

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

September 30, 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 sentenced on July 29, 2004, to thirty months in prison for "abusing democratic rights to infringe upon the interests of the State." We were extremely displeased that Dr. Que's trial was closed to the public and that he was denied all access to counsel 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 on other occasions 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.

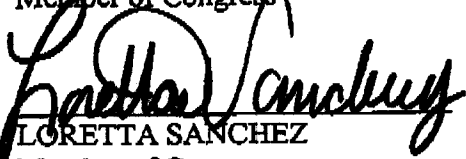
Despite continued interaction and cooperation between our governments on a variety of fronts, many Members of Congress continue to have serious concerns about the status of human rights in your country. Your recent treatment of Dr. Que in violation of the rule of law only heightens our concerns.

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.


Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress

  
LORETTA SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress

  
TOM DAVIS  
Member of Congress

  
ZOE LOFGREN  
Member of Congress

  
DONALD PAYNE  
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FRANK WOLF  
Member of Congress

  
ILEANA ROS- LEHTINEN  
Member of Congress


  
MICHAEL McNULTY  
Member of Congress

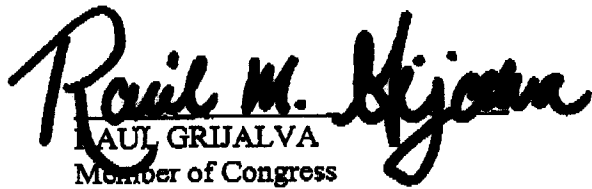
  
JO ANN DAVIS  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN SHIMKUS  
Member of Congress

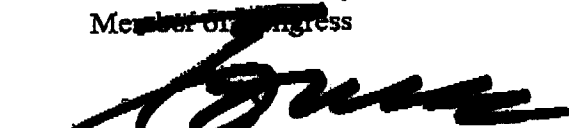
  
TODD AKIN  
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JAMES LEACH  
Member of Congress


  
TRENT FRANKS  
Member of Congress


  
PAUL GRIJALVA  
Member of Congress

  
BARNEY FRANK  
Member of Congress


  
ED TOWNS  
Member of Congress


  
BOB FILNER  
Member of Congress


  
CAROLYN MCCARTHY  
Member of Congress


  
JIM MCGOVERN  
Member of Congress


  
MADELEINE BORDALLO  
Member of Congress


  
ROBERT WEXLER  
Member of Congress


  
DAN BURTON  
Member of Congress

  
STEVE CHABOT  
Member of Congress


  
JOE PITTS  
Member of Congress

  
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS  
Member of Congress

  
TODD PLATTS  
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MARK GREEN  
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DANA ROHRABACHER  
Member of Congress

  
SPENCER BACHUS  
Member of Congress

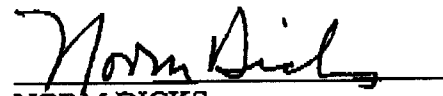
  
ELIJAH CUMMINGS  
Member of Congress


  
ROSA DeLAURO  
Member of Congress

  
ED ROYCE  
Member of Congress


  
HOWARD BERMAN  
Member of Congress

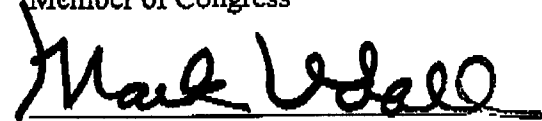
  
STEVE ROTHMAN  
Member of Congress

  
NORM DICKS  
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CHRIS BELL  
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LINDA SANCHEZ  
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MARK UDALL  
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