

Nguyen Phuong Uyen, college student
Arrested for writing anti-China poem and distributing anti-China leaflets



Nguyen Phuong Uyen, a college student, is now serving a six-year prison sentence. According to her mother, she was arrested on 10/14/2012 and kept in state prison for questioning by the political and national security unit of the police. Her arrest has prompted a public outcry among students especially her classmates who sent an open letter to the President of Vietnam, Truong Tan Sang, demanding her immediate and unconditional release. At the same time, vivid and widespread criticisms were posted on numerous Vietnamese social media and blogs.

Coming from a poor family, Uyen was born on October 12th 1992 in the province of Bình Thuận. At the time of her arrest, she attended National University of Food & Nutrition in HCM City.

Her father, Mr Nguyen Duy Linh, declared to the Vietnamese media: “We were at our home in the countryside therefore not aware at all of her capture: when and why she was captured, we have no clue. We are searching for her, knocking at numerous doors, among them government offices, but without success. They kept on refusing to reveal to us her whereabouts, so we are totally in the dark and very anxious about her well-being”.

On 20 of October, 2012 Uyen’s classmates at the State University of Food & Nutrition wrote an urgent letter to President Truong Tan Sang asking him to intervene in her favor by releasing her so that she can return safely to her family, school, friends and teachers. So far there has been no response.

After days of search, finally on 23 of October her family was informed by the police headquarters of Long An Province that she was being jailed. She was being held for investigation, on the ground that she disseminated propaganda material and conducted anti-government activities.

Uyen once wrote two verses to describe the cause she pursues:

“By honor to our people, we fight against Chinese enemy,

“By love to our country and for its future, we fight against corruption”.

These verses are the expression of her patriotism and her anti-corruption ideals. They were circulated among many blogs belonging to her young friends. She was member of the

executive committee of a youth association and was actively engaged in charity and social activities at the University she was attending. Relentlessly, she promotes and encourages her friends of her age to become patriotic and to fight against rampant and widespread corruption in her homeland. Her aspiration is always for a better life and a better society for all her countrymen.

On May 16, 2013 Nguyen Phuong Uyen was sentenced to six years in prison for “propaganda against the state” under Article 88 of the penal code.

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Act Now:

We urge you to help Nguyen Phuong Uyen, a patriotic college student who is passionate about defending national sovereignty against foreign aggression and about fighting government corruption. She uses the social media to fight for justice, a better life for her people and a brighter future for her country. Please disseminate her story to human rights organizations and activists, governments, student associations and universities around the world and call for her release. For information, please contact: bpsos@bpsos.org.