

FRANK R. WOLF

10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



241 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4610
(202) 225-5136

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER—COMMERCE-JUSTICE-
SCIENCE

TRANSPORTATION-HUD

CO-CHAIR—TOM LANTOS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

13873 PARK CENTER ROAD
SUITE 130
HERNDON, VA 20171
(703) 709-5800
(800) 945-9653 (IN STATE)

110 NORTH CAMERON STREET
WINCHESTER, VA 22601
(540) 667-0990
(800) 850-3463 (IN STATE)

wolf.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 29, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
2201 C St NW Ste 7276
Washington DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

As you head to Vietnam for the East Asia Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), it is imperative that human rights be at the forefront of your agenda.

In the lead-up to your visit, the communist government has once again shown its true colors and convicted several labor activists and Catholic villagers. Furthermore, AFP reported that "A Vietnamese blogger critical of government policy remained in prison on Monday even though his sentence on 'trumped-up' charges expired last week, Human Rights Watch said." This particular blogger writes under the name "Dieu Cay." His prolonged detention coincided with the arrest of another blogger, Phan Thanh Hai, who blogged as "Anh Ba Saigon" and who had also written on political matters.

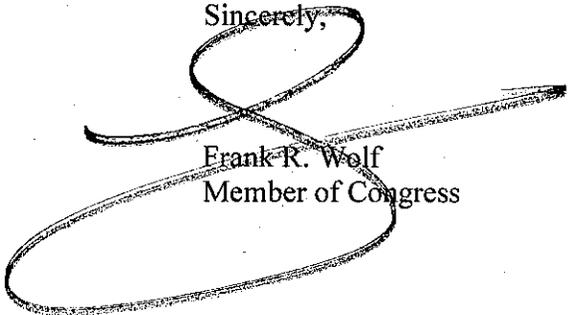
I received a copy of a letter sent to you yesterday by several prominent Vietnamese dissidents. The letter notes the precarious situation of the two bloggers mentioned above and rightly notes that their bleak situation is symptomatic of a much larger crackdown on dissent.

In their letter, these courageous dissidents urge you to "use your influential voice" to "convince Hanoi that freedom of information which includes freedom of the Internet is indispensable for both individual and social progress..." I add my voice to theirs.

It is unconscionable for the Vietnamese government to engage in blatant human rights abuses of their own citizens. I urge you to raise these matters at the highest levels, to call for the release of all political prisoners, to highlight, by name, particularly egregious cases and to press for tangible, verifiable progress.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,


Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

Madame Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
State Department
The United States of America

Attention: The Honorable Kurt Campbell, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian & Pacific Affairs.

Vietnam October 28, 2010

Dear Madame,

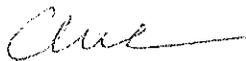
The Vietnamese people are very pleased to know that you are traveling through many capitals in the Asia - Pacific region to Hanoi where you will be attending the East Asia Summit on October 30, 2010 to justify the U.S. strategy in one of the most critical areas of the 21st century. To welcome you and the other State Guests to this important Summit, the Vietnamese communist authorities are crushing dissidents and denying basic human rights of their citizens, while human freedom and democracy are the universal values that the U.S. and almost all other participants are actually pursuing in order to empower individual and collective lives in their own countries.

Last week, a well-known blogger Nguyen Van Hai, nick-named Dieu Cay, was re-arrested immediately after a 30-month prison sentence. Meanwhile, another blogger, Phan Thanh Hai, nicknamed Anh Ba Saigon, was jailed without warrant from the court. Both cases are charged with "propaganda against the socialist state," which is forbidden under Article 88 of the Vietnamese Criminal Code. There are yet many more innocent citizens who are continually harassed by the Vietnamese government only because they exercise their right to express their own view on the East Sea dispute with China, or criticize the wrong doings and corruption of government officials. We along with many other people in Vietnam as well as all over the world firmly believe that they simply are patriotic and not criminal by any means. However, they are arbitrarily punished, instead of being honored for their dignity.

We would very much like to ask you to use your influential voice in this important opportunity to convince Hanoi that freedom of information which includes freedom of internet is indispensable for both individual and social progress, and that the Vietnamese Communist Party's Politburo should release immediately and unconditionally bloggers Dieu Cay and Anh Ba Saigon as a demonstration of their true willingness to sincerely incorporate themselves in the civilized humanity of today.

Thank you very much for your help.

Respectfully yours,



Dr. Nguyen Dan Que,
Representative, Non-violent Movement in Vietnam and
Co-Signatories (inside VN): See attached list.

CC: President Barack Obama
The U.S. Congress

Co-Signatories

Tran Hoai An	Hoa Hao Buddhist
Reverend Thich Nhat Ban	Long Thanh, Dong Nai
Nguyen Vu Binh	Writer, Hanoi
Nguyen Van Cai	Hoa Hao Buddhist
Huynh Bui Chau	Worker, Saigon
Vo Van Diem	Hoa Hao Buddhist
Nguyen Tri Dung	Student Q.3, Saigon
Professor Nguyen Thanh Giang	Tu Liem, Hanoi
Priest Nguyen Huu Giai	Hue
Do Nam Hai Engineer	Q. Phu Nhuan, Saigon
Nguyen Thi Hanh	Hoa Hao Buddhist
Duong Thi Hai	Kien An Hai Phong
Nguyen Anh Hao	Bao Loc Lam Dong
Tran Thi Le Hong	Under House-Arrest
Hoac Quy Hung	Businessman, Go Vap Saigon
Tran Van Huy	Engineer, Hoan Kiem Hanoi
Reverend Thich Thien Khanh	Tuy Hoa Phu Yen
Ho Thi Bich Khuong	Worker, Nam Dan Nghe An
Hoang Trung Kien	Ninh Binh Ninh Binh
Nguyen Van Lia	Hoa Hao Buddhist
Nguyen Thi Lien	Wife of Blooger Anh Ba Saigon. Thu Duc
Nguyen Trung Linh	Engineer, Hai Ba Trung Hanoi
Priest Phan Van Loi	Hue
Nguyen Thi Loi	Hai An Hai Phong
Tran Kim Long	Hoa Hao Buddhist
Le Tran Luat	Lawyer, Binh Thanh Saigon
Luu Thi Luy	Hoa Hao Buddhist
Reverend Thich Thien Minh	Bac Lieu
Duong Van Nam	Farmer Luc Nam Bac Giang
Nguyen Thi Nga	Kien An Hai Phong
Le Thi Cong Nhan lawyer	Dong Da Hanoi
Nguyen Thi Nu	Nam Sach Hai Duong
Nguyen Ngoc Nuong student	Q. Tan Binh Saigon
Nguyen Thi Kieu Oanh	Q10 Saigon
Tran Nam Phuong	Saigon
Nguyen Thai Phuong	Tra Vinh
Pastor Nguyen Hong Quang	Q.2 Saigon
Nguyen Ngoc Quang	Dinh Quan Dong Nai
Ngo Van Quyen	Hanoi
Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh (Me Nam)	Vinh Phuoc Nha Trang
Bui Thi Re	Dong Hung Thai Binh
Dr. Le Nguyen Sang	Danang, Central of Viet Nam
Dr Pham Hong Son	Thuy Khue Hanoi
Truong Van Suong	Soc Trang
Duong Thi Tan	Q.3 Saigon

Tran Huynh Duy Tan
Ta Phong Tan
Reverend Thich Khong Tanh
Nguyen Thi Tay
Ta Cong Thach
Ho Thanh
Nguyen Thi Thanh Thao
Le Viet Thang
Bui Thi Lan Thi
Nguyen Thi Thom
Le Thi Kim Thu
Nguyen Ngoc Thu
Lu Thi Thu Trang
Hoang Tien
Nguyen Khac Toan
Pastor Nguyen Trung Ton
Nguyen Thu Tram
Nguyen Thi Triet
Le Minh Triet
Pastor Than Van Truong
Nguyen Bac Truyen
Le Thanh Tung
Pham Thi Ung
Duong Thi Xuan
Duong Thi Thu Van

Saigon
Q3 Saigon
Q2, Saigon
Student, Cam Ranh
Phu Cat Binh Dinh
Sai Gon
Businesswoman, Q10 Saigon
Student
Thu Dau Mot Binh Duong
Thai Binh Thai Binh
Vinh Cuu Dong Nai
Student, Bao Loc Lam Dong
Worker, Go Vap, Saigon
Writer, Thanh Xuan, Hanoi
Journalist, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi
Quang Xuong Thanh Hoa
Q10 Saigon
Worker, Quang Nam
An Giang, South Viet Nam
Thu Duc, Saigon
Under House Arrest Q4 Saigon
Soc Son Hanoi
Teacher, Tuy Phong Binh Thuan
Xuan Hoa Vinh Yen
Farmer