



THE RAFTO FOUNDATION

The Thorolf Rafto Foundation for Human Rights

His Excellency
President Nguyen Minh Triet
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Bergen, 6 May 2008

Your Excellency,

The Rafto Foundation is writing to convey our grave concern regarding the ongoing detentions of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, Mr. Somsak Khunmi and Mr. Nguyen The Vu for peacefully expressing their political views.

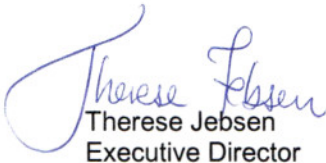
It has been more than five months since their arrests and we have reliable information that they were not granted adequate family or consular visits. They are detained charged with terrorism, although they are promoting peaceful democratic change in Vietnam. We fear that this will affect and prevent them from having a fair trial. We would also underline that despite being under detention, they still have the right to enjoy their basic human rights.

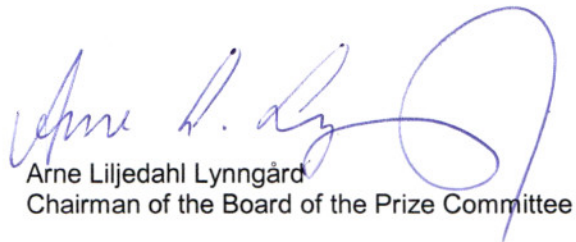
In addition, three of their colleagues, Ms. Nguyen Thi Thanh Van, Mr. Truong Van Ba and Mr. Nguyen Viet Trung who were arrested at the same time and for the same reasons of preparing to distribute non-violent struggle literature, have already been released. They were released without any formal charges and yet Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, Mr. Somsak Khunmi and Mr. Nguyen The Vu are still being detained.

Moreover, we would raise our concern for The Venerable Thich Quang Do, who was awarded the 2006 Rafto Prize. He is deputy leader of the outlawed Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam and has spent more than 25 years in detention for advocating greater religious freedoms and rights. At the age of 80, Venerable Thich Quang Do is still under house arrest.

Vietnam is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We therefore ask for your assurance that these individuals' rights will be respected and soon to be released as per their colleagues.

Yours sincerely
Rafto Foundation


Therese Jebsen
Executive Director


Arne Liljedahl Lynngård
Chairman of the Board of the Prize Committee

Copy: The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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