

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 12, 2011

Nguyen Tan Dung  
Prime Minister, Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
Office of the State  
1 Bach Thao  
Hanoi, Vietnam

Dear Prime Minister Dung,

We are writing to express our dismay and deep concern for youth activists currently held incommunicado in Vietnam. These human rights defenders, most belonging to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer and hailing from the Vinh Diocese, were arrested beginning July 30, 2011.

As of now, 13 are detained: Chu Manh Son, Dang Xuan Dieu, Dau Van Duong, Ho Duc Hoa, Ho Van Oanh, Nguyen Van Duyet, Nguyen Van Oai, Nguyen Xuan Anh, Nong Hung Anh, Paulus Le Van Son, Thai Van Dung, Tran Huu Duc, and Tran Minh Nhat.

According to human rights organizations, these young activists are noted bloggers, community organizers, and faithful parishioners. According to family sources, their detentions came without any official notification or explanation.

As crackdowns in Vietnam become more routine and police abductions become the norm, we remind you that these acts violate the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

We in the US Congress are also deeply troubled by ongoing violations of religious freedom in Vietnam. The continued detention of these religious activists demonstrates that Vietnam should be classified as a "Country of Particular Concern."

We call on you to unconditionally and immediately release these human rights defenders and return them to their families and communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



EDWARD R. ROYCE



LORETTA SANCHEZ



DANIEL E. LUNGREN



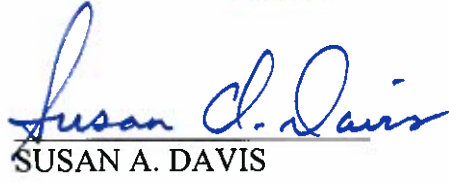
ZOE LOFGREN



GERALD E. CONNOLLY



JOHN R. CARTER



SUSAN A. DAVIS



CHRISTOPHER SMITH



MICHAEL M. HONDA