

January 29, 2008

His Excellency
President Nguyen Minh Triet
c/o Embassy of Vietnam
Bemstorffsvej 30c
DK 2900 Hellerup
Danmark



Dear President Triet:

We are writing to express our serious concern regarding the Government of Vietnam's continued crackdown on peaceful political expression. We are disappointed and disturbed by the arrests and ongoing detentions of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, Journalist Somsak Khunmi and two young Vietnamese nationals, Mr. Nguyen The Vu and Mr. Nguyen Viet Trung, for peacefully expressing their political views last November.

As you know, Norway and Vietnam established diplomatic relations in November of 1971, making Norway one of the first Western countries to establish diplomatic relations with Vietnam. Over the last three decades, our two countries have established close co-operation both in the political, commercial and cultural fields as well as development co-operation. The exchanged visits of our leaders over the years have strengthened the bilateral relationship between our two countries. This year marks the 37th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Norway and Vietnam.

Norway as a nation is fully dedicated to encouraging democracy and protecting human rights throughout the world. With that being said, we are extremely concerned for Dr. Quan, Mr. Khunmi, Mr. Vu and Mr. Trung. It has been over two months since their arrests and they continue to be detained without formal charges or fair trials; which shows that the Government of Vietnam has failed to improve its human rights record.

The Government of Vietnam made assurances to the world community to become a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. To prove that the Government of Vietnam is sincere and serious about improving its human rights record, we are calling for the following actions:

- The Government of Vietnam to respect the values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, especially freedom of speech.
- The Government of Vietnam to immediately release all the above individuals as their only activity was to peacefully express their support for freedom and democracy.
- The Government of Vietnam to stop the harassment of the families of Mr. Nguyen The Vu and Mr. Nguyen Viet Trung and allow family visits as well as provide information on their current conditions.

We would like to hear from you directly why the Government of Vietnam continues to detain these peaceful democracy activists.

Sincerely,

**Henning Skumsvoll, Progress Party,
Member of the Defence Committee**

**Ase Gunhild Wole Duesund,
Christian Democratic Party, Member
of the Standing Committee on Labour
and Social Affairs**

Linda P. Høstad Helleland

Jan Falkum
Odd Einar Dørum

Ulyse Wangen Hansen

Willy Høy
Vera Lyskløtt

Gunvald Ludvigsen

Martin Engeset

Bent Høie
Sonja Irene Sjøll

Trond Helleland

Jan Tore Sanner

Andre Oklay Dahl

Elisabeth Aspaker

Gunnar Kvasheim

Torny Pedersen

Dagrun Eriksen

Linda Helleland, Conservative Party,
Member of the Standing Committee on
Finance and Economic Affairs

J21yvnd Halleraker,
Conservative Party, Member of the
Standing Committee on Transport and
Communications

Odd Einar Dørum, Liberal Party,
Member of the Standing Committee on
Education, Research and Church Affairs

Anne Magrete Iarsen, Liberal Party,
Member of Standing Committee on
Foreign Affairs Committee and Enlarged
Foreign Affairs Committee

André N. Skjelstad, Liberal Party,
Member of the Standing Committee on
labour and Social Affairs

Vera Lyskløtt, Liberal Party, Member
of of the Standing Committee on Local
Government and Public Administration

Gunvald Ludvigsen, Liberal Party,
Member of the Standing Committee on
Health and Care Services

Martin Engeset, Conservative Party,
Member of the Standing Committee on
labour and Social Affairs

Bent Høie, Conservative Party,
Member of of the Standing Committee
on Local Government and Public
Administration

Sonja Irene Sjøll, Conservative Party,
Member of The Standing Committee on
Health and Care Services

Trond Helleland, Conservative Party,
Member of the Standing Committee on
Transport and Communications

Bvein Flåtten, Conservative Party,
Member of the Standing Committee on
Finance and Economic Affairs

Andre Oklay Dahl, Conservative
Party, Member of the Standing
Committee on Justice

Jan Tore Sanner, Conservative Party,
Second Deputy Chairman of the
Standing Committee on Finance and
Economic Affairs

Elisabeth Aspaker, Conservative
Party Member of Standing Committee
on Justice and the Police

Gunnar Kvasheim, liberal Party,
Chairman of the Standing Committee on
Energy and the Environment

Torny Pedersen, Labour Party,
Member of the Standing Committee on
Energy and the Environment

Dagrun Eriksen, Christian
Democratic Party, Second Deputy
Chairman of the Standing Committee on
Education, Research and Church Affairs