

Lam Dong, August 10, 2013

Respectfully submitted to:

- Mr. Truong Hoa Binh, Director, Supreme People's Procuracy, 44 Ly Thuong Kiet, Hanoi
- Lieutenant General Cao Ngoc Oanh, Director, 8th Department, Ministry of Public Security 17, Dinh Cong Alley, Dinh Cong Subdistrict, Hoang Mai District, Hanoi
- Area 5 Warden, Prison Z30A, Long Khanh, Xuan Loc, Dong Nai

Sirs,

My name is Do Ty and I reside in Di Linh, Lam Dong. I respectfully and urgently request that you address the matter described below.

Our daughter Do Thi Minh Hanh assisted the employees of My Phong Shoe Factory in Tra Dinh when they demanded justice. The Tra Vinh People's Court sentenced Hanh to 7 years in prison, along with Doan Huy Chuong and Nguyen Hoang Quoc Hung (the other two accused of the same action), on 10/26/2010.

From then on, government officials have moved Hanh between a number of prisons, put her in solitary confinement, caused others to assault her, and required her to do forced labor. They kept her in a cell shared by HIV-infected detainees in their terminal stage; they set Hanh up for brutal, gang style beatings by detainees with criminal records, in full view of prison guards who did not intervene. We have repeatedly requested the appropriate authorities to put an end to the mistreatment, but to no avail.

On August 7, 2013, a member of my family visited Hanh in Prison Z30A and saw that our daughter looked thin, sick, covered with skin lesions, and heard from Hanh about the pain in one of her breasts, including learning from Hanh that the particular breast has been shrinking. Hanh repeatedly asked prison staff to allow her access to medical treatment for what we suspect to be cancer, but was denied again and again.

As Hanh's father, I suffer greatly when my daughter endures mistreatment in prison and suffers from a potentially lethal disease, especially when hearing about the insensitivity exhibited by prison officials.

Hanh is a human being even if she is being detained. Furthermore, her "crime" involved only showing compassion and helping less fortunate compatriots.

Many of you have children and other young relatives. You must feel the same pain as I do if your relatives have to endure such conditions.

I respectfully request that you, officials with proper authority, to immediately order that Do Thi Minh Hanh be taken to a hospital qualified to treat her condition.

Do Ty, father of Do Thi Minh Hanh

August 15, 2013

Respectfully addressed to:

- The United Nations Human Rights Council
- The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
- The International Labour Organization
- International Human Rights Organizations

REPORT

Human rights violations at Prison Z30A in Vietnam

My name is Tran Thi Ngoc Minh, residing in Di Linh, Lam Dong Province, Vietnam. My daughter Do Thi Minh Hanh, bd 3/13/1985, is a prisoner of conscience in Area 5 of Prison Z30A in Long Khanh, Xuan Loc District, Dong Nai Province. The government of Vietnam sentenced her to 7 years in prison for "anti-government activities harming national security" per Article 89 of the penal code. I request the immediate attention of:

- The United Nations' Human Rights Council
- The United Nations' Commission on Women's Status
- The International Labour Organization
- International Human Rights Organizations

Your attention is urgently needed because the government has been violating the human rights of Prison Z30 detainees as described below:

1) Deplorable living conditions in Prison Z30A :

In late April 2013, they moved Do Thi Minh Hanh from Prison Z30D in Tan Duc, Ham Tan District, Binh Tnuan Province to Prison Z30A in Long Khanh, Dong Nai Province. At Z30, they put her in the same section as female prisoners with criminal records such as using and selling drugs, larceny, robbery, theft, murder, among other crimes. Living conditions are terrible: e.g., extreme overcrowding (sleeping space per detainee is 25 inches wide) and no medical care.

2) Forced Labor in Z30A:

Soon after arriving, prison staff forced Do Thi Minh Hanh to manually peel cashew nuts. The peeling process involves using a foot-powered peeling machine, followed by handling the kernels. Raw cashews contain a compound that causes skin rashes, a condition suffered by all those who are forced to perform this work.

3) Public security agents set up attacks by other prisoners to punish advocates:

Forced prison labor is inhumane and illegal. The prisoners' relatives must supply them with food and money to survive because Communist prisons provide hardly anything. Therefore it is unjust for the prison system to force detainees to work for free in order to profit from their labor. Minh Hanh refused to do the work. Public security agents punished her by setting her up for gang style beatings by other prisoners (those with criminal records). Once, a group of prisoners attacked her in the bathing area when she was naked. In spite of beatings, mistreatment and abuse, Minh Hanh continued to resist.

3) Prison staff allow no medical treatment:

The deplorable conditions, dirty water, and forced labor resulted in many detainees suffering from skin lesions and other sickness. Mrs. Mai Thi Dung, a Hoa Hao Buddhist detainee, is suffering from gallstones. Mrs. Do Thi Hong, a political prisoner, has been mistreated, forced to peel cashews, and has no relatives who could afford to supply her with food or money. Her condition resulted in a rupture of some veins, causing half of her body to turn blue in addition to large areas of skin rashes. Both Mrs. Dung and Mrs. Hong share the same cell with Hanh and have not been treated at all. Hanh may be suffering from breast cancer because one of her breasts is very sore and is shrinking in size, on top of her skin problems. She has not been allowed to seek medical care.

- I urge the UN Human Rights Council, International Human Rights Organizations, the International Labour Organization and the UN Commission on the Status of Women to intervene on my daughter's behalf and on behalf of the other detainees.

Petition:

- I appeal to the UN Human Rights Council, International Human Rights Organizations, and the UN Commission on Women's Status for your help in demanding that the government of Vietnam treat humanely all prisoners of conscience, including political prisoners and those who advocate for freedom of religion and belief.
- I urge the appropriate international and UN organizations to send representatives to visit detainees and assess conditions in Vietnam's prisons so that help can be provided.
- I appeal to International Labour Organization, Human Rights Organizations, the UN Human Rights Council, and the UN Commission on Women's Status for your urgent intervention with the government of Vietnam to let Do Thi Minh Hanh receive timely medical treatment in view of her possible breast cancer.

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With gratitude,

Trần Thị Ngọc Minh