

Prime Minister  
Nguyễn Xuân Phúc  
Prime Minister's Office  
Hà Nội  
VIETNAM

21<sup>st</sup>, February, 2017

Your Excellency,

The reason I am writing to you is to express my most profound concern regarding the imprisonment and the current health conditions of activist **Trần Thị Thúy**.

Trần Thị Thúy was sentenced to eight years in prison for violating Article 79 of the Penal Code in an attempt to “overthrow the state” in August 2010. Her release is only due in August 2018 from the An Phước Detention Centre in Bình Dương province where she is currently being held. According to some close family relations who have visited her recently, her physical state is constantly deteriorating due to the untreated tumour in her uterus and painful boils that cover her entire body. Since the detection of the tumour in 2015 she completely lacks medical care. By now the tumour has grown so big, that she is no more able to walk. In addition to that boils on her body burst and emit puss and blood, risking further infections. Even though she regain a clear mental state after she stopped taking the medication provided to her by the prison staff, her physical condition is extremely worrying. Although the family offered to cover private medical care, their requested has been refused. Trần Thị Thúy does not know how long she will be able to survive without treatment and at the current state of prison conditions.

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 would like to plead you to ensure that she has access to any medical attention she requires and possible transferred into a hospital for emergency treatment, a right determined by the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Amnesty International considers Trần Thị Thúy a prisoner of conscience. I wish to appeal to the Vietnamese authorities to release her immediately and unconditionally. She 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, as the practice of these rights is strictly controlled by the state in law, thus effectively criminalizing those peacefully expressing their beliefs and opinions.

Yours sincerely,