



HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP

Federal Member for Sturt

Shadow Minister for Education, Apprenticeships and Training
Manager of Opposition Business, House of Representatives

5 August 2009

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung
Office of the Prime Minister
Hoang Hoa Tham
Ha Noi
VIETNAM

Dear Prime Minister

I write as one of a number of international legislators to express my personal concern, as well as many of my constituents, at the arrest of a number of supporters of democratic reform in your country.

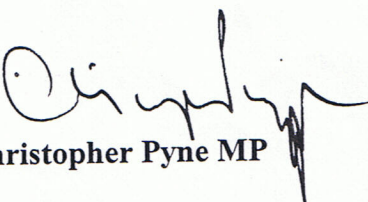
In particular, my attention has been drawn to the recent arrests of Mr Nguyen Tien Trung, and Colonel Tran Anh Kim on 7 July, as well as Attorney Le Cong Dinh on 16 June, and Father Nguyen Van Ly, who was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment and 5 further years of house arrest on 30 March 2007.

I fully appreciate our respective countries' different legal systems, and I respect Vietnam's sovereignty in this area. My letter is to advocate for a reconsideration of these individuals' situations.

Article 69 of the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam guarantees freedom of speech. Vietnam has also assigned itself to various international legal obligations: including but not limited to the following: Article 9 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which provides protection from arbitrary arrest. Articles 18(1) and 19(1) of the ICCPR guarantee freedom of thought, speech and opinion.

I would urge your Government to recommit itself to these articles, and to your citizen's rights to freedom of peaceful expression. Please take this into consideration in relation to the cases of Mr Nguyen Tien Trung, Colonel Tran Anh Kim, Attorney Le Cong Dinh, Father Nguyen Van Ly, and other individuals who may express different points of view with your Government.

Yours sincerely,



Christopher Pyne MP

JG