

## **Pastor Rmah Loan**

Rev. Rmah Loan was a Montagnard Pastor with Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA). He later became chaplain of a Montagnard Church that is affiliated with the Evangelist Church of Vietnam South. His church, based in Dac Minh, Dak Lak, has 36,000 followers. The authorities often showcase it to foreign missions that visit Central Highlands.

Pastor Loan was the head of his church only in title. The government put in place an administrative committee to oversee all operations of the church. It makes all decisions; Pastor Loan had no say. Every single statement of Pastor Loan must be vetted by this committee and pre-approved by the public security.

In June 2014, Pastor Loan and his wife came to the U.S. at the invitation of a local church. In September 2015, his pastor friends in Vietnam told Pastor Loan not to return lest he be arrested. The police had questioned his children about his activities in the U.S. Reportedly, the Vietnamese authorities wrongly thought that Pastor Loan was the one who exposed to the international community the torture to death in March 2013 of Deacon Hoang Van Ngai, a Hmong Christian and follower of Pastor Loan. Before leaving Vietnam, Pastor Loan had already been instructed by the authorities not to mention Ngai's death.