



Dave Jones

Assembly Member • 9th Assembly District

NewsRelease

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ASSEMBLYMEMBERS JONES AND TRAN WELCOME HOME VIETNAMESE DETAINEE

- WHO:** Assemblymember Dave Jones (D – Sacramento)
Assemblymember Van Tran (R – Costa Mesa)
Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, Sacramento-area pro-democracy Vietnamese detainee
Vietnamese American community leaders and other representatives
- WHAT:** Dr. Quan's Welcome Home (From a 6-month detention in Vietnam)
- WHEN:** Saturday, May 17th, 2008 at 7:20 PM
- WHERE:** San Francisco International Airport (SFO)

After a 6-month detention in a prison in Vietnam for so-called "terrorist" activity, Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan is finally coming home. Assemblymembers Dave Jones (D – Sacramento) and Van Tran (R – Costa Mesa) will join Dr. Quan's family, friends, loved ones and supporters as he sets foot on American soil for the first time in over 180 days. This **Saturday, May 17th, 2008**, Dr. Quan will arrive at the **San Francisco International Airport**, where a warm welcoming and press conference is planned immediately following his arrival at **7:20 p.m.**

Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, along with 5 other pro-democracy activists, was arrested in Saigon on November 17th, 2007, for peaceful promotion of democracy in Vietnam. A member of Viet Tan, an international pro-democracy group, Dr. Quan and fellow activists were handing out pro-democracy literature promoting nonviolent change. His arrest, on which the basis was never clearly outlined, spurred worldwide outcry against the Vietnamese government for its repression of one's right to freedom of speech. International pressure calling for the detainees' release and safe return home came from representatives and leaders from across the globe, including those from California's congressional delegation and the California State Legislature, led by Assemblymembers Dave Jones and Van Tran.

Earlier this week, Dr. Quan and 2 other Viet Tan members went to trial and were convicted on charges of terrorism. He was sentenced to 6 months with credit for time served, and ordered deported. Dr. Quan will be returning safely to his home in Elk Grove, where he resides with his wife, Ngo Mai Huong, and their two sons.

Jones, who has been working closely with the family since last fall, stated, "It was a tremendous relief and blessing to learn of Dr. Quan's release. The commitment and sacrifices he has made to do what he believes is right are incomparable. However, the grief felt by his family and loved ones during this ordeal was unnecessary – we must continue to work together to one day see a world where one's freedoms cannot be stripped of them."

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