

27 November 2018

His Excellency
Nguyễn Phú Trọng
President of the State of Vietnam
2 Hùng Vương, Ba Đình,
Hà Nội
Vietnam

Your Excellency,

As a member/supporter of ACAT-Switzerland, the Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture and the Death Penalty, I am writing to you on behalf of

Mrs. Trần Thị Nga

According to my information, Trần Thị Nga (nicknamed Thúy Nga), a Vietnamese human rights activist, was arrested by security forces on 21 January 2017 because of her involvement in a peaceful demonstration related to the environmental disaster of *Formosa* in 2016. Mother of two children, she was convicted in July 2017 to nine years of imprisonment and five years of house arrest for “conducting propaganda against the state”. In February 2018 she was transferred to *Gia Trung* prison, about 1300 km from her home. Recently the prison authorities have strongly restricted her rights as prisoner without clear justification. Among others, she has not been allowed to receive any visit since July 2018 and phone calls have been limited to one per month. I have also learned that Trần Thị Nga has been beaten and threatened by other inmates and is incarcerated together with a violent female convict. As a Party to the Un Convention against Torture (CAT) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is bound to forbid any act of torture or other ill-treatment on its territory, protect all its citizens against such acts, investigate and if necessary, prosecute all reported cases.

I am deeply concerned about the fate of Trần Thị Nga and urge you to:

- **Release Trần Thị Nga immediately and unconditionally, as she is detained solely for peacefully exercising her rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;**
- **Ensure that pending her release, she is not tortured or ill-treated, all allegations are effectively investigated impartially and independently and those responsible are brought to account;**
- **End prison transfers as a punitive measure and ensure that Trần Thị Nga has regular access to her family and lawyer of her choice, as well as to adequate medical care.**

I thank you for the attention you will give to this concern.

Yours respectfully,

Copy: Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Schöllslistrasse 26, 3008 Bern - CH

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