



Parliament of Western Australia

Ian M Britza, MLA  
Member of Legislative Assembly  
Member for Morley

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21 August 2012

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
Office of the State  
1 Bach Thao  
Ha Noi, Vietnam

Dear Prime Minister

I continue to receive news of horrific recent cases of inhumane treatment of prisoners of conscience within your country.

I have been made aware of the ongoing mistreatment of Ms Tran Thi Thuy, a land rights activist and member of Viet Tan. I have been told that since she will not make an admission of guilt, she has been singled out and mistreated particularly. It is reported that she has been subjected to forced labour despite her injuries and has been denied medical attention since her closed trial on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2011.

I am very saddened to hear of Ms. Dang Thi Kim Lieng's July 30 self-immolation in protest of her daughter's detention. Her daughter Ms Ta Phong Tan is scheduled to be tried along with fellow founding members of the "Free Journalists Club" Dieu Cay and Phan Thanh Hai whose only actions involve blogging. I urge that she be released to properly mourn the loss of her mother.

I have also been informed that blogger Mr Paulus Le Son, arrested on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2011; has not been informed of his mothers death. Mr Le is one of the 17 Catholics kidnapped by security police last year. I am shocked to hear he was not able to arrange his mothers funeral or even allowed attendance at the funeral.

I also hear that Mr Nguyen Quoc Quan (an American foreign national) has passed his 4 months detainment date but no news is forthcoming of his situation. His wife and children have still not been allowed to visit, and no charge has been made against him.

The number of cases of concern continues to rise this year within your country at an alarming rate. Respecting and upholding human rights is an essential part of being a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Vietnam needs to allow freedom of expression and uphold civil rights if its progress is to really grow.

Thank you for your time in considering these matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian M Britza'.

Ian M Britza MLA  
State Member for Morley  
Parliament of Western Australia