

His Excellency
Mr. Nguyễn Phú Trọng
President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
via Botschaft der Sozialistischen Republik Vietnam
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for turning to you on behalf of the Christian pastor, the Rev. Nguyen Trung Ton. The 47-year-old has been imprisoned since July 30th and was sentenced to 12 years in prison in April of 2018. This ruling, which was based on the charge of "subversive activity", was confirmed by a higher court two months later.

The investigative authorities denied Rev. Nguyen Trung Ton a defense lawyer. Only half a year after his arrest, was he allowed to see his family. While in detention, he was denied medical attention despite serious health problems. Once before, in the year 2011, Rev. Nguyen Trung Ton was sentenced to two years in prison for alleged "propaganda against the state."

Your Excellency, in 1982 your country ratified the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights," which is binding under international law. This covenant guarantees fundamental human rights, including religious freedom. I therefore humbly beseech you, dear Mr. President, to advocate the immediate and unconditional release of the Rev. Nguyen Trung Ton as well as to ensure his safety and needed medical care.

Most respectfully,