



# Viet Tan (Vietnam Reform Party)

*With members inside Vietnam and around the world,  
Viet Tan aims to establish democracy and reform the country through peaceful means.*

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March 17, 2008

The Honorable James Webb  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Webb:

Last Wednesday 3/12/08, I testified at the hearing on *The United States and Vietnam: Examining the Bilateral Relationship*, before the Senate Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs. During the hearing, you asked me whether people associated with the Republic of Vietnam's government are still suffering from discrimination in Vietnam. My response at the hearing was not entirely accurate and I would like to clarify it here.

Under communist rule in Vietnam, discrimination always exists under different forms. It could be against Buddhist or Mennonite; it could be against writers or poets; and it could also be against people who once served with the armed forces or government of the Republic of Vietnam. The policy of the communist regime is to use one's background or family history to keep the person under their control. The regime can use that history at will and at any time against that person. We see that happening today in Vietnam.

Therefore, my statement that discrimination "seems to have faded away" was not accurate. It is more accurate to say that discrimination is a policy that can be used at any point against any individual if the communist regime so desires. And those who were associated with the Republic of Vietnam suffered greatly for a long time because of that policy. Worse, they are now still living under the constant threat of that discrimination.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your interest and concern regarding human rights in Vietnam. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information on issues related to Vietnam.

Sincerely,

Do Hoang Diem  
Chairman  
Viet Tan