



Paul Dewar

M.P. for Ottawa Centre
Député pour Ottawa-Centre



Hon. Lawrence Cannon
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

July 28, 2009

Dear Minister Cannon,

Through previous correspondence I have brought the ongoing persecution of political dissidents in Vietnam to your attention. The arrests, imprisonment and mistreatment of political dissidents continue in Vietnam in stark contrast to Vietnam's international commitments as spelled out in the United Nations International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights.

In addition to previous cases I have brought to your attention, I have received the news of the arrest of a young political dissident scientist, Mr. Nguyen Tien Trung, who was arrested on July 7, 2009 by the Vietnamese Communist government for "anti-government activities" under Article 88 of the Criminal Code.

The continued persecution of Vietnamese democratic movement is of great concern to Canadians. Recent arrests indicate an increasing level of political crackdown in the country. It is time for the international community, particularly Canada, to speak out against the government's actions and seek an end to the assault against peaceful and democratic activists in Vietnam.

To that end, I urge you to echo the community's concerns in a statement that recognizes the persecution of the democratic movement in Vietnam and calls for an immediate and unconditional release of political prisoners.

I look forward to your action,

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