

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

His Excellency Truong Tan Sang  
President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
c/o Embassy of Vietnam  
1233 20th Street NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20036

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung  
c/o Embassy of Vietnam  
1233 20th Street NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20036

May 28, 2015

Dear President Sang:

We write to urge the immediate release of imprisoned human rights blogger, Tran Huynh Duy Thuc and 27 political prisoners in the enclosed list. The list of political prisoners was initially given to members of your government during a trip made by a United States Congressional delegation on March 31, 2015. Members of Congress asked for the release of these prisoners and made clear that political rights, religious freedoms, and human dignity cannot be suppressed in a free and open society.

Similar to other political prisoners on the list, Tran Huynh Duy Thuc was initially charged with “promoting anti-government propaganda” under Article 88 of the Vietnamese Penal Code. We are concerned that he was arrested under this trumped up charge for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression.

Tran Huynh Duy Thuc was arrested on 24 May 2009 and tried on 20 January 2010. In the one-day trial, Tran Huynh Duy Thuc and his three co-defendants, Le Cong Dinh, Nguyen Tien Trung and Le Thang Long, were prosecuted for “conducting activities aimed at overthrowing the people’s administration” under Article 79 of the Penal Code. Mr. Thuc was sentenced to 16 years’ imprisonment followed by 5 years of house arrest. While his three co-defendants have been released early, Mr. Thuc remains in prison. This month marks Mr. Thuc’s 6th year in detention.

As you are aware, on 23 November 2012, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) called for Mr. Thuc’s release, determining his detention to be arbitrary and in violation of legal standards including articles 19, 9 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Vietnam is a party. Although the government of Vietnam has indicated an interest in strengthening both economic and security ties with the United States,

we are concerned that the continued imprisonment of political prisoners like Tran Huynh Duy Thuc, shows a lack of commitment and respect for human rights.

We urge the Vietnamese government to uphold its commitments to international law and to release Mr. Thuc and all other imprisoned individuals on the attached list immediately and unconditionally. In addition, we request that you drop all charges and investigations for any individuals who are out on bail pending investigation, including Hong Le Tho (Nguou Lot Gach) and Nguyen Quang Lap (Bo Lap).

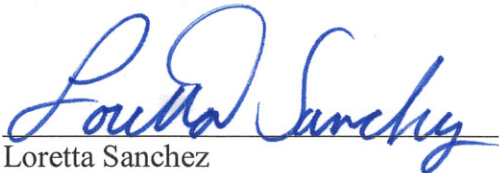
Sincerely,



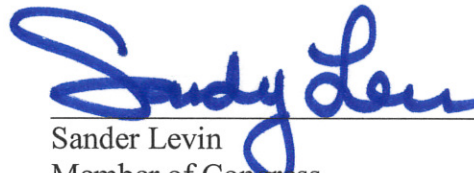
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



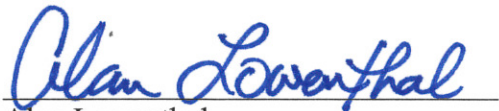
Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Chris Smith  
Member of Congress



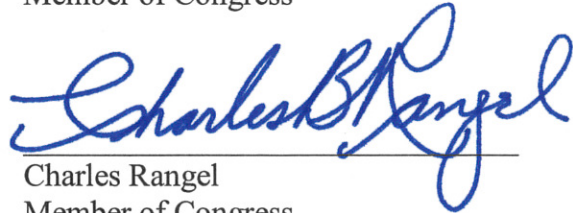
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



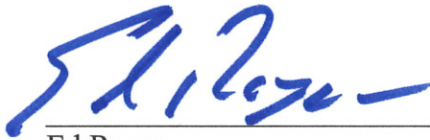
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



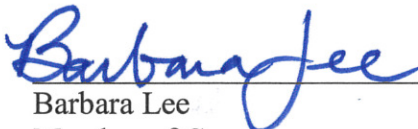
Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



Charles Rangel  
Member of Congress



Ed Royce  
Member of Congress



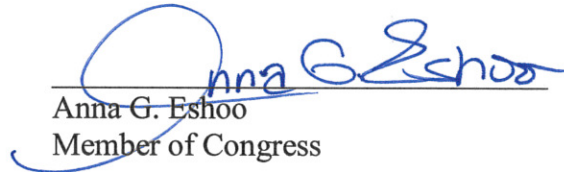
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress