



Viet Tan (Vietnam Reform Party)

*With members inside Vietnam and around the world,
Viet Tan aims to establish democracy and reform the country through peaceful means.*
www.viettan.org

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Vietnamese government detains four members of Viet Tan

In recent weeks the Vietnamese authorities have quietly arrested a number of activists, among them individuals accused of “attempting to overthrow the socialist government” based on their involvement with Viet Tan. To forestall the terror campaign against these individuals and their families, we are bringing to public attention the detention of four Viet Tan members:

1. Mr. Pham Minh Hoang, 55 years old, lecturer at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, arrested on August 13, 2010 in Saigon.
2. Pastor Duong Kim Khai, 52 years old, member of the Mennonite Church of Vietnam, arrested on August 10, 2010 in Saigon.
3. Ms. Tran Thi Thuy, 39 years old, merchant, arrested on August 10, 2010 in Dong Thap.
4. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Tam, 57 years old, farmer, arrested on July 18, 2010 in Ben Tre.

Pham Minh Hoang is a scholar and patriot concerned for the future of the country’s youths. In addition to technical knowledge, he taught students leadership skills and civic responsibility. He actively participated in the campaign to assert Vietnamese sovereignty over the Paracel and Spratly islands; protested the government’s decision to allow a state-owned Chinese company to mine bauxite in the Central Highlands; and blogged on issues of national concern under the penname Phan Kien Quoc.

Pastor Duong Kim Khai has sought to apply religious teachings in everyday life, serving others despite personal hardships. In addition to caring for his congregation, during the last ten years he actively helped dispossessed farmers of all faiths in Ben Tre and Dong Thap provinces petition for redress of grievances.

Nguyen Thanh Tam and Tran Thi Thuy have persistently campaigned for social justice on behalf of farmers in Ben Tre and Dong Thap provinces who have lost their lands over the last 20 years.

In response to these arrests, Viet Tan affirms that:

- Accusing citizens who are promoting peaceful political change of “aiming to overthrow the socialist government” or any other crime under the penal code of Vietnam is baseless and anti-democratic.
- Joining a political party and participating in political activities are fundamental human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which Vietnam is a signatory.

On behalf of all Vietnamese imprisoned for their political views, including our members above, Viet Tan challenges the regime to demonstrate why training youths, defending the country’s environment and territorial sovereignty, exercising freedom of religion and campaigning for social justice are considered “aiming to overthrow the socialist government.”

We challenge the Hanoi regime to allow citizens to air their grievances at a public forum and not be repressed; let people concerned with the China threat to speak out on Vietnamese sovereignty and not be arrested; and permit all who disagree with the Communist Party to engage in peaceful political activities without being terrorized by the security apparatus of the state.

Viet Tan is committed to a nonviolent struggle to end social injustices, promote social empowerment and mobilize the Vietnamese people to contribute to the nation’s development in democracy, justice and equality.

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