

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 6, 2004

His Excellency Tran Duc Luong  
President  
The Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
c/o Embassy of Vietnam  
1233 20th Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Your Excellency:

We are writing to convey our grave concern about the case of internationally renowned human rights advocate Dr. Nguyen Dan Que, who was recently sentenced to thirty months in prison for "abusing democratic rights to infringe upon the interests of the State." We were extremely disappointed that Dr. Que's trial was closed to the public and that he was denied counsel of his choosing both before and during the trial. This lack of due process combined with his clear prosecution for the exercise of his right to freedom of speech is deeply disturbing.

As you may know, Dr. Que is a medical doctor and the founder of the Non-Violent Human Rights Movement. He is a passionate advocate for democracy, freedom of information, and human rights in Vietnam. For his activism, Dr. Que was recently selected as the recipient of the prestigious New York Academy of Sciences Heinz R. Pagels Human Rights of Scientists Award. He has previously received the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award and Raoul Wallenberg Award.

Imprisoning Dr. Que, who has previously been jailed by your government for his non-violent human rights activism, has created an entirely unnecessary irritant in U.S.-Vietnam relations that we hope can be swiftly resolved.

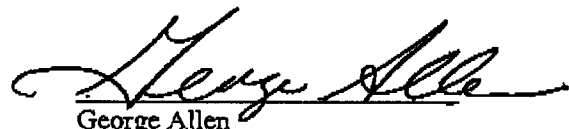
Despite continued interaction and cooperation between our governments on a variety of fronts, many Senators continue to have serious concerns about the status of human rights in your country. Your recent treatment of Dr. Que in violation of the rule of law only heightens our concerns.

In this context, and given Dr. Que's medical problems and time already served, we urge you to arrange for his immediate parole on humanitarian grounds. We look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

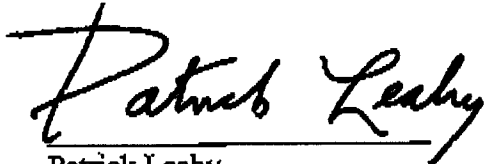
Sincerely,




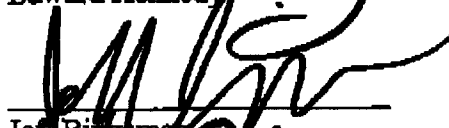
Sam Brownback



George Allen

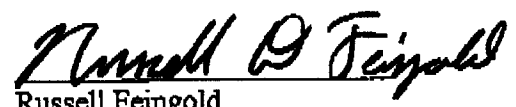
  
Patrick Leahy

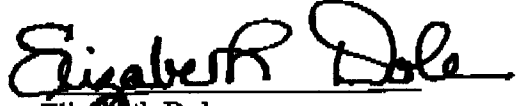
  
Edward Kennedy

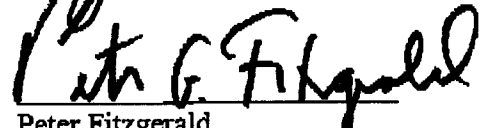
  
Jeff Bingaman

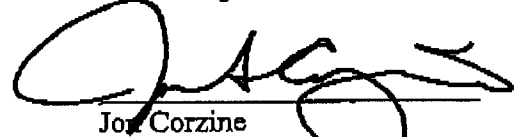
  
Norm Coleman

  
Barbara Boxer

  
Russell Feingold

  
Elizabeth Dole

  
Peter Fitzgerald

  
Jon Corzine

  
Mike DeWine