

VOICES OF CONSCIENCE



Vietnam's Voices of Conscience

These Vietnamese men and women come from a cross section of backgrounds, professions and political views. Often times suffering in silence under the regime's repressive policies, they are all part of a larger network of activists striving to change the country for the better. They share a common struggle for freedom and democracy. For as true patriots, human rights defenders and courageous, peaceful social activists, they are Vietnam's Voices of Conscience. Herein are biographies of some of the most prominent individuals. Viet Tan strives to regularly update this document.

Every individual profiled has made his or her views publicly known. International support, therefore, is not only desirable, but also the best guarantor for the safety of these brave individuals.

Suggested actions:

- 1) Raise with the Hanoi government the specific cases of individuals in jail, under house arrest, or otherwise persecuted.
- 2) Write to these individuals. Even if the letter is intercepted by authorities, at least the jailers will know that the person being persecuted is not anonymous.
- 3) Visit these individuals. Many of the individuals profiled have not even been charged with a crime. A visit to an activist in jail or under house arrest by a parliamentarian, journalist, or friend would represent an important show of support and opportunity to hear first-hand the status of human rights in Vietnam.

Do Nam Hai



Born:	1959
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	Saigon
Sentence:	De facto house arrest, past imprisonment

A recipient of the 2007 Hellman Hammett Human Rights Award, Do Nam Hai is one of the principle organizers of Bloc 8406, having co-authored the “Manifesto on Freedom and Democracy in Vietnam.” Since October 2006, authorities have constantly subjected him to interrogation sessions, confined him to arbitrary detention, and have even exposed him to physical attacks. Police have confiscated his computer, personal phonebook, passport, citizen identification papers, and mobile phones on numerous occasions. His internet access has been denied since 2007, with direct orders from the security police sent to all internet providers not to provide service to his home address. Recently detained in April 2008 for interrogation, he is now constantly under police surveillance.

Doan Huy Chuong



Born:	1985
Activity:	Labor rights activist
Location:	Saigon
Sentence:	Past imprisonment

One of the founding members of the United Workers-Farmers Organization (UWFO), Doan Huy Chuong was arrested for trying to establish an organization to promote worker and farmer’s rights. Arrested in November 2006, Doan Huy Chuong was tried a year later and sentenced to 18 months in jail. During his imprisonment, he was placed in solitary confinement for 48 days. Subjected to physical and psychological torture in prison, Doan Huy Chuong suffers from numbness, migraines, and breathing problems. His health problems continued after his release on May 13, 2008.

Reverend Hong Trung



Born:	1964
Activity:	Human rights activist
Location:	Gia Lai province
Sentence:	House arrest, past imprisonment

Rev. Hong Trung has been detained several times for religious and human rights activities. Most of Rev. Hong Trung's family members have been harassed and often ordered to report to local police without specific reasons. A member of the Vietnam Populist Party, he was arrested during the Lunar New Year on Feb. 22, 2007 and detained without charges for several months. Rev. Hong Trung was released on May 11, 2007 and has been placed under house arrest since.

Huynh Nguyen Dao



Born:	1968
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	Xuan Loc prison
Sentence:	3 years imprisonment (reduced to 2.5 years)

A former journalist, Huynh Nguyen Dao was arrested on August 15, 2006 with 3 other leaders (American citizen Do Thanh Cong, Nguyen Bac Truyen and Le Nguyen Sang) of the People's Democratic Party. For distributing pamphlets and posting political documents online, the government charged him with 'terrorism.' His detention was only acknowledged 36 days after the actual arrest.

Le Nguyen Sang



Born:	1959
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	Xuan Loc prison
Sentence:	5 years imprisonment (reduced to 4 years)

A medical doctor, Le Nguyen Sang was arrested on August 15, 2006 with 3 other leaders (American citizen Do Thanh Cong, Nguyen Bac Truyen and Huynh Nguyen Dao) of the People's Democratic Party. He was accused of committing acts of 'terrorism' for publishing articles 'hostile to the regime' on the Internet. The Vietnamese authorities first acknowledged his detention 36 days after the actual arrest.

Le Quoc Quan



Born:	1971
Activity:	Human rights lawyer
Location:	Hanoi
Sentence:	Police surveillance, past imprisonment

Arrested on March 8, 2007, four days after returning from his six-month fellowship at the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington DC, Le Quoc Quan was detained at detention camp B14 in Hanoi for three months. He was released on June 16, 2007 under international pressure. He was charged with conducting "activities aimed at overthrowing the Government," but was never tried. During the time of his imprisonment, his law office "Quan & Brothers" was closed and his colleague Tran Thi Thuy Trang was arrested as well. Even after his release, he is still prevented from practicing law or travelling abroad.

Le Thi Cong Nhan



Born:	1979
Activity:	Human rights lawyer
Location:	Hoa Lo Moi detention camp, in Tu Liem district, Hanoi
Sentence:	3 years imprisonment followed by 3 years house arrest

Having organized seminars for students on international human rights law, Le Thi Cong Nhan is an outspoken advocate and supporter of multiparty democracy. A founding member and spokesperson for the Vietnam Progression Party, Le Thi Cong Nhan was arrested in March 2007 when fifteen security police stormed her home. A lawyer trained in human rights law, she was denied the chance to represent herself in court. Protesting poor conditions in prison, Le Thi Cong Nhan went on hunger strike for several days during her detention in March 2007. Le Thi Cong Nhan's jail sentence has sparked condemnation from the international community.

Le Thi Le Hang



Born:	1964
Activity:	Freelance journalist
Location:	Hue
Sentence:	18 months suspended sentence

On March 30, 2007, along with Father Nguyen Van Ly and three other pro-democracy activists, teacher Le Thi Le Hang was tried on broadcasted show trials. She was a contributor to the unsanctioned newspaper Tu Do Ngon Luan (Freedom of Speech) and a member of the Vietnam Progression Party. She was charged with disseminating anti-government documents and communicating with pro-democracy activists overseas. No lawyers were present and no family members were allowed during her trial.

Le Thi Kim Thu



Born:	1968
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	Dong Nai province
Sentence:	Police surveillance

A member of Bloc 8406, Le Thi Kim Thu is a fervent advocate against the regime's unjust expropriation of farmlands for commercial use. Having witnessed the confiscation of her family's land by communist officials, Kim Thu began to organize aggrieved peasants to petition the government for restitution. She was arrested and interrogated on August 22, 2007 for her role in leading the protest. She has also been involved in anti-China protests, participating in the demonstration against the Olympic Torch Relay on April 29, 2008. She was arrested following the security crackdown and remains under constant police watch.

Lu Thi Thu Duyen



Born:	1973
Activity:	Land rights activist
Location:	No. 77 Tran Binh Trong Street, Zone 1, Go Vap District, Saigon.
Sentence:	Placed under house arrest for 6 months in December 2007

Together with sisters Lu Thi Thu Van and Lu Thi Thu Trang, she is constantly followed and harassed by the Vietnamese police for speaking against human rights abuses. In July 2007, she maintained a "Diary for Justice" chronicling the days of protests by aggrieved farmers in Saigon. On April 26, 2008, Duyen and her sisters reported being assaulted by gangsters, hired by the police to intimidate them. The sisters sustained injuries and lacerations that required medical attention.

Luong Van Sinh



Born:	n/a
Activity:	Land rights activist
Location:	Binh Thuan province
Sentence:	2 years imprisonment

Luong Van Sinh participated in farmer protests against corruption and government land grabs, including the 27 day protest in Saigon in summer 2007. He also helped publicize these protests, giving radio interviews and distributing reports and pictures through the internet. He was often subjected to harassment and physical abuse by local police in Binh Thuan province. On January 10, 2008 he was arrested at his home in Binh Thuan for “hurting the image of the Vietnamese government” through his free-lance reporting. On July 3, 2008, Luong Van Sinh was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment. He is also a member of Bloc 8406.

Ngo Quynh



Born:	1984
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	B14 detention center, Hanoi
Sentence:	Imprisonment without trial

A college student, Ngo Quynh participated in student protests supporting Vietnamese territorial sovereignty. During the Olympic torch relay on April 29, 2008, he was arrested and beaten when trying to join a peaceful demonstration in Hanoi. On June 28, 2008, after visiting democracy activist Vi Duc Hoi, Ngo Quynh and fellow democracy activist Pham Van Troi faced physical abuse and “public denunciation.” They were beaten and subjected to psychological harassment by an organized group of approximately 300 communist party members and then taken to the police station for interrogation. On September 10, 2008, while protesting the government’s policies toward China, he was arrested and is currently in detention in Hanoi.

Nguyen Bac Truyen



Born:	1968
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	Section 4, Phan Dang Luu Prison, Saigon
Sentence:	4 years imprisonment (reduced to 3 years)

A founding member of the People's Democratic Party, Nguyen Bac Truyen was arrested in November 2006 in Saigon. On May 10, 2007, he was put on trial together with other members of the People's Democratic Party, including Le Nguyen Sang and Huynh Nguyen Dao. He is accused of committing "propaganda against the state."

Nguyen Binh Thanh



Born:	1955
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	Nam Ha prison
Sentence:	5 years imprisonment

A member of Bloc 8406 and the Vietnam Progression Party, Nguyen Binh Thanh was tried together with Father Nguyen Van Ly, Nguyen Phong, Le Thi Le Hang and Hoang Thi Anh Dao on March 30, 2007 for their peaceful political activities. For assisting with the production of the unsanctioned newspaper Tu Do Ngon Luan (Freedom of Speech), Nguyen Binh Thanh was charged with disseminating "propaganda against the state."

Nguyen Dan Que



Born:	1942
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	102/7 Nguyen Trai, Q5, Saigon
Sentence:	Police surveillance, past imprisonment

In 1978, arrested with 47 other activists, Dr. Nguyen Dan Que was imprisoned for 10 years without trial. During this time, he endured torture, endless beatings, and being chained in solitary confinement. For some periods of time, up to two months long, he was thrown into a five-by-six-by-four cell with no sanitary facilities. In 1998, pressure from the international community, including Amnesty International, contributed to his release from prison. On March 17, 2003, security police swarmed an Internet café and arrested him again. Days earlier, Dr. Que had issued a communiqué calling for freedom of information. An internationally respected human rights activist, he has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize many times. Dr. Que also received the Congressional Human Rights Foundation's Raoul Wallenberg award in absentia in 1994. Both the U.S. Congress and Australian Senate have designated May 11, the day that Dr. Que issued his appeal for human rights, as Vietnam Human Rights Day.

Nguyen Van Hai



Born:	1953
Activity:	Blogger
Location:	Saigon
Sentence:	2 ½ years imprisonment

Under his pen name “Dieu Cay,” Nguyen Van Hai blogged about China’s encroachment on Vietnamese islands and criticized the Vietnamese government’s kowtowing to its northern neighbor. For blogging about the repression of peaceful activists and calling for a boycott of the Olympic Torch Relay, he was arrested days before the torch arrived in Saigon. Before his arrest, he was placed under close surveillance and at one point, the police threatened to let Chinese agents kill him. Arbitrarily charged with tax fraud, he was sentenced to 2 ½ years in prison in a trial condemned by the international community.

Pastor Nguyen Hong Quang



Born:	1960
Activity:	Human rights activist
Location:	Saigon
Sentence:	Police surveillance, past imprisonment

In November 2004 Pastor Nguyen Hong Quang was sentenced to three years imprisonment for “instigating others to obstruct persons carrying out official duties” along with five other church colleagues. A lawyer and vice president of the Mennonite Church in Vietnam, Pastor Quang is a prominent activist for Vietnamese Montagnards and other groups persecuted for their religious beliefs. While he was detained, the police bulldozed his home. He was released on August 30, 2005. Since his release he has been subjected to harassment and public denunciation. He has written numerous essays on human rights abuses in Vietnam, in particular the repression of religious freedom and freedom of speech. He has also provided legal assistance to other prisoners of conscience in Vietnam.

Nguyen Khac Toan



Born:	1955
Activity:	Democracy activist, freelance journalist
Location:	Hanoi
Sentence:	House arrest, past imprisonment

A former officer in the North Vietnamese army, Nguyen Khac Toan quickly became disillusioned with the government after the fall of Saigon. Recognizing the need for real freedom, rule of law, and democracy, he has since become a freelance reporter, democracy organizer, and cyber dissident. He helped aggrieved farmers and war veterans draft petitions to the government calling for social equality, democracy, and an end to corruption. Arrested on January 8, 2002 for reporting on farmers’ demonstrations in front of the National Assembly and Party headquarters in Hanoi, he was finally sentenced 12 months later to 12 years in jail plus 3 years of house arrest for ‘espionage.’ Released early in 2006, he still remains under house arrest.

Nguyen Ngoc Quang



Born:	1962
Activity:	Internet activist
Location:	n/a
Sentence:	3 years imprisonment followed by 2 years probation

A member of Bloc 8406 and a co-founder of the pro-democracy group called Bach Dang Giang (Bach Dang River). Along with Pham Ba Hai, Nguyen Ngoc Quang (on the right) was arrested and subjected to several interrogation sessions in June 2006 after meeting with members of Bloc 8406. Summoned again by the security police for interrogation, Nguyen Ngoc Quang and Pham Ba Hai recorded the entire interrogation and posted it online. Arrested on September 2, 2006 for distributing pro-democracy articles on the Internet, he was detained without charges until his trial on April 24, 2008.

Nguyen Phong



Born:	1974
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	Thanh Hoa prison camp
Sentence:	6 years imprisonment

He was a co-founder and first chairman of the Vietnam Progression Party. Tried and convicted in a show trial along with Father Nguyen Van Ly and four other dissidents, Nguyen Phong was sentenced in March 2007 for disseminating “propaganda against the state.” He authored two articles to the international community calling for more freedom in Vietnam and denouncing “actions by the Communist Party of Vietnam that are unconstitutional and contrary to the spirit of the International Declaration of Human rights.”

Nguyen Phuong Anh



Born:	1972
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	Hanoi
Sentence:	Police surveillance and harassment

A successful businessman, Nguyen Phuong Anh became disillusioned with social injustice under the Communist Party. He joined the Bloc 8406 and became a voice for the democracy movement. On October 30, 2007 when he went to Lang Son to visit fellow democracy activist Vi Duc Hoi, Nguyen Phuong Anh was beaten by police-hired thugs and plain-clothes officers in front of uniformed men, suffering serious injuries. He was then kept at the police station for hours for interrogation and repeated beatings. He remains under constant police watch.

Pastor Nguyen Thi Hong



Born:	1960
Activity:	Human rights activist
Location:	Chi Hoa prison, District 10, Saigon
Sentence:	Imprisonment without trial

A pastor in the Mennonite Church, Nguyen Thi Hong was arrested on November 2, 2007 and is currently being detained without trial. She has not been allowed any visits from her family. Along with pastor Nguyen Hong Quang, she has advocated for religious freedom and social justice.

Nguyen Tien Nam



Born:	1985
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	Yen Bai
Sentence:	Police surveillance

Nguyen Tien Nam started out as a student passionate about protecting the sovereignty of Vietnam's Spratly and Paracel islands. He participated in various student protests against China. He uses blogs to express his criticism of the Vietnamese government's human rights violations. On April 29, 2008 he was arrested and beaten by police officers for participating in a demonstration in Hanoi against the Beijing Olympic torch relay. On May 1, 2008 he wrote a letter to the United Nations, speaking out on the brutality of the Vietnamese authorities towards students, democracy activists and fishermen's families who took part in the demonstration. He is routinely interrogated and harassed by security police.

Nguyen Van Dai



Born:	1969
Activity:	Human rights lawyer
Location:	Hoa Lo Moi detention camp, Hanoi
Sentence:	5 years imprisonment (reduced to 4 years), followed by 4 years house arrest

Accused of disseminating "hostile propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam", Nguyen Van Dai was arrested along with lawyer Le Thi Cong Nhan on March 6, 2007 for critical writings and pro-democracy activities with the Bloc 8406 movement. Nguyen Van Dai is the founder of the Vietnam Committee for Human Rights and served as defense attorney for political activists. He is a recipient of Human Rights Watch's Hellman and Hammett award for writers under persecution.

Reverend Nguyen Van Ly



Born:	1947
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	K1 prison camp, Ba Sao commune, in Ha Nam province
Sentence:	8 years imprisonment

Father Ly has spent 15 years in prison for the causes of democracy and human rights in Vietnam. Initially arrested in September 1977 and sentenced to 20 years in a labour camp near Hue, he was later released but prohibited from engaging in religious activities. Arrested again in January 1983 and sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment and 4 years of probation, he was released in July 1992 and placed under police surveillance and again banned from conducting religious activities. Exiled in November 1994 to Nguyet Bieu village (near Hue) after he issued a treatise detailing the government's violations of religious freedom. He was sentenced during a two-hour trial on October 19, 2001 to 5 years. As a result of international pressure, Father Ly was released from prison in early 2004 but remained under house arrest in the Archdiocese of Hue. On March 30, 2007, in a broadcasted show trial, authorities muzzled him while he tried to defend himself. This infamous image shocked the international community. He is one of the founders of Bloc 8406 and editor of the underground online publication "Freedom of Speech".

Nguyen Vu Binh



Born:	1968
Activity:	Democracy activist, journalist
Location:	Hanoi
Sentence:	3 years probation, past imprisonment

Nguyen Vu Binh is an honorary member of PEN Canada, Sydney PEN, and Swiss PEN. He is a recipient of Human Rights Watch's Hellman/Hammett Award and was identified by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience. Formerly a correspondent for the Journal of Communism, an official publication of the Vietnamese Communist Party, he has written articles calling for political reform and criticizing government policy. On December 31, 2003, Nguyen Vu Binh was sentenced to seven years imprisonment to be followed by three years house arrest on charges of "espionage." He was also accused of communicating with "reactionary" organizations abroad. On June 9, 2007 he was released from jail as a result of international pressure. Today he is serving 3 years probation in Hanoi.

Nguyen Xuan Nghia



Born:	1950
Activity:	Democracy activist, writer
Location:	B14 detention center, Hanoi
Sentence:	Imprisonment without trial

Writer Nguyen Xuan Nghia is one of the leaders of Bloc 8406. He was arrested in the night of September 11, 2008 for organizing peaceful protests against China. In the past, he has been arrested in Hanoi while preparing for a peaceful demonstration against the Beijing Olympic Torch Relay on April 29, 2008. The police subjected Nguyen Xuan Nghia to physical abuse. His face and chest slammed into walls and his body marred with injuries, Nguyen Xuan Nghia sustained injuries causing difficulties in breathing and swallowing. After being sent home to Hai Phong, Nguyen Xuan Nghia was placed in detention with the Hai Phong police. Despite his weakened physical condition, Nguyen Xuan Nghia was denied medical treatment. In 2008 Human Rights Watch selected for him the prestigious Hellman/Hammett award.

Pham Ba Hai



Born:	1969
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	n/a
Sentence:	5 years imprisonment followed by 2 years probation

Beginning in July 2006, Pham Ba Hai was harassed and interrogated by the Vietnamese authorities on several occasions. In August 2006, the police questioned Pham Ba Hai and Nguyen Quoc Quang for their membership in Bloc 8406. Both men recorded the entire interrogation and posted it on the Internet. A month later, while traveling with democracy activist Le Tri Tue to visit other democracy activists, he was arrested and detained for 20 months without charges until his trial on April 25, 2008.

Pham Hong Son



Born:	1968
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	Hanoi
Sentence:	Police surveillance, past imprisonment

On March 25, 2002, under the false pre-tense of a "working session" the Ministry of Public Security summoned Dr. Pham Hong Son. While he was away, his house was ransacked and his computer and many documents were confiscated. On March 27, Dr. Pham Hong Son wrote a letter protesting this treatment. The following day security officials took him away for good. According to authorities, Dr. Pham Hong Son was arrested to "clarify the level of his infringement" for he had sent and received "anti-state and anti-Vietnamese Communist Party documents." His conviction on grounds of "espionage" in a closed one-day trial was protested by international human rights groups who have called Pham Hong Son a new breed of Vietnamese internet activists. In recognition of his courage under persecution, Human Rights Watch selected him for the Hellman Hammett award in 2003.

Pham Thanh Nghien



Born:	1977
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	Tran Phu prison, Hai Phong
Sentence:	Imprisonment without trial

In Spring 2008, Pham Thanh Nghien was along with several other activists arrested in Hanoi while peacefully protesting the Beijing Olympic Torch Relay. She was detained for several days without charges. On June 17, 2008, she wrote an official request to organize a protest which was rejected by the Vietnamese government. In response to her request, the public security police harassed Pham Thanh Nghien and her family. Disappointed by this action, Pham Thanh Nghien decided to have a sit-in protest in her own house. This led to her subsequent arrest on September 11, 2008. She was released later that day but remained under police surveillance until her re-arrest on September 18.

Pham Van Troi



Born:	1969
Activity:	Human rights activist
Location:	B14 detention center, Hanoi
Sentence:	Imprisonment without trial

Since 2006, Pham Van Troi has been repeatedly summoned by the police and harassed for his human rights activism and association with human rights lawyers Nguyen Van Dai and Le Thi Cong Nhan. On June 28, 2008 Pham Van Troi was subjected to public denunciation by an organized group of 300 Communist Party members and beaten up in the presence of police officers. He was on a visit to democracy activist Vi Duc Hoi's house together with Ngo Quynh, a fellow activist, when the police raided Vi Duc Hoi's residence in Lang Son for a "citizen ID check." The three men were brought to the police station. On the way, they were allowed to be humiliated, threatened and brutally beaten by the crowd of people. On September 10, 2008 the police raided Pham Van Troi's house and seized him. He has been in detention since. He is a member of the Committee for Human Rights in Vietnam.

Reverend Phan Van Loi



Born:	1951
Activity:	Co-editor Tu Do Ngon Luan (Freedom of Speech)
Location:	Hue diocese, 37 Phan Dinh Phung
Sentence:	Police surveillance, past imprisonment

Reverend Loi has a long history of peaceful activism for democracy. In September 1981, Father Loi was sentenced to four years in jail for writing a play about the government's harassment of Father Nguyen Van Ly. While Father Loi was in prison, the authorities discovered that he had been a priest "without State authorization" and extended his sentence by three years. In April 1998, Father Loi was summoned before the public security office for having allegedly distributed the "Tin Nha" (News from Home) bulletin published by overseas Vietnamese Catholics. Without any proof or witnesses, the authorities subsequently accused him of publishing religious materials without permission. On April 8, 2006, along with 117 other individuals, Father Phan Van Loi signed the Manifesto 2006 for Democracy and Freedom in Vietnam. Today father Nguyen Van Loi is under house arrest and constant police surveillance.

Somsak Khunmi



Born:	1949
Activity:	Radio New Horizon contributor
Location:	Khanh Hoa province
Sentence:	3 years probation, past imprisonment

A Thai resident, Somsak Khunmi, also known as Nguyen Quoc Hai, has been a contributor to Radio New Horizon since 1993. In November 2007, he travelled to Vietnam to assist journalist Nguyen Thi Thanh Van in reporting on farmer protests. Along with six other Viet Tan members and supporters, he was arrested while preparing to distribute literature promoting peaceful democratic change. His Thai wife applied for a visa to visit him in prison but was denied. On May 13, 2008, he was convicted of "terrorism" and sentenced to 9 months imprisonment and 3 years probation. The conviction was condemned by international human rights and press advocacy groups. On August 17, 2008 he was released from prison and transferred to Khanh Hoa to serve 3 years probation.

The Most Venerable Thich Quang Do



Born:	1928
Activity:	Buddhist leader
Location:	Thanh Minh Zen Center, 90 Tran Huy Lieu Street, District Phu Nhuan, Saigon
Sentence:	House arrest, past imprisonment

The Venerable Thich Quang Do is patriarch of the United Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV). Suffering over 30 years of intermittent arbitrary house arrest and imprisonment, the Venerable Thich Quang Do has faced torture, interrogation sessions, and denied the right to travel. In 1992, he authored a 44-page document denouncing government persecution against the UBCV. In 1995, for his work with other religious leaders and laity to organize an emergency food convoy to flood victims, he was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment. A Rafto Memorial Prize recipient for his many years of human rights work, the Most Venerable Thich Quang Do has also been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. He became leader of the UBCV in 2008 following the death of former patriarch Thich Huyen Quang.

Tran Khai Thanh Thuy



Born:	1961
Activity:	Novelist, journalist, democracy activist
Location:	Hanoi
Sentence:	Police surveillance, past imprisonment

A prolific novelist and journalist, Tran Khai Thanh Thuy is a recipient of Human Rights Watch's Hellman Hammett Award and an Honorary Member of English PEN. A member of Bloc 8406, she is also an editor of the underground magazine To Quoc (Fatherland). Since September 2006, she has been repeatedly harrassed and interrogated for writings critical of the government and published online. In October 2006, in a sham "People's Court," organized by the Vietnamese authorities, she was publicly denounced and humiliated by hundreds of people gathered by police. On April 21, 2007 she was arrested at her home and later sentenced to nine months and ten days imprisonment for "disturbing public order." She suffers from diabetes and advanced tuberculosis but was refused medical care in detention. Tran Khai Thanh Thuy was released on January 31, 2008, but remains under police surveillance.

Tran Quoc Hien



Born:	1965
Activity:	Human rights lawyer
Location:	Prison 4, Phan Dang Luu, Tan Binh, Saigon
Sentence:	5 years imprisonment followed by 2 years probation

Two days after Tran Quoc Hien was chosen as the spokesperson for the United Workers-Farmers Organization in January 2007, he was arrested. A human rights lawyer known for defending farmers whose land have been confiscated by the government, Tran Quoc Hien is also a prolific cyber-dissident. He has published online articles and short stories about life under surveillance. The Vietnamese government alleged that Tran Quoc Hien and his associates incited demonstrations and "spread anti-government propaganda."

Tran Thi Thuy Trang



Born:	1975
Activity:	Labor rights lawyer
Location:	Saigon
Sentence:	Police surveillance, past imprisonment

Tran Thi Thuy Trang was arrested in March 2007 for her association with attorney Le Quoc Quan and detained without official charges for six months at a detention center in Saigon. She was released in September 2007, but remains under constant police surveillance. She was never officially tried for any crimes. According to Human Rights Watch, Tran Thi Thuy Trang's family was forced to sign documents promising not to discuss her detention.

Trinh Quoc Thao



Born:	1956
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	n/a
Sentence:	2 years imprisonment

A member of the Vietnamese Political and Religious Prisoners Friendship Association (VPRPFA), Trinh Quoc Thao was arrested on March 3, 2007 with fellow activists Nguyen Van Ngoc and Truong Minh Nguyet for allegedly distributing "reactionary propaganda documents" in violation of article 258 of the criminal code. A Dong Nai court sentenced him in December 2007 to two years in jail for spreading anti-state propaganda.

Truong Minh Duc



Born:	1960
Activity:	Freelance journalist
Location:	Kien Giang
Sentence:	5 years imprisonment

A member of Bloc 8406 and a freelance journalist, Truong Minh Duc was arrested on May 5, 2007 for advising and helping farmers file complaints against local authorities' unauthorized seizure of their lands and properties. A dedicated anti-corruption activist, he has authored many articles and reports about abuses of power and civil rights violations, many of which were sent to overseas websites and newspapers. Denied medical treatment for a broken arm sustained while in prison, Truong Minh Duc was forced into silence during his trial by security agents bending his injured arm.

Truong Minh Nguyet



Born:	1947
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	40 Cach Mang Thang Tam Street, Bien Hoa
Sentence:	4 years imprisonment followed by 3 years probation

Truong Minh Nguyet is the deputy leader of the Vietnamese Political and Religious Prisoners Friendship Association (VPRPFA). After 16 years in prison, Truong Minh Nguyet continued to be harassed and economically isolated. He was not been able to find a job because of interference and harassment by the authorities. On June 2, 2007 he was arrested again and sentenced to four years imprisonment followed by three years probation.

Truong Quoc Huy



Born:	1979
Activity:	Internet activist
Location:	B34 prison in Saigon
Sentence:	6 years imprisonment followed by 3 years house arrest

A mobile-phone repairman, Truong Quoc Huy began voicing his opinions about corruption and democracy in online forums in 2005. Previously arrested at his home in Saigon on October 19, 2005 with his two brothers and a female friend, the group had been taking part in a chat room discussion about democracy hosted by Paltalk. Truong Quoc Huy's brother, Truong Quoc Nghia was subsequently released, while the others were detained and held incommunicado for nine months. They were refused legal representation and family visits. Whilst in custody, the computer business of Truong Quoc Tuan, the third brother, went bankrupt. One month after his release, on August 18, 2006, Truong Quoc Huy was arrested again when a dozen police swamped a Saigon internet café. Truong Quoc Huy was chatting on PalTalk.

Vi Duc Hoi



Born:	1956
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	Lang Son
Sentence:	Police surveillance

A former member of the Communist Party, Vi Duc Hoi became disenchanted with party polices and joined the democracy movement in 2007. Leaving behind executive positions in the local government, Vi Duc Hoi wrote essays on democracy and pluralism under the pen name Hai Hoa. On April 29, 2008, on the occasion of the Olympic torch relay through Vietnam, Vi Duc Hoi was arrested with other activists and subjected to physical abuse for participating in a peaceful demonstration in Hanoi. On June 12, 2008, Vi Duc Hoi was publicly denounced, accused of treason, and threatened with expulsion from his hometown by a crowd of 300 organized by Communist Party members. Since joining the democracy movement, he has also been denied his health insurance and pension.

Vu Hoang Hai



Born:	1965
Activity:	Internet activist
Location:	n/a
Sentence:	2 years imprisonment followed by 2 years probation

A member of Bloc 8406 and a co-founder of the pro-democracy group called Bach Dang Giang (Bach Dang River), Vu Hoang Hai experienced the same persecution as Pham Ba Hai and Nguyen Ngoc Quang. He was arrested on September 5, 2006 for his involvement with Bloc 8406 and for distributing materials promoting democracy in Vietnam. Prior to his arrest, he was subjected to serious physical abuse during an interrogation session. His medical report revealed injuries in his neck bone and numbness in his left arm due to the physical violations.

Vu Hung



Born:	1966
Activity:	Democracy activist
Location:	Hoa Lo prison, Hanoi
Sentence:	Imprisonment without trial

An elementary school teacher in Ha Tay, Vu Hung was arrested on April 18, 2007 for distributing literature on democracy and detained for nine days. Following the arrest he received several warnings and harassment from his employer. On April 29, 2008, he traveled to Hanoi to participate in a peaceful demonstration against China and was arrested along with fellow democracy activist Nguyen Xuan Nghia. Enduring police brutality during the arrest, he suffered wounds to his face and body. On September 18, 2008 Vu Hung was arrested when the police raided his house. He was charged with “propaganda against the state” according to Article 88 of the Penal Code. This arrest came as the Hanoi authorities feared another anti-China demonstration which students called for on the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic note signed by the former prime minister Pham Van Dong, acknowledging the Spratly and Paracel islands as China’s.

Vu Thanh Phuong



Born:	1967
Activity:	Land rights activist
Location:	Dong Nai province
Sentence:	Police harassment

Vu Thanh Phuong, a farmer, has suffered many years under oppression. After April 1975, The Vietnamese Communist authorities seized her family's property under accusations that her father, Vu Van Manh, was a CIA collaborator. Vu Thanh Phuong and her family tried in vain for 30 years to reclaim their land. In July 2007, along with more than 2,000 farmers, Vu Thanh Phuong took part in the 27-day protest in Saigon against government land grabs. During the sit-in, she provided medicine and food for elderly protesters. As a member of Bloc 8406, she is a frequent target of authorities and constantly harassed. On October 13, 2007, she was arrested at an Internet café and detained for spreading "anti-government literature." Undeterred by police harassment, she most recently signed a petition demanding the authorities to return Catholic Church properties, including the former apostolic delegation's office in Hanoi.

Vu Thanh Phuong

DO NAM HAI DOAN HUY CHUONG
HONG TRUNG HUYNH NGUYEN DAO
LE THI CONG NHAN LE THI LE HANG
LE THI KIM THU LU THI THU DUYEN
LUONG VAN SINH NGO QUYNH
NGUYEN BAC TRUYEN NGUYEN BINH THANH
NGUYEN DAN QUE NGUYEN VAN HAI
PASTOR NGUYEN HONG QUANG NGUYEN KHAC TOAN
NGUYEN NGOC QUANG NGUYEN PHONG
NGUYEN PHUONG ANH PASTOR NGUYEN THI HONG
NGUYEN TIEN NAM NGUYEN VAN DAI

VOICES OF CONSCIENCE

REVEREND NGUYEN VAN LY NGUYEN VU BINH
NGUYEN XUAN NGHIA PHAM BA HAI
PHAM HONG SON PHAM THANH NGHIEN
PHAM VAN TROI REVEREND PHAN VAN LOI
SOMSAK KHUNMI VENERABLE THICH QUANG DO
TRAN KHAI THANH THUY TRAN QUOC HIEN
TRAN THI THUY TRANG TRINH QUOC THAO
TRUONG MINH DUC TRUONG MINH NGUYET
TRUONG QUOC HUY VI DUC HOI
VU THANH PHUONG

