

PERMANENT MISSION
of the
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
to the United Nations Office
and Other International Organizations at Geneva



MISSION PERMANENTE
de la
REPUBLIQUE SOCIALISTE DU VIETNAM
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève

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Your reference: G/SO 218/2
Our reference: 07/BCV/VN2003

Geneva, 1 September 2003

Dear Sir,

In response to your letter dated 28 May 2003 under the reference code G/SO 218/2 concerning the case of Mr. Nguyen Van Ly, I have the honour to convey to you the followings:

- The information provided to the Working Group that Mr. Ly's detention and sentence are a punishment for peacefully exercising his rights and freedoms is totally untrue if not called a brazen slander. I can assure you that in Vietnam no one shall be detained or punished for exercising his legal rights and freedoms and that only those who are charged with having violated the law shall be tried in strict compliance with the law.

- In fact, Mr. Nguyen Van Ly is a recidivist. In 1983 he was convicted by the provincial People's Court of Binh Tri Thien province to 10 years of imprisonment for having violated the law by committing crimes of undermining the people unity bloc and provoking serious public disorder. On 17 May 2001, Mr. Ly was arrested for repeating acts in violation of the law as such. After a thorough investigation process, a public trial on his case was held on 19 October 2001 by the People's Court of Thua Thien – Hue province. The trial was conducted in strict accordance with the law, there were two procurators defending for Mr. Ly, whose names are:

- Mr. Hoang Minh Duc
- Mr. Tran Dinh Chau,

To: Mr. Louis Joinet
Chairman/ Rapporteur
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

OHCHR REGISTRY

02 SEP 2003

Recipients : SRS

The Court convicted Mr. Nguyen Van Ly for having committed crimes of undermining the national unity policy (article 87, point 1, the Penal Code of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam) and rejected to abiding to relevant administrative decisions of competent State agencies (article 269 of the Penal Code of Vietnam).

I sincerely hope that the information provided above may help you a better understanding of the case that involved Mr. Nguyen Van Ly and that our cooperation in the field of human rights promotion and protection will continue in good faith in the future.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Ngo Quang Xuan
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative