



**The Hon David Clarke MLC**  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

12 October 2009

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
Hoang Van Thu Street  
Ha Noi  
Viet Nam

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing this letter to respectfully express my grave concern regarding the recent trial of nine pro-democracy activists, including writer Nguyen Xuan Nghia, university student Ngo Quynh, former communist party member Nguyen Manh Son, essayist Nguyen Van Tin, land rights activist Nguyen Van Tuc, electrician Nguyen Kim Nhan, high school teacher Vu Hung, Poet Tran Duc Thach and engineer Pham Van Troi.

They were charged with "propaganda against the socialist state", but in fact all they did was to exercise their human rights by posting articles voicing their concern regarding the government's handling of sovereignty disputes and advocate human rights and democracy. Vietnam is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights where freedom of expression is a fundamental right that all member States must pledge to respect.

As Vietnam is about to assume the presidency of the United Nations Security Council, it should demonstrate to the international community that it can maintain international standards by ceasing all persecutions against citizens for peaceful political expression and to respect basic human rights.

I urge you to consider Vietnam's position and to release all peaceful democracy activists.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Clarke', written over a horizontal line.

The Hon. David Clarke MLC  
Member of the NSW Legislative Council  
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary to the N.S.W.  
Shadow Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.