

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 23, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

We are writing to express our grave concerns with ongoing human rights violations in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The Vietnamese government has consistently demonstrated a disregard for basic human rights, including freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion.

The Vietnamese government continues its record of imprisoning citizens who criticize the regime on often unfounded charges, including prominent democracy and human rights activists. The Vietnamese government also has a track record of intolerance toward ethnic and religious minorities, with evidence of discrimination that has at times crossed the line into violence against the Khmer Krom, Montagnards, Hmong, Catholics, Protestants, Buddhists, and many other groups.

On July 25 you will have the opportunity to bring these issues to the forefront in your meeting with President Truong Tan Sang of Vietnam at the White House. In light of the worsening human rights situation in Vietnam, we urge you to take a strong stance in pressuring the Vietnamese government to follow the basic rights and freedoms enshrined in Vietnam's own Constitution.

We strongly recommend that you ask President Sang to improve his government's record on human rights and stop suppressing legitimate dissent within his country. This position has solid support in Congress from both sides of the aisle. On June 27, the House Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously reported out H.R.1897, the Vietnam Human Rights Act, a bill that would take substantive action to demonstrate the United States' concern regarding human rights abuses in Vietnam.

In addition, we urge you to require improvements in human rights as a condition of Vietnam's participation in the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). We believe the United States should make clear its determination to advocate for the rights and freedoms of all people, including the people of Vietnam.

We look forward to working with your administration to ensure we continue advancing human rights in Vietnam.

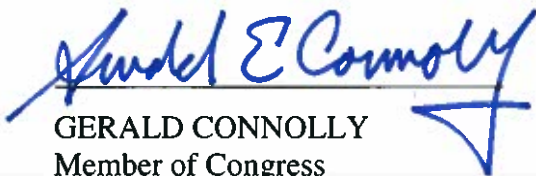
Sincerely,



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress



GERALD CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



ERIC SWALWELL
Member of Congress



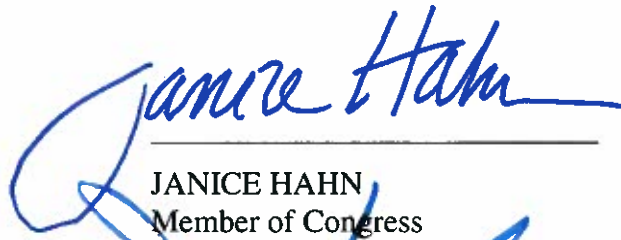
JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress



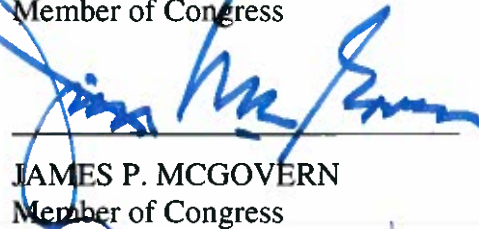
LOIS FRANKEL
Member of Congress



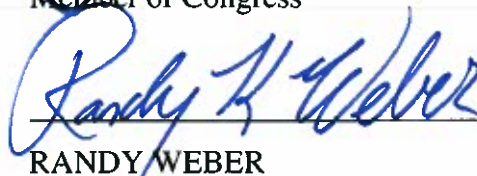
GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



JANICE HAHN
Member of Congress



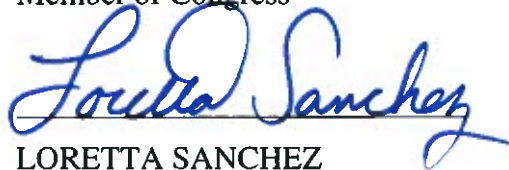
JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



RANDY WEBER
Member of Congress



TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress



LORETTA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress



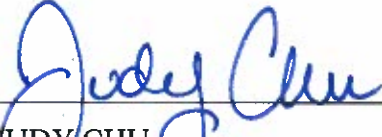
BAUL RUIZ, M.D.
Member of Congress



ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



SUSAN DAVIS
Member of Congress



JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress



GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress



MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress




MICHAEL MICHAUD
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



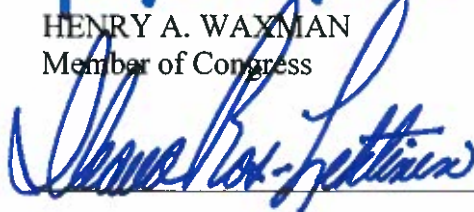
ELIOT ENGEL
Member of Congress



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress



GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress



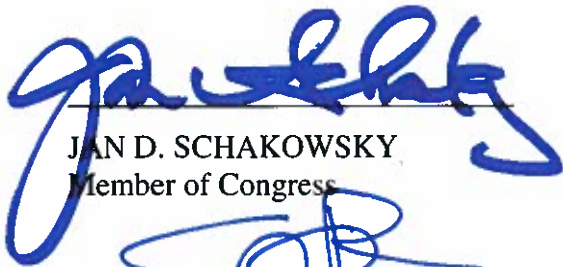
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress




BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



DANA ROHRABACHER
Member of Congress



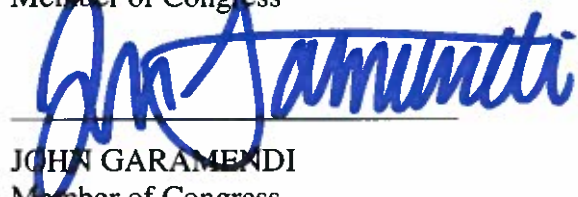
JAN D. SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress




SCOTT PETERS
Member of Congress



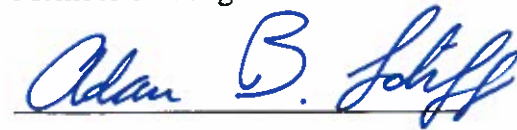
LINDA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress



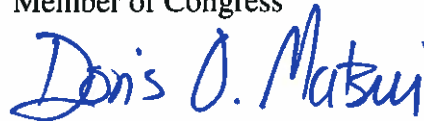
JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



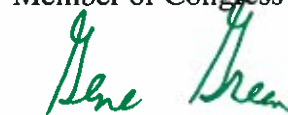
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress



GENE GREEN
Member of Congress