

Prof. Dr. Johannes Kals, Eichstraße 44, 67434 Neustadt an der Weinstraße, Germany

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Prime Minister
Nguyen Tan-Dung
01 Hoàng Hoa Thám - Ba Đình - Hà Nội
Việt-Nam

Neustadt, 25. 11. 2013

The following officials will receive a copy of this petition:

The Ambassador of Vietnam in Germany
Mrs Catherine Ashton, Vice-President of the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium
Foreign Minister of Germany, Dr. Guido Westerwelle, Berlin
Mr. Markus Löning, Commissioner of the German Government for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid, Berlin

Concern about Le Quoc-Quan

Dear Prime Minister,

this letter is written to express my deep concern over the treatment and the lack of due process in the case of prominent human rights lawyer Le-Quoc-Quan. As a lawyer, he has represented numerous human rights activists who have been persecuted. He served as consultant for many civil society groups such as Asian Development Bank and Swedish International Development Agency.


Mr. Le-Quoc-Quan was arrested in December 2012, and charged with tax evasion. According to the family members' accounts, the evidences against him were fabricated by the police to silent his call for change. Many international NGOs, such as Reporters sans frontieres and English PEN, have called on the Vietnamese government to drop these politically motivated charges against Le-Quoc-Quan. While being detained, Quan was kept without contact with his family for a prolonged period of time. On July 8, 2013, Vietnam court abruptly postponed the trial of Mr. Le-Quoc-Quan, saying the judge scheduled to hear the case was ill, while lawyers and relatives said the hearing was put off to avoid publicity and international attention. In his trial on October 2, 2013, he was sentenced to 30 months in prison, and his co-defendant was sentenced to 8 months in prison. Both of these sentences are disgraces when being measured against standard justice systems around the world.

I am very concerned that these falsified charges and inhuman treatments are commonly used against peaceful pro-democracy activists, such as Le Quoc Quan, Dieu Cay, Ta Phong Tan and many others. They represent stains on your government's troublesome human rights record. Furthermore, they are indications that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has and continues failing to meet international obligations required as a state member of UN.

May I remind you that your government is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of association, and the rights to due process and a fair trial. Mr. Le-Quoc-Quan should be released and freed from all charges.

I urge you Mr. Prime Minister, and call on scholars around the world to raise their voices in demanding the release of Mr. Le-Quoc-Quan. All arresting and detaining citizens for peacefully organizing themselves and for exercising their freedom of speech must end.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Johannes Kals, initiator of the initiative to free Mr. Le-Quoc-Quan

Prominent joint signatory:

Mrs. Vera Lengsfeld, civil rights activist in the DDR, former member of Federal German Parliament, Federal Cross of Merit

Mr. Ingo Röthlingshöfer, mayor of Neustadt an der Weinstraße, chairman of district chapter of the CDU

Further joint signatories:

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Anders, Speyer

Prof. Dr. Thomas Bäumer, Stuttgart

Dr. med. Jörg Breitmaier, Chefarzt, ärztlicher Direktor, Ludwigshafen am Rhein

Maitre Pierre Degoul - Avocat à Neuilly sur Seine / France

Maitre Alexandra Dumitresco - Avocat à Antony / France

Dr. Maryam Taheri Fard, Frankfurt am Main

Dr. Arndt Führ, Bad Kreuznach

Prof. Dr. Arnd Götzelmann, Ludwigshafen am Rhein

Prof. Dr. med. Stefan Grüne

Dr. med. Alexander Hammer, Nürnberg

Prof. Dr. Eveline Häusler, Karlsruhe

Prof. Dr. Bruno Hildenbrand, Jena

Dr. Ansgar Hohmann, Ulm

Prof. Dr. Lieselotte Ihle-Schmidt, Heidelberg

Dr. med. Helene Kamb, Neustadt a.d.W.

Prof. Dr. Franz Knapp, Neustadt a.d.W.

Prof. Dr. Werner Krämer, Ludwigshafen am Rhein

Dr. med. Hartwig Neumann, Neustadt a.d.W.

Prof. Dr. Michael Schmidt, Bingen

Dr. med. Christian Schöndorf, Neustadt a.d.W.

Dr. Bernd Schumacher, Heidelberg

Dr. med. Karl-Heinz Spörkman, Landau

Dr. Michael Stapper, Mainz

Dr. med. Margarita Straubinger-Schöndorf, Neustadt a.d.W.

Maitre Anne Tachon - Avocat à Antony / France

Dr. Christoph Vorwerk, Köln

Professeur Michel Waldschmidt, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris / France

Prof. Dr. Helmut Wannenwetsch, Mannheim

Pater Dr. Heiner Wilmer, SCJ, Provinzial, Bonn