

July 9, 2008

Most Venerable Thich Quang Do
Patriarch of the Institute for Dharma Promulgation
Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam
Thanh Minh Zen Center
90 Tran Huy Lieu Streets
District Phu Nhuan
Saigon, Vietnam

Dear Venerable Thich Quang Do:

We wish to offer our condolences over the death of the 4th Supreme Patriarch of the Unified Buddhist Church, the Most Venerable Thich Huyen Quang. He will be greatly missed.

The Most Venerable Quang was one of Vietnam's most loved and respected spiritual leaders who opposed tyranny in all its forms. His remarkable life was highlighted by his tireless promotion of democracy and human rights, for which he too frequently had to stand firm against oppression. For his uncompromising determination, the Most Venerable Quang paid a high price, spending over half of his life in prison, internal exile, or under house arrest under the oppressive communist regime.

In addition to his promotion of democracy and human rights, the Most Venerable Thich Huyen Quang was an outstanding educator, teaching generations of Vietnamese to stand for religious freedom.


Indeed, the Most Venerable Thich Huyen Quang waged three decades of peaceful opposition to the Communist regime, becoming a symbol known worldwide of the non-violent Buddhist movement for religious freedom and human rights. While the loss of the Most Venerable Quang is greatly mourned, his numerous achievements over his lifetime offer hope as millions of Vietnamese continue in the same spirit of freedom and democracy.

Again, we wish to offer our sincerest condolences to you in your time of mourning.

Sincerely,



EDWARD R. ROYCE
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



FRANK R. WOLF
Member of Congress