

Redacted

Arlington, VA 22204

March 22, 1988

The Honorable Larry Pressler  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Pressler:

I am writing to ask your assistance, during your forthcoming visit to Vietnam, in intervening with Vietnamese officials with respect to the following:

My husband, Trinh Xuan Lang, was a lieutenant colonel in the South Vietnamese Army. He was seized by the communists in June 1975, shortly after the fall of Saigon, as a political prisoner. His "crime," of course, was serving his country. He was taken to a "re-education camp" in North Vietnam, where he was held until 1982; he was transferred to another camp in South Vietnam in 1982, and was finally released in 1984. Today, he is living with my parents in Saigon, and hopes to be able to come to the United States, to join his family, as soon as possible.

I escaped from Vietnam by boat in 1979 with our two sons, then aged 12 and 7. We joined other relatives in the Washington, D.C. area, and became American citizens in 1985.

We have filed all the necessary papers with the Department of State and the Immigration and Naturalization Service so that my husband might leave Vietnam via the Orderly Departure Program. Copies are attached. I understand that these papers are fully in order, and that my husband's eligibility for ODP is assured on several counts.

The difficulty, of course, is that the Vietnamese government has not issued him an exit visa, which would permit him to be interviewed for ODP and to leave the country. It is my hope that you might be willing to intervene on his behalf and ask Vietnamese officials whom you will be meeting to allow an exit permit to be issued on his behalf.

Senator Pressler, the prime time of our lives together has been destroyed by the communist Vietnamese government. My husband has been deprived of the privilege of seeing his sons grow from childhood to young manhood; the eldest boy is now an honor student in the University of Virginia, and the younger is near the top of his class in the Arlington high school system. My own health is fragile.

We pray every day that our husband and father may join us soon; he is a computer technician who can readily make his way in American society. And so I ask you in all humility to help us effect this reunion, and my family thanks you with all sincerity.

Sincerely,  
*thoa Do*  
Thoa Do

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