

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 25, 2008

The Honorable Nguyen Tang Dung
Prime Minister
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Dear Prime Minister Dung:

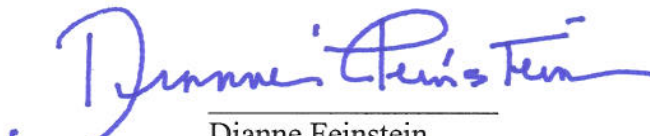
We write today to request that you help facilitate the release of Mr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, an American citizen and California resident who was arrested in Vietnam on November 17, 2007. Mr. Nguyen is a long-time Sacramento, California resident and father of two U.S. citizen children who traveled to Vietnam to promote non-violent democratic change. According to available news reports, Mr. Nguyen was arrested for the peaceful distribution of pro-democracy leaflets.

As Senators who support a strong US-Vietnam bilateral relationship, we understand that Vietnam is undergoing dynamic internal changes, and welcome its growing role in the international community. In addition, we are pleased that Vietnam has expressed its commitment to maintaining international standards of human rights and believe that this is an important step in the country's continuing development and deeper integration into the international community. For these reasons, we are deeply concerned by reports that Mr. Nguyen and other American and Vietnamese citizens have been labeled as "terrorists" and imprisoned without charge or trial for their peaceful expression of political views. In keeping with Vietnam's stated commitment to human rights, we urge you to ensure Mr. Nguyen's release for exercising one of the most basic human rights—the peaceful advocacy of political views.

In addition to releasing Mr. Nguyen, we also ask that you take concrete steps to release all political prisoners detained under similar circumstances, and to end the inappropriate use of the charge of terrorism to silence opposition to the government's policies. We look forward to your prompt response to this letter and to continuing to strengthen US-Vietnam ties.

Sincerely,


Barbara Boxer
United States Senator


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Cc: The Honorable Condoleezza Rice, United States Secretary of State
The Honorable Michael W. Michalak, United States Ambassador to Vietnam