

Nong Duc Manh

General secretary of Vietnamese Communist Party Né le 11
Born: 11 September 1940, Cuong Loi (Bac Kan province)

VIETNAM

General secretary of Vietnamese Communist Party



Training/education

1971-76: Graduates from Forestry Institute in Leningrad. Takes ideology course for Communist Party cadres at Nguyen Ai Quoc school.

1958-61: Trains as forestry technician in Hanoi.

Professional experience

2005: Has four Internet users arrested for taking part in democracy discussion forums on Paltalk.com.

2004: Opposition journalists banned from publishing material. Three cyber-dissidents arrested for posting pro-democracy articles online. Several liberal publications banned.

2003: Dissidents banned from media. Nguyen Dan Que, editor of underground magazine *Tuong Lai (L'Avenir)*, arrested.

2002: Journalists and dissidents posting news online now risk heavy prison sentences for libel and "spreading false news." Two reporters put under house arrest. Five cyber-dissidents, including Pham Hong Son, arrested. Any published material not passed by censors is destroyed.

April 2001: Becomes general secretary of Communist Party.

2000: Five foreign journalists trying to meet dissidents arrested and some deported.

1999: Repressive law gives culture and information ministry full responsibility for supervising media, including Internet.

November 1993: Journalist Nguyen Dinh Huy arrested and sentenced to 15 years in prison for being "involved in a banned movement."

1992: Becomes president of parliament.

1989: Becomes member of parliament.

1986: Appointed Bac Kan province Party secretary-general.

1976: Becomes member of provincial Party committee.

Hobbies/interests

Defending communist doctrine and image of former President Ho Chi Minh, rumoured to be his real father.