



The Hon Bernie Ripoll MP
Shadow Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation
Shadow Minister Assisting the Leader for Small Business
Shadow Minister for Sport

His Excellency Mr. Thanh Nghi LUONG
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Vietnam
Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Australia
6 Timbarra Crescent
O'MALLEY ACT 2606

Dear Mr Ambassador,

I am writing to raise my concerns about the detainment of Mr Van Dai Nguyen.

Mr Nguyen was arrested on 16th of December and charged under Article 88 of the Penal Code, which has frequently been used to imprison peaceful activists and human rights defenders.

Van Dai Nguyen is a brave and passionate activist who has been raising awareness domestically and internationally about human rights violations in a country that tolerates no dissent. His arrest highlights Vietnam's spurious commitment to human rights.

I condemn the treatment of the human rights activists and respectfully call upon the Vietnamese government to release Mr Nguyen and all other prisoners imprisoned for exercising any internationally recognised human right.

Amnesty International and others have repeatedly called for Article 88 to be repealed or amended to conform with international human rights law and standards, which Viet Nam is obliged to uphold as a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Vietnamese authorities have stated that several laws relating to human rights are under preparation for approval by the National Assembly in 2016.

Vietnam has immense potential in furthering its progress and I believe that this will be achieved only if freedom of expression and if political beliefs are upheld and respected.

Thank you for your time in considering this matter.

Yours sincerely

BERNIE RIPOLL
Federal Member for Oxley