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TEARS FOR THE VICTIMS OF A VIET CONG AMBUSH
Girls weep at caskets of relatives killed in attack south of Quang Tri
—AP Photo

Executions by Viet Reds

SAIGON — (AP) —Refugees in Binh Dinh province say Communists executed local government officials and imprisoned others and their families during their occupation of the northern part of the coastal province, informed sources reported today.

Officials and their families are still being held in detention camps in the An Lao Valley, about 10 miles inland from the coast, the sources said.

They said they had no precise figures on the number of Vietnamese loyal to the Saigon government who were executed or taken captive.

The three northern districts of Binh Dinh, considered the least pacified South Vietnamese province, fell to the North Vietnamese in late April and May. Their population was then estimated at about 200,000.

Many civilians stayed behind when the Communist-led forces swept into Tam Quan, Bong Son and Hoai An and some reportedly cooperated with the enemy.

South Vietnamese forces late last month claimed to have recaptured the three

district headquarters, and U.S. officials said today the government flag is still flying over all three:

However, just how much territory the Saigon government controls and just how much is in Viet Cong hands is uncertain.

Other sources said that during the occupation of northern Binh Dinh by Communist-led forces, a number of South Vietnamese soldiers were captured and forced to serve in the North Vietnamese army.

At least 50 of these troops have returned to the government side, the sources said.