

LORETTA SANCHEZ  
46TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1211 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0546  
(202) 225-2965  
(202) 225-5859 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE  
12397 LEWIS STREET, SUITE 101  
GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840-4695  
(714) 621-0102  
(714) 621-0401 FAX

E-mail:  
Loretta@mail.house.gov

Website:  
www.house.gov/sanchez



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

May 17, 2016

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RANKING MEMBER, TACTICAL AIR AND  
LAND FORCES  
STRATEGIC FORCES

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY  
CYBERSECURITY,  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND  
SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

Your upcoming visit to Vietnam is an opportunity to define the future of US-Vietnam relations. We hope you will seize this opportunity to engage directly with the Vietnamese people and to send a clear message that America stands with the Vietnamese who yearn for freedom.

We are deeply troubled by the recent wave of political trials in Vietnam, the continued harassment and imprisonment of peaceful political activists, and the stepped up efforts by the Hanoi government to restrict information.

In the run up to your visit, the Vietnamese authorities detained renowned human rights lawyer Nguyen Van Dai and convicted six activists for so-called "propaganda against the state." Security police have also routinely harassed and beaten activists as a way to silence dissent.

According to news reports, the wife of political prisoner Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh was beaten on April 14 by police thugs after she met with a delegation of American officials. Also in April, US Consular officials were reportedly blocked from visiting former political prisoner Tran Minh Nhat who has been persecuted relentlessly for his peaceful activism.

Meanwhile, Hanoi continues to place restrictions on the right of Vietnamese to receive and impart information. The recent "Law on Information" seems to be an Orwellian attempt to restrict access to information. According to the latest research by Reporters Without Borders, Vietnam ranks an appalling 175 out of 180 countries in press freedom.

We urge you to convey our serious concerns about the Vietnamese government's ongoing arbitrary detention of human rights activists and repression of freedom of expression. Enclosed is a list of over 100 prisoners of conscience. We hope you will advocate not only for their release, but for the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience.

We especially urge you to make it a priority to call for the release of the brave human rights defenders serving the longest and most unjust terms: Father Nguyen Van Ly (8 years), Nguyen

Dang Minh Man (8 years), Ho Duc Hoa (13 years), Dang Xuan Dieu (13 years), and Tran Huynh Duy Thuc (16 years).

Enclosed is a list of over 100 prisoners of conscience. We hope you will advocate not only for their release, but for the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience.

Additionally, in keeping with your efforts to meet and consult more regularly with civil society organizations around the world, making time in your schedule to meet directly with human rights defenders and especially the families of imprisoned activists would send a strong signal about the U.S. commitment to championing liberty.

We would also like to express our deep concern with any potential lifting of the ban on lethal weapons sales to Vietnam. Vietnam must demonstrate a serious commitment to improving its human rights record before the Administration considers such a move.

Finally, we urge you to publicly articulate what's required for a true comprehensive partnership between our two countries: a Vietnam grounded on democratic principles and respect for human rights. We believe that this is not only the fervent desire of the Vietnamese people but also how history will judge the success of your administration's outreach toward Vietnam.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



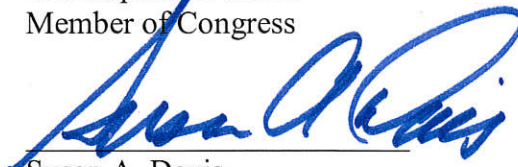
Alan S. Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



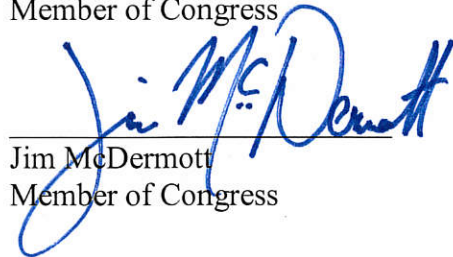
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



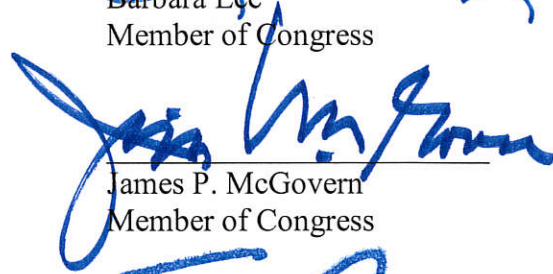
Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Joseph R. Pitts  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



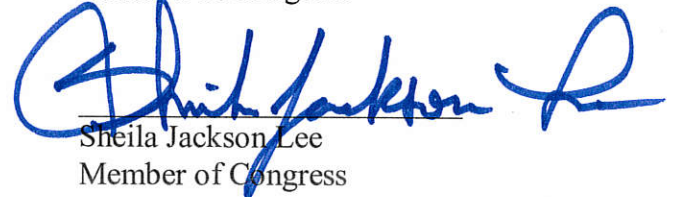
Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

**Prisoners of Conscience**  
*Provided by Human Rights Watch*

1. Nguyễn Đình Ngọc
2. Ngô Thị Minh Ước
3. Nguyễn Thị Bé Hai
4. Nguyễn Thị Trí
5. Nguyễn Hữu Vinh (a.k.a Ba Sàm)
6. Nguyễn Thị Minh Thúy
7. Nguyễn Văn Thông
8. Đỗ Đình Dũ
9. Kpuih Khuông
10. Rmah Khil
11. Rmah Bloanh
12. A Kuin (a.k.a Bả Chăn)
13. Ngu (a.k.a Bả Săn)
14. Bùi Thị Minh Hằng
15. Nguyễn Văn Minh
16. Điều B'ré (a.k.a Bạp Bum)
17. Điều By O
18. Điều Đông
19. Lý Văn Hậu
20. Đinh Yum
21. Rơ Mah Plă (a.k.a Rmah Blă; a.k.a Ama Em)
22. Siu Tinh (a.k.a Ama Khâm)
23. Rưn
24. Chi
25. Đinh Lý
26. Đinh Ngo
27. Thạch Thuol
28. Liêu Ny
29. Ngô Hào
30. A Tách (a.k.a Bả Hlôl)
31. Rung
32. Jonh (a.k.a Chình)
33. A Hyum (a.k.a Bả Kôl)
34. Byuk
35. Đinh Lứ
36. Đinh Hrôn
37. Đinh Nguyên Kha

38. Phan Văn Thu
39. Lê Duy Lộc
40. Vương Tấn Sơn
41. Đoàn Đình Nam
42. Nguyễn Kỳ Lạc
43. Tạ Khu
44. Từ Thiện Lương
45. Võ Ngọc Cư
46. Võ Thành Lê
47. Võ Tiết
48. Lê Phúc
49. Đoàn Văn Cư
50. Nguyễn Dinh
51. Phan Thanh Ý
52. Đỗ Thị Hồng
53. Trần Phi Dũng
54. Lê Đức Động
55. Lê Trọng Cư
56. Lương Nhật Quang
57. Nguyễn Thái Bình
58. Trần Quân
59. Phan Thanh Tường
60. Bùi Văn Trung
61. Hồ Đức Hòa
62. Đặng Xuân Diệu
63. Nguyễn Đặng Minh Mẫn
64. Tráng A Chớ
65. Trần Vũ Anh Bình
66. Nguyễn Kim Nhàn
67. Kpuil Mel
68. Kpuil Lễ
69. Phan Ngọc Tuấn
70. Nay Y Nga
71. Nguyễn Công Chính (a.k.a Nguyễn Thành Long)
72. Siu Thái (a.k.a Ama Thương)
73. Nguyễn Ngọc Cường
74. Phạm Thị Phụng
75. Trần Thị Thúy
76. Phạm Văn Thông
77. Siu Hlom

78. Siu Nheo
79. Siu Brom
80. Rah Lan Mlih
81. Rơ Mah Pró
82. Rah Lan Blom
83. Kpã Sinh
84. Rơ Mah Klít
85. Phùng Lâm
86. Nguyễn Hoàng Quốc Hùng
87. Đoàn Huy Chương
88. Trần Huỳnh Duy Thức
89. Rmah Hlach (a.k.a Ama Blut)
90. Siu Koch (a.k.a Ama Liên)
91. Nhi (a.k.a Bã Tiêm)
92. AmLinh (a.k.a Bã Blung)
93. Yuh (a.k.a Bã Nar)
94. Siu Ben (a.k.a Ama Yôn),
95. Rơ Lan Jú (a.k.a Ama Suit)
96. Nơh
97. Rôh
98. Pinh
99. Rơ Mah Then
100. Siu Wiu
101. Nguyễn Văn Lý
102. Brong
103. Y Kur BĐáp
104. Y Jim Êban