

H.E. Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc,
Prime Minister of Viet Nam
16 Le Hong Phong Street,
Ba Dinh District,
Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the imprisonment of Nguyen Trung Ton, a Protestant pastor and president of the pro-democracy group Brotherhood for Democracy. He was arrested on July 30, 2017, and sentenced to 12 years in prison and three years of house arrest, charged under Article 79 for “carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people’s administration”.

The group Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT) fears that pastor Ton is facing unfair treatment in prison and being denied adequate medical care for injuries and complex health issues. Multiple governments and advocacy groups, among them Amnesty International, are expressing their concerns regarding his imprisonment and treatment.

Ton has only been promoting democracy and religious freedom in his country peacefully. He has been advocating for human rights as well as supporting political prisoners and their families. I hope that the Vietnamese authorities will be compassionate and gracious in their treatment of Nguyen Trung Ton.

Vietnam’s constitution permits citizens to “follow any religion or follow none” and requires the government to respect and protect freedom of religion or belief. It also guarantees freedom of association, freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention, liberty and security, and fair trials.

I humbly petition your intervention to ensure that:

- Nguyen Trung Ton is immediately released from prison and acquitted
- Pending his release, ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and gets adequate medical care;
- Ton’s family is protected from harassment and violence
- Everyone can practice their right to freedom of religion or belief in Vietnam without repercussions.

I thank you in advance for using your influence as prime minister to help Mr Ton in any way you can.

Yours sincerely,