



**The Hon David Clarke MLC**  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

21 November 2007

The Hon. Nguyen Tan Dung  
Prime Minister  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
2 Hoang Van Thu Street  
Hanoi, Vietnam

Dear Prime Minister,

I have been contacted by many of my constituents who have asked me to express to you their deep concerns regarding the recent arrest of a number of members and supporters of the Viet Tan organisation who have been engaged in peaceful activities in support of political and human rights.

Included among those arrested and detained are:

- Dr Nguyen Quoc Quan
- Ms Nguyen Thi Thanh Van
- Mr Truong Van Ba
- Mr Nguyen The Vu (and his younger brother Mr Nguyen The Khiem) and
- Mr Khunmi Somsak

There is a widespread and growing concern here in Australia that their arrest and detention is merely for participating in discussion (and publishing information) pertaining to democratic values.

If this is indeed the reason for their detention then it would appear to be a clear violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Such incidents do not contribute to a positive international image of Vietnam but to the contrary fuel concern that widespread violations of democratic and human rights persist. The release of the detained persons referred to above would, I believe, contribute to a more positive image of Vietnam in Australia and elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Clarke'.

David Clarke MLC