



**Dr Anne Aly MP**  
Federal Member for Cowan

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H.E Nguyen Xuan Phuc  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
Office of the State  
1 Bach Thao  
Hanoi, Vietnam

Dear Prime Minister

I request your urgent attention to a number of human rights incidents which have occurred over the past month in Vietnam, most concerning the detainment of 3 Vietnamese activists.

I have been advised about the detention of various activists who have reported and spoken up regarding the Formosa environmental disaster. Nguyen Van Hoa, a 22 year old citizen journalist who was covering protests last year, was arbitrarily detained in early January and is currently being held incommunicado. Hoa was charged for "abusing democratic freedoms" under Article 258 of the Vietnamese Penal Code, simply for reporting peaceful action calling for environmental justice. More alarmingly, his family were only informed by police more than a week following his arrest.

Nguyen Van Oai, a former prisoner of conscience and founder of Catholic Former Prisoners of Conscience was arrested on January 19 charged for "resisting persons on duty". In Oai's previous sentence, the United Nations Working Group for Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) ruled that Oai's detention was arbitrary and called for his immediate release. Oai has continued his human rights work since his release and it is concerning that he has been arrested once again.

Tran Thi Nga is a prominent blogger and social activist who has frequently discussed police corruption. A mother of two young sons, she was detained in her home alongside her husband (who was released the following day) and disturbingly, recordings of her arrest by police were distributed over social media. Nga was charged for "conducting propaganda against the state", a common law authorities have used to arrest bloggers and human rights defenders. I have been informed that Nga previously recorded videos of police treatment towards her and she was hospitalised next to her sons from a police attack two years ago.

In another concerning matter, I have also been informed that security police stopped hundreds of peaceful marchers on February 14, 2017. Many marchers including Reverend Nguyen Dinh Thuc, the Vietnamese priest leading the delegation, were beaten by police in an attempt to intimidate and prevent the march from continuing. The group consisting of more than 500 people affected by the Formosa environmental disaster which occurred off the central Vietnamese coast in April last year which resulted in tonnes of dead fish washing up ashore the coast of central Vietnam.

I am advised that these peaceful marchers were to travel 200km to exercise their legal rights and sue Formosa Ha Tinh Steel Corporation for compensation in a local court close to the industrial area.

The recent arrests and acts of harassment and intimidation are extremely concerning. I respectfully request you to release the activists listed above and honour your commitments to international law. I also respectfully request you to hold an investigation into police treatment of peaceful protesters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Aly', written in a cursive style.

**Dr Anne Aly MP**  
Federal Member for Cowan  
Parliament of Australia

21 FEB 2017