



SENATOR DOUG CAMERON

Senator for New South Wales

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Pham Gia Khiem
Minister of Foreign Affairs
1 Ton That Dam Street
Ba Dinh District
Ha Noi
VIET NAM

24 July 2009

Dear Minister,

I am writing to express grave concerns regarding the arrests by Vietnamese authorities of Messrs Nguyen Tien Trung and Tran Ank Kim on the 7th of July 2009 and the human rights lawyer Mr Le Cong Dinh on 13th of June 2009.

Vietnamese authorities have stated Mr Dinh was arrested for counselling pro-democracy activists and using the Internet to express his views. Both Nguyen Tien Trung and Tran Ank Kim have been charged with promoting movements that advocate an alternative political system. No individual should be arrested for expressing their views and no lawyer should be punished for the individuals they counsel.

Vietnam's constitution and its commitment to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) entitles all of its citizens to religious freedom, freedom of opinion, freedom of speech, and the right to form associations of their own choosing. The arrests of Nguyen Tien Trung, Tran Ank Kim and Le Cong Dinh contradict the Vietnamese Government's constitution and its commitment to the internationally-accepted standards of the ICCPR.

I urge the Vietnamese government to safeguard the rights of these men, and all other prisoners in detention for peacefully expressing their views.

Yours faithfully

Senator Doug Cameron
Senator for New South Wales

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