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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Statement by Congressman Tom Lantos
Vietnam Human Rights Day
May 11, 1995

Dear Friends:

Today marks the fifth anniversary of the issuance of the Manifesto of the Non-Violent Movement for Human Rights in Vietnam. Let there be no mistake about the current policies of the government of Vietnam:

Human rights are not protected.

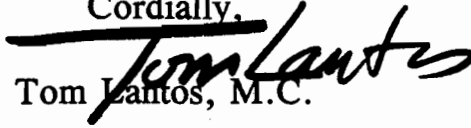
There is no indication that there will soon be a multiparty democracy and free elections.

Buddhists and Christians continue to suffer persecution and imprisonment because of their religious beliefs and political dissidents remain incarcerated simply because of their views.

Dr. Nguyen Dan Que whose only crime is to be one of Vietnam's most prominent defenders of basic human rights and the recipient of numerous human rights awards around the world, remains incarcerated and allegedly in solitary confinement.

As the U.S and Vietnam move closer towards normalization of their political relations, we must remember that respect for human rights is the cornerstone of our country's democracy. Respect for human rights must also form the cornerstone of U.S.-Vietnam relations. Let us all stand united in calling on the Government of Vietnam to respect the international standards of human rights that are outlined in the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Dr. Nguyen Dan Que's Manifesto of the Non-Violent Movement for Human Rights in Vietnam.

Cordially,


Tom Lantos, M.C.