

Prime Minister  
Nguyễn Xuân Phúc  
Prime Minister's Office  
Hà Nội  
Việt Nam

22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017

Your Excellency,

The reason I am writing to you is to express my most profound concerns regarding the imprisonment and current health condition of the activist **Đình Nguyễn Kha**.

Đình Nguyễn Kha was arrested in October 2012 after being accused of distributing leaflets critical of the Vietnamese government's response to China's actions in the disputed South China Sea/East Sea. He was charged under Article 88 for "conducting propaganda against the state" and sentenced to six years in prison with three years of house arrest on release. He is being detained at Xuyên Mộc prison in Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu province. Three months after an operation to remove a tumour from his stomach, he still lacks follow-up medical treatment which led to a quick deterioration of his health. Now he is barely able to move. He also fears to have contracted HIV, as his recent test results were not shared with him. The harsh conditions at the prison and lack of basic hygiene worsen the situation even further.

This kind of harsh treatment as a means to obtain a "confession", constitutes torture, which violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention against Torture (CAT), to which Viet Nam is a state party. Thus, I wish to plead to you to ensure that these regulations are respected, and he is not subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment. I would also like to urge you to allow for a follow-up medical check to be conducted to make sure that he has not contracted any infections.

Amnesty International considers Đình Nguyễn Kha a prisoner of conscience. Ultimately, I wish to appeal to the Vietnamese authorities to release him immediately and unconditionally. He was solely imprisoned for the peaceful expression of his dissenting political beliefs. I am very concerned that although freedom of opinion and expression are guaranteed in the Constitution of Vietnam, the practice of these rights is strictly controlled by the state in law, effectively criminalizing those peacefully expressing their beliefs and opinions.

Yours sincerely,