to do better when it has not yet developed the necessary technology to develop the resource and the appropriate labour practices to protect workers. The more so since the region itself is exposed to frequent "torrential rains".

Similarly, Prof Duong Trung Quoc, MNA for Dongnai Province, believes that Vietnam should wait until it has acquired the necessary experience and developed the right technology to exploit bauxite reserves.

War hero General Vo Nguyen Giap had already released an open letter last year, expressing his opposition to the planned mining development.

In the past, the government tended to ignore critics and crackdown on opponents, including blocking online protest sites. Last year, the authorities did agree to an environmental impact study, but have not released the findings. They did nevertheless arrest an important critic on 13 August, Prof Pham Minh Hoang, for his support of the protest movement.

Shawn McHale, director of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies at George Washington University, said that Vietnamese officials and members of the public have felt bolstered in their opposition to the mining due to the involvement of Chinese companies.

In the past two years, the Aluminum Corporation of China Limited (aka Chalco or Chinalco) has operated two bauxite mines and processing plants in central Vietnam, and is considering four more.

Companies from China, Russia and Australia are also bidding for additional joint ventures with Vietnam to explore its rich bauxite reserves, estimated to be the third largest in the world. In the

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meantime, the government's master plan calls for investments of around US\$ 15 billion by 2025.

State-run Vietnamese company Vinacomin (Vietnam National Coal and Mineral Industries Group) has begun building an aluminium factory and is preparing for major mining operations in Lam Dong and Dac Nong provinces with the aim of reaching an output of 4.8 million to 6.6 million tonnes per years by 2015, state media reported.

In light of the Hungarian disaster, the opponents to the project, many in the National Assembly, note that its inherent dangers are far greater than any expected benefit, because China sets bauxite prices and employs primarily Chinese workers and staff.

In addition, allegations of corruption are flying around. An online report accuses Vietnamese Prime Minister of Nguyen Tan Dung of getting a US\$ 150 million kickback, perhaps from Chinese companies, to get his support for the project.

Mr Dung has not yet responded to the charges.

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TAGS vietnam central highlands bauxite mining processing plants chinese aluminium corruption nguyen tan dung

See also

07/10/2013 VIETNAM

[Vietnamese remember General Giap, 'Red Napoleon' and independence hero](#)

On Friday, one of the most important figures in recent history passed away at the age of 102. After Ho Chi Minh, he was considered the father of modern Vietnam. His exploits on the field are still studied. However, in the final period of his life, he was shunned by the country's Communist leadership because of his opposition to unfettered exploitation of natural resources and Chinese interference.

30/04/2009 VIETNAM

[Opposition to the government's plans for the Central Highlands is a "patriotic" duty](#)

Redemptorist superior responds to media attacks against two clergymen, saying that "protecting nature and the environment is a necessary condition for human development." One of the two under attack is on the frontline in the battle for life, something which makes the government unhappy.

02/07/2009 VIETNAM

[Redemptorist priest could be accused of plotting to overthrow Vietnam's Communist regime](#)

State media want an "immediate and severe" punishment for Fr Joseph Le Quang Uy. The police claims his laptop computer contained "bad content". The clergyman says all he had on the computer were sermons and some articles critical of bauxite mining in the Central Highlands, a project that is even opposed by Vietnam's mythical General Giap.

05/08/2009 VIETNAM

[Anti-Catholic violence designed to hide crisis and graft in Vietnam's Communist Party](#)

The persecution of Christians in Vinh is intended to divert attention from internal party divisions but it is also a sign of the profound contempt it is capable of, and of its willingness, in line with new economic ideas to sell out the country to its traditional enemy, China. The Church, which plays a role in raising consciousness, and Montagnard converts are condemned to disappear.

02/01/2010 VIETNAM

[Ho Chi Minh City Redemptorists accused of propaganda against the State](#)

There are fears that priests might become the victims of a new wave of violence. Redemptorists criticise unfair seizures by the government in Hanoi and bauxite mining among the Montagnards of central Vietnam. Communist authorities quote Pope to prove their point but fail to involve the population in dialogue.

Nirmala Carvalho

24/08/2016 SYRIA "TURKEY



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Anthony Lam Sui-ky

29/08/2016 INDIA



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leader
Nirmala Carvalho

23/08/2016 FRANCE - ISLAM



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Kamel Abderrahmani

24/08/2016 SYRIA



Syrian patriarchs call for a lifting of sanctions because they only affect the population

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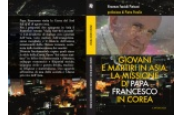


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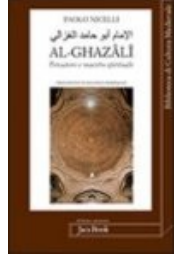
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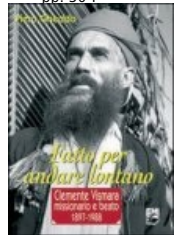
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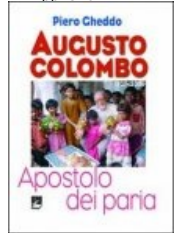
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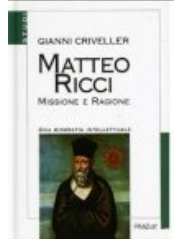
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