

## Ottawa

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## Paul Dewar

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February 13, 2012

I have reviewed the letter recently sent by the Vietnamese Canadian Federation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. As I have written in numerous letters to the government, the human rights situation in Vietnam is of great concern to New Democrats.

I am particularly troubled by the persecution, on the part of the Vietnamese authorities, of Viet Khang, a well known young music composer and singer, for writing patriotic songs. I echo the Vietnamese Canadian Federation in calling on the government of Canada to urge the Vietnamese authorities to immediately and unconditionally release him as well as other prisoners of conscience, including many young democracy activists, who are currently imprisoned in Vietnam.

Only when the government of Vietnam understands and accepts the sincere calls of its citizens for genuine political reform will it be able to join the international community of free and democratic countries.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Dewar".

**Paul Dewar, MP**  
New Democratic Party