

2185 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0539
(202) 225-4111
FAX: (202) 226-0335

305 NORTH HARBOR BOULEVARD
SUITE 300
FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA 92832
(714) 992-8081
(562) 220-2411
FAX: (714) 992-1668

www.royce.house.gov

UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



EDWARD R. ROYCE
Fortieth District-California

March 9, 2007

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

I am writing to request that you voice concern over the Communist Party of Vietnam's recent crackdown on democracy activists during your upcoming meeting with Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Gia Khiem.

As you know, Vietnam has a long history of violating human rights and opposing democratic values. According to your Department's newly-released *Annual Report on Human Rights*, there have been numerous instances of physical torture, arbitrary arrest, and detainment of Christians and members of other religions not sanctioned by the Vietnamese government. Human rights groups reported that on February 19, Thura Thien provincial security agents placed Father Nguyen Van Ly under house arrest with strict supervision. He is facing criminal charges for allegedly promoting propaganda against the Vietnamese government and is responding with an ongoing hunger strike at the expense of his health.

The Vietnamese government is making a widespread attempt to curb peaceful democracy protests, especially in the past few weeks. On March 5, attorneys Le Thi Cong Nhan and Nguyen Van Dai were arrested and had their licenses revoked for leading group discussions on democracy. There have been reported instances of democracy activists who have suffered harassment, detainment, and government surveillance. Many of these democracy activists are currently suffering in prison due to a lack of basic medical care, such as the case of journalist Nguyen Vu Binh.

The Vietnamese government crackdown on religious leaders and pro-democracy activists runs counter to American values and interests. Moreover, Vietnamese are suffering. Given the recent timing of these incidents, your protesting these indefensible actions to the Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister is all the more important. Vietnam's continued suppression of political dissidents is intolerable. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Royce".

EDWARD R. ROYCE

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Subcommittees:

Ranking Member, Terrorism,
Nonproliferation, and Trade

Asia, the Pacific and
the Global Environment

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Subcommittees:

Capital Markets, Insurance and
Government Sponsored Enterprises

Financial Institutions and
Consumer Credit

Oversight and Investigations