

President of Viet Nam
Nguyễn Xuân Phúc
Office of the President
Ba Dinh District
Ha Noi
Viet Nam

August 2021

Your excellency,

I am concerned about the harsh sentence imposed on Tran Huynh Duy Thuc who only depicted his views in a peaceful way.

Since 2009 Thuc is arrested. On January 20th 2010 he was sentenced to 16 years in prison for publishing blog entries, followed by five years in house arrest. His blog entries dealt with political and economic opinions about Vietnam. At his interrogation, Thuc said he had been tortured during the time of his arrest in order to force his confession. According to the new version of the criminal code of January 1st 2018 his prison sentence should only last for 5 years maximum. That would mean that Thuc has the right to be released immediately.

I call for Tran Huynh Duy Thuc's immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience. He is imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom. Please ensure that as long Tran Huynh Duy Thuc is in prison he will be treated according the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. This includes regular access to his family and appropriate medical care.

I urge you to end the harassment and imprisonment of peaceful advocates for political, social and economic change. Furthermore the authorities should uphold its obligations as a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights, as well as other international human rights treaties.

With best regards