

Silver Spring, MD
November 5, 1992

Senator McCain
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

Many heartfelt congratulations for your re-election to the U.S. Senate.

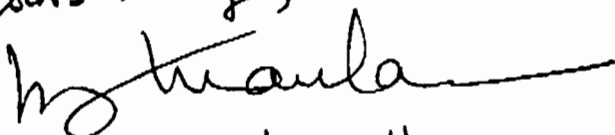
I would also like to personally thank you for the repeated interventions you have made with the VN government on my husband, Nguyễn Khắc Chính's behalf. Chính will be released on Dec. 27, 1992, as announced by the VN government at his detention camp at

Đội 13 B, Trại Xuân Lộc
Đồng Nai, Vietnam

It will be the end of 17 long years of detention. My family and I dearly wish to have him back among us for a joyful family reunion at Christmas time. Therefore, we would appreciate it very much if you could, on your forthcoming trip to Vietnam, request Chính's early release and immediate departure from VN.

Dear Senator,
Thank you again from the bottom of my heart. I wish you a very successful trip and look forward to hearing the good news.

Yours truly,



Ms. Xuân Lan Nguyễn



INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT,
1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ,
United Kingdom.

Fax:

Tel:

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: Khuc Minh Tho

FROM: John Kellock, Asia and the Pacific Research Department

DATE: 25 June 1992

DESTINATION FAX NO.: 0101 703 204 0394

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 5

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COMMENTS/MESSAGES

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With best wishes,

☎ (44)(71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157

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Weekly Update NWS 11/25/92

2. ASA 41/WU 01/92 EXTERNAL
24 June 1992

INTERNAL

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EXTERNAL

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Nguyen Khac Chinh, a prisoner of conscience, has been held without charge or trial since 27 December 1975. Amnesty International believes this is because he was one of a group of Catholic intellectuals opposed to the communist authorities. The organization is calling for his immediate and unconditional release. Other prisoners of conscience whose release Amnesty International is seeking include Doan Thanh Liem, a former legal counsellor for the Senate of the former South Vietnamese government, who was sentenced on 14 May 1992 to 12 years' imprisonment for spreading "anti-socialist propaganda", and Doan Viet Hoat, who was re-arrested in November 1990 after having been detained without trial in a "re-education" camp for no less than 12 years, between 1976 to 1988.

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Amnesty International is appealing for the immediate and unconditional release of all those confined solely for the non-violent expression of fundamental human rights. The organization is urging the government to uphold the right to freedom of expression, the right to freedom of association and the right to freedom of opinion.

The organization is also calling on the Vietnamese government to ensure that international standards for fair trial are respected in political trials. It is asking the government to ensure that articles of the Vietnamese Criminal Code, under the heading "especially dangerous crimes against national security", are never invoked to imprison people solely for the peaceful expression of their fundamental human rights or to detain political prisoners for prolonged and unspecified periods without charge or trial.

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VIET NAM

Doan Viet Hoat: Forthcoming Trial of Prisoner of Conscience

JUNE 1992

AI INDEX: ASA 41/07/92

DISTR: SC/CO/GR/PG

Amnesty International (AI) has received reports that Doan Viet Hoat and several others will soon be brought to trial in Ho Chi Minh City and charged with "activities aimed at overthrowing the people's government". This charge carries a maximum penalty of the death sentence. Doan Viet Hoat is a prisoner of conscience who was rearrested in 1990 and has been held without trial since. He was first detained without trial for 12 years from 1976 to 1988 for peacefully expressing his political opinions. Amnesty International is calling on the Vietnamese authorities for his immediate and unconditional release.

Doan Viet Hoat was arrested on 17 November 1990 at his house in Ho Chi Minh City. The authorities accused him of undertaking counter-revolutionary activities against the government. Amnesty International believes that he may have been arrested as part of a wider crackdown against real and suspected government critics as a preventive measure against possible political unrest. Several Vietnamese writers and journalists associated with the former South Vietnamese government were also reportedly arrested at the same time. Among them were poet To Thuy Yen and journalist Le Van Tien, both were detained for the peaceful expression of their political beliefs. Le Van Tien was reportedly released on 3 March 1992. To Thuy Yen and Le Van Tien had also previously been detained in "re-education" camps from 1976 to 1988.

Doan Viet Hoat was first arrested in 29 August 1976, one year after all private educational establishments were taken over by the state. He was reportedly arrested as a result of a denunciation made by a former student of Van Hanh University in Saigon. At that time, a number of South Vietnamese writers, journalists, and artists were arrested for the purpose of "re-education". Amnesty International believes that Doan Viet Hoat was arrested due to his links with Van Hanh University and with the Asia Foundation (see below).

Doan Viet Hoat was a graduate in English from Saigon University in 1965. He then taught English at a high school in the Mekong Delta area of South Viet Nam for a year before becoming personnel adviser at Vanh Hanh University. In 1967, he gained a scholarship from the Asia Foundation and attended Florida State University in Miami, United States of America.

In 1971, he returned to Viet Nam and took up a post as vice-president of administration at Van Hanh University. During this period he also worked in an unofficial capacity as a consultant with the Asia Foundation in order to promote educational and cultural exchanges between Vietnamese and American students. The Asia Foundation is a private foundation which is mainly funded by the USA government.

Doan Viet Hoat was first adopted as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International in 1983. On his release in 1988 the release order stated that he had been arrested for having committed "anti-revolutionary activities against the socialist regime".

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Appeal to the government

Amnesty International is calling on the Vietnamese authorities to ensure that international standards for a fair trial, as specified in Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), are met when Doan Viet Hoat and others are brought to trial.

Amnesty International also appeals to the government to ensure that Article 73 and other articles of the Vietnamese Criminal Code under the heading "especially dangerous crimes against national security" is never invoked to imprison people solely for the peaceful expression of their political views and to prevent their use as a measure to detain political prisoners for unspecified periods of time without charge or trial.

Amnesty International is urging the government to uphold the rights to freedom of expression, association and opinion and to release immediately and unconditionally all those confined solely for the non-violent exercise of these rights. These rights are guaranteed by international human rights agreements particularly Articles 19 and 22 of the ICCPR of which the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is a state party.

KEYWORDS: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL / DETENTION FOR RE-EDUCATION / LONG-TERM IMPRISONMENT / CENSORSHIP / POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL CHARGES / WRITERS / JOURNALISTS / ARTISTS / LAWYERS / TEACHERS / ACADEMICS / POLITICAL PRISONERS / RELEASE /

Ms. Khuc Minh Tho
703 204 0394

12 June 1992

Dear Ms. Tho:

First, my wife and I would like to accept your kind invitation to join you and your organization in bidding farewell to my friend Frank Light.

Second, I wanted you to know that I met with General Vessey this morning and provided him with the package of information you passed to me regarding Ms. Nguyen Xuan Lan's husband. I emphasized how important this case is to the Vietnamese community, and how hard your organization has worked on this matter.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Lew Stern



HOI GIA-DINH TU-NHAN CHINH-TRI VIETNAM
FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 5435, Arlington, VA 22205-0635

Tel:

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: June 11, 1992

TO : John Kellock
Asia and the Pacific
Research Department

FAX #: 011-4471 956 1157

FROM: Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association

NO. OF PAGES include cover sheet: 02

SUBJECT: NGUYEN KHAC CHINH

Dear John:

Please find attached the answers to your two questions provided by Mr. Chinh's wife, Mrs. Nguyen Xuan-Lan.

His current address (since 1990) is indicated at the bottom of the page.

I hope that the attached information would be sufficient for your intervening on behalf of Mr. Nguyen Khac Chinh for his release from the re-education camp.

Many thanks and best regards.

Khuc Minh Tho

P.S. I wish that today, Mr. Nguyen Khac Chinh's birthday brings him good luck.(June 11.)



HỘI GIA-ĐÌNH TÙ NHÂN CHÍNH-TRỊ VIỆT-NAM

FAMILIES OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 5435, ARLINGTON, VA. 22205-0635

Telephone: 1

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NGUYỄN XUÂN LAN
TRẦN KIM DUNG

June 11, 1992

NGUYEN KHAC CHINH

Nguyen Khac Chinh was born on June 11, 1922
in Ninh Binh, Vietnam.

He earned his Master's degree in law from the
University of Saigon and was a practicing attorney-
at-law and member of the Vietnamese Bar Association
before May 1975.

From 1958 to 1963, he was the Director of the
Press Department of the Foreign Ministry of the
Republic of South Vietnam.

Chinh was also a member of the Vietnam Pen Club
and is an honorary member of the Pen Club of Belgium.

A writer in both Vietnamese and French, Chinh
wrote under the patronage of the late French writer
and academician, Mr. George Duhamel. He wrote many
literary works. He also composed music and did
water-color painting.

After the fall of Saigon, Chinh was incarcerated
in 1975.

His present address is: (from 1990 to present)

Nguyen Khac Chinh
Doi 13 B
Trai Xuan-Loc
Dong Nai, Vietnam



**amnesty
international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT,
1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ,
United Kingdom.

Fax:

Tel:

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: Khuc Minh Tho, Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners
Association

FROM: John Kellock, Asia and the Pacific Research Department

DATE: 11 June 1992

DESTINATION FAX NO.: 010 1 703 204 0394

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 1

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COMMENTS/MESSAGES

Nguyen Khac Chinh

Dear Khuc Minh Tho,

I have received no further information about Nguyen Khac Chinh since our telephone call. We would like to do some sort of action on his case, therefore I am wondering if you could update me on his current situation and provide more specific detail about his activities in relation to the pre-1975 government of South Viet Nam. I know that his wife was a member of parliament.

- 1) What is the latest situation with regard to Nguyen Khac Chinh, is he still in detention and in the same camp?
- 2) Do you know if he was in any capacity a member of the pre-1975 government of South Viet Nam or a member of parliament pre-1975, a legal adviser to the government, a member of the civilian administration of the government or a member of the armed forces?

I would appreciate if you could send me a reply by Friday 12 June in the morning, british time.

I apologize for the sudden notice.

With best wishes,

☎ (44)(71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157

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FROM: John Kellock, Asia and the Pacific Research Department

DATE: 25 June 1992

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amnesty international

VIET NAM

Doan Viet Hoat:

Forthcoming Trial of Prisoner of Conscience

JUNE 1992

AI INDEX: ASA 41/07/92

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INTERNAL

For further details about arrests in Viet Nam please refer to Viet Nam:
Arrests of Political Prisoners, 1990-1991 ASA 41/01/92, June 1992.

EXTERNAL

VIET NAM: RELEASES REPORTED, SOME DETAINEES STILL HELD

Amnesty International welcomes reports from the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry that Viet Nam had released by 30 April 1992 all military and civil officials of the former Government of South Viet Nam who had been held in "re-education" camps. However, the organization is concerned that a number of political prisoners who were associated with the former Government of South Viet Nam may continue to be held without charge or trial, including Nguyen Khac Chinh, a lawyer and writer, detained for more than 16 years. Amnesty International is also concerned at the re-arrest recently of a number of suspected opponents of the government, some of whom were associated with the former South Vietnamese government and had previously been detained for long periods in "re-education" camps.

Nguyen Khac Chinh, a prisoner of conscience, has been held without charge or trial since 27 December 1975. Amnesty International believes this is because he was one of a group of Catholic intellectuals opposed to the communist authorities. The organization is calling for his immediate and unconditional release. Other prisoners of conscience whose release Amnesty International is seeking include Doan Thanh Liem, a former legal counsellor for the Senate of the former South Vietnamese government, who was sentenced on 14 May 1992 to 12 years' imprisonment for spreading "anti-socialist propaganda", and Doan Viet Hoat, who was re-arrested in November 1990 after having been detained without trial in a "re-education" camp for no less than 12 years, between 1976 to 1988.

Amnesty International has also recently received reports of several trials in Viet Nam of real and suspected government critics who were charged with crimes against national security. Nguyen Tri, a poet, was sentenced on 14 May to 8 years' imprisonment for spreading "anti-socialist propaganda". Nguyen Ngoc Dat, who was detained in a "re-education" camp from 1976 to 1987, was sentenced on 28 May to 20 years' imprisonment for "subversive activities". Six people were sentenced in Ha Son Binh province (formerly Ha Tay province) to prison terms ranging from 3 to 14 years for forming opposition parties. Amnesty International is concerned that some of those imprisoned may be prisoners of conscience and that the trials may have fallen short of international standards for fair trial.

Other government critics who are also apparently still to be brought to trial on charges of breaching national security include a number of associates of Doan Viet Hoat and a group of former South Vietnamese

military officers, including Trinh Van Thuong, who were arrested in June 1991 for allegedly inciting violent uprisings against the government. Amnesty International is again concerned that the trials may fall short of international standards for fair trials.

Seventeen persons were reportedly arrested on 25 April 1992 in Ho Chi Minh City. They were alleged to have called for an "uprising" to overthrow the government authorities. Among them was Nguyen Si Binh, a Vietnamese businessman who is a citizen of the United States of America. Pham Van Thuc was also arrested after sending six articles to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reportedly "calling on the West to intervene to overthrow the socialist regime in Viet Nam". Amnesty International is appealing to the Vietnamese authorities to ensure that detention conditions and procedures conform to international standards and that all those arrested are either charged with a recognizably criminal offence and given a fair trial within a reasonable time or released.

Amnesty International is appealing for the immediate and unconditional release of all those confined solely for the non-violent expression of fundamental human rights. The organization is urging the government to uphold the right to freedom of expression, the right to freedom of association and the right to freedom of opinion.

The organization is also calling on the Vietnamese government to ensure that international standards for fair trial are respected in political trials. It is asking the government to ensure that articles of the Vietnamese Criminal Code, under the heading "especially dangerous crimes against national security", are never invoked to imprison people solely for the peaceful expression of their fundamental human rights or to detain political prisoners for prolonged and unspecified periods without charge or trial.

amnesty international

VIET NAM

Doan Viet Hoat: Forthcoming Trial of Prisoner of Conscience

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Amnesty International (AI) has received reports that Doan Viet Hoat and several others will soon be brought to trial in Ho Chi Minh City and charged with "activities aimed at overthrowing the people's government". This charge carries a maximum penalty of the death sentence. Doan Viet Hoat is a prisoner of conscience who was rearrested in 1990 and has been held without trial since. He was first detained without trial for 12 years from 1976 to 1988 for peacefully expressing his political opinions. Amnesty International is calling on the Vietnamese authorities for his immediate and unconditional release.

Doan Viet Hoat was arrested on 17 November 1990 at his house in Ho Chi Minh City. The authorities accused him of undertaking counter-revolutionary activities against the government. Amnesty International believes that he may have been arrested as part of a wider crackdown against real and suspected government critics as a preventive measure against possible political unrest. Several Vietnamese writers and journalists associated with the former South Vietnamese government were also reportedly arrested at the same time. Among them were poet To Thuy Yen and journalist Le Van Tien, both were detained for the peaceful expression of their political beliefs. Le Van Tien was reportedly released on 3 March 1992. To Thuy Yen and Le Van Tien had also previously been detained in "re-education" camps from 1976 to 1988.

Doan Viet Hoat was first arrested in 29 August 1976, one year after all private educational establishments were taken over by the state. He was reportedly arrested as a result of a denunciation made by a former student of Van Hanh University in Saigon. At that time, a number of South Vietnamese writers, journalists, and artists were arrested for the purpose of "re-education". Amnesty International believes that Doan Viet Hoat was arrested due to his links with Van Hanh University and with the Asia Foundation (see below).

Doan Viet Hoat was a graduate in English from Saigon University in 1965. He then taught English at a high school in the Mekong Delta area of South Viet Nam for a year before becoming personnel adviser at Vanh Hanh University. In 1967, he gained a scholarship from the Asia Foundation and attended Florida State University in Miami, United States of America.

In 1971, he returned to Viet Nam and took up a post as vice-president of administration at Van Hanh University. During this period he also worked in an unofficial capacity as a consultant with the Asia Foundation in order to promote educational and cultural exchanges between Vietnamese and American students. The Asia Foundation is a private foundation which is mainly funded by the USA government.

Doan Viet Hoat was first adopted as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International in 1983. On his release in 1988 the release order stated that he had been arrested for having committed "anti-revolutionary activities against the socialist regime".

Recent Political Trials in Viet Nam

Amnesty International has recently received reports of several trials in Viet Nam where real and suspected government critics were charged with crimes against national security. Doan Thanh Liem, a lawyer, and Nguyen Tri, a poet, were sentenced on 14 May 1992 to 12 years' and 8 years' imprisonment respectively for allegedly spreading "anti-socialist propaganda" and Nguyen Ngoc Dat, who had been detained in a "re-education" camp from 1976 to 1987, was sentenced on 28 May 1992 to 20 years' imprisonment for "subversive activities".

Criminal Code of Viet Nam

Amnesty International has expressed to the Government of Viet Nam its concern that the crime of "taking actions to overthrow the people's government" specified in Article 73 of the Vietnamese Criminal Code does not distinguish between armed or violent acts which may pose a threat to national security and the peaceful exercise of the rights of freedom of expression and association. This is also true of other criminal offences specified in Chapter I of the Vietnamese Criminal Code under the heading "especially dangerous crimes against national security". This legislation defines a range of peaceful activities as "crimes against the national security", and grants judicial authorities the power to convict and imprison people solely on the basis of real or imputed non-violent beliefs or activities.

Appeal to the government

Amnesty International is calling on the Vietnamese authorities to ensure that international standards for a fair trial, as specified in Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), are met when Doan Viet Hoat and others are brought to trial.

Amnesty International also appeals to the government to ensure that Article 73 and other articles of the Vietnamese Criminal Code under the heading "especially dangerous crimes against national security" is never invoked to imprison people solely for the peaceful expression of their political views and to prevent their use as a measure to detain political prisoners for unspecified periods of time without charge or trial.

Amnesty International is urging the government to uphold the rights to freedom of expression, association and opinion and to release immediately and unconditionally all those confined solely for the non-violent exercise of these rights. These rights are guaranteed by international human rights agreements particularly Articles 19 and 22 of the ICCPR of which the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is a state party.

KEYWORDS: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL / DETENTION FOR RE-EDUCATION / LONG-TERM IMPRISONMENT / CENSORSHIP / POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL CHARGES / WRITERS / JOURNALISTS / ARTISTS / LAWYERS / TEACHERS / ACADEMICS / POLITICAL PRISONERS / RELEASE /