



18th September 2009

Mr Nguyen Minh Triet
President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
c/o Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
6 Timbarra Crescent
O'MALLEY ACT 2606

Dear Mr Nguyen,

My name is Luke Simpkins, Federal Member for Cowan electorate, Western Australia.

My electorate has a considerable number of constituents whose background is Vietnamese. They've made many valuable contributions to the Australian economy particularly Cowan electorate, in the last few years has prospered and developed that reflected in their work ethic.

Many of them voice their concern about the current political situation in Vietnam, where the government continues to oppress its citizens. In the past, the Government arrested many dissidents such as journalist and dissident Nguyen Khac Toan, cyber-dissident Le Nguyen Sang, lawyer Le Thi Cong Nhan, father Nguyen Van Ly and more recently, lawyer Le Cong Dinh, youth activist Nguyen Tien Trung and many other dissidents.

I was informed that Father Ly's and lawyer Nhan's health are deteriorated significantly due to the poor living conditions in prison. I therefore, request that they be released immediately to seek medical attentions as required.

Also, detaining peaceful dissidents contravenes Vietnam's own Constitution and its obligations under international law. Therefore, an immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners would benefit Vietnam's international standing.

Just today, I was informed that a number of these dissidents will be brought to trial on the 24 September 2009. Namely, Nguyen Xuan Nghia, Ngo Quynh, Nguyen Manh Son, Nguyen Van Tinh, Nguyen Van Tuc and Nguyen Kim Nhan. The trial will be held in Haiphong. In addition, Pham Van Troi and Vu Hung will also be tried in HaNoi. All these are on trial for "*propaganda against the socialist state*", banned under Article of the Vietnamese Panel. These trials should not be taken places as they're merely exercising their rights as citizens.

It is an honour to represent the Vietnamese in my electorate. They are one the most reflected ethic communities in Cowan for the reasons that they have the right to speak freely, the right to worship their religious beliefs and the democratic right to challenge the government. These are the sort of liberties where the Vietnamese people in Vietnam do not have.

Once again, I call upon the Government of Vietnam to consider its position regarding human rights issues and release all political prisoners.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luke Simpkins', written in a cursive style.

Luke Simpkins MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR COWAN