



*Honourable Judy A. Sgro*

*Privy Council*

*Member of Parliament, York West*

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
Office of the State  
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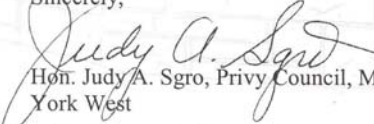
Mr. Prime Minister:

I am writing to express my concerns with reports of ongoing human rights violations in Vietnam, most notably the recent arbitrary arrest and detention of blogger Paulus Le Son, 16 youth activists, song writer Viet Khang, and land rights activist Bui Thi Minh Hang.

Since July of 2011 blogger Paulus Le Son, Nguyen Xuan Anh, Nong Hung Anh, Tran Vu Anh Binh, Nguyen Dinh Cuong, Thai Van Dung, Nguyen Van Duyet, Dau Van Duong, Tran Huu Duc, Ho Duc Hoa, Tran Minh Nhat, Nguyen Van Oai, Ho Van Oanh, Hoang Phong, Chu Manh Son, Ta Phong Tan, and Dang Xuan Dieu have each been detained without trial for their role in peaceful demonstrations against social injustices. Despite their peaceful approach to political protests, all were arrested without due process and have since been held without access to legal representation. Similarly, Viet Khang (Vo Minh Tri) is a musician who participated in peaceful protests in 2011 and whose songs criticized police brutality against peaceful protesters and the loss of national sovereignty. Since December of 2011, he has been detained without trial. The same holds true for Bui Thi Minh Hang, a female activist who was involved in "re-education" without a trial or any semblance of due process.

Vietnam is a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. With this in mind, it is expected that your administration will abide by and uphold the said conventions at every opportunity. Accordingly, I call on the Government of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release blogger Paulus Le Son, the aforementioned 16 youth activists, Viet Khang, Bui Thi Minh Hang and all other prisoners of conscience. Moreover, I would likewise call upon your administration to proactively work to prevent such transgressions in the future.

Sincerely,

  
Hon. Judy A. Sgro, Privy Council, MP  
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