

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 19, 2014

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung  
c/o Embassy of Vietnam  
1233 20th Street NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Prime Minister Dung:

We write to request the immediate release of imprisoned bloggers Nguyen Huu Vinh (also known as Ba Sam) and Nguyen Thi Minh Thuy.


We understand that Mr. Vinh and Ms. Thuy were arrested in May under Article 258 of the Vietnamese penal code for "abusing democratic freedoms to infringe on the interests of the state." We are concerned about the increasing use of vague and draconian measures like Article 258 to arrest bloggers and other peaceful activists. As Vietnam seeks to deepen its ties with the United States, we advise the government to reconsider the use of Article 258 and other similar laws aimed at restricting speech and silencing the voices that disagree with state-controlled media.

We continue to urge Vietnam to uphold its international commitments to basic human rights and, as such, we urge the Vietnamese government to drop all charges and immediately and unconditionally release Nguyen Huu Vinh and Nguyen Thi Minh Thuy.


Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Chris Smith  
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress