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A Ruling on Palo Alto's Hanoi Fund

Santa Clara county Superior Court Judge Richard W. Rhodes ruled yesterday that Palo Alto can legally keep off the ballot a measure to contribute \$50,000 in city funds to rebuild a Hanoi hospital.

The proposal, if passed, would have required the city to donate the funds to Bach Mai Hospital, reportedly destroyed by US B-52 bombing raids last December.

Supporters of the proposal, who raised enough signatures to place it on the May 8 ballot, said they would file an appeal of the judge's decision with the State Appellate Court this week.

Earlier this year, the Palo Alto City Council urged supporting a national campaign for private donations for the rebuilding project after the city attorney's office said use of tax money for the purpose might be illegal.

After the council voted to keep the tax money measure off the ballot, its supporters—including such groups as Venceremos and Peace Union—filed suit to overturn the decision.