2021

H.E. Nguyen Phu Trong

Secretary General

of the Communist Party of Vietnam
2 Hung Vuong - Ba Dinh

**Ha Noi
Socialist Republic of VIETNAM**

Dear Secretary General,

As a member/supporter of ACAT-Switzerland, the Action of Christians for the abolition of torture, I am hereby expressing my deep concern about

**alleged serious human rights violations, particularly in the case of the Dong Tam commune.**

On 8 March 2021, the Ha Noi High Court upheld the sentences pronounced against **residents of Dong Tam commune** in September 2020. The court also upheld the death sentences against **Le Dinh Cong and Le Dinh Chuc**, the sons of slain commune leader Le Dinh Kinh. Along others, **Le Dinh Doanh** was sentenced to life imprisonment. Similarly, sentences of several years' imprisonment were also upheld against other citizens.

The land rights activist **Can Thi Theu and her sons, Trinh Ba Phuong and Trinh Ba Tu**, have also been detained since 23 June 2020 for their comments on social media about the Dong Tam crackdown.

On 20 January 2021, the Hau Giang People's Court sentenced the human rights defender **Dinh Thi Thu Thuy** to seven years in prison for alleged propaganda against the State.

The detention of **Doctor Huynh Thi To Nga** and her brother **Huynh Minh Tam** is also a cause for concern. On
28 November 2019, the Dong Nai People's Court sentenced them to five and nine years of imprisonment. On Facebook the siblings had made critical comments about the authorities, particularly about corruption.

It is strongly believed that these trials were not fairly conducted and resulted in unjust sentences. In view of the numerous shortcomings in the proceedings, all those convicted should be released, or at least given a fair and impartial retrial. In particular, the death sentences against Le Dinh Cong and Le Dinh Chuc should be quashed. Vietnam is, inter alia, a Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN Convention against Torture and is obliged to respect the provisions of these treaties, including the right to a fair trial.

**I thus call on you, dear Secretary General, to prevent the execution of the death sentences and to guarantee a humane treatment to all detainees. As the persons mentioned have been sentenced in unfair trials, I appeal to you to release them immediately. Retrials of the events in Dong Tam should only be conducted after an independent investigation and in accordance with international standards.**

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

Yours respectfully,

Copy: Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Schlösslistrasse 26, 3008 Bern, Switzerland