

September 21, 2006: Sanchez Statement on Release of American Held Prisoner in Vietnam

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California Congresswoman relieved by news of release, calls for continued review of country's human rights policies

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. — U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez was pleased to learn about today's release by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam of Mr. Cong Thanh Do, a U.S. cyberdissident who was arrested and accused of plotting a bomb attack against the U.S. Consulate in Vietnam. Sanchez joined Rep. Zoe Lofgren in a call to release Cong and review his case. Sanchez issued the following statement on the situation:

"I am pleased to hear that Mr. Cong has safely returned to his family and was released from custody," said Sanchez. "This case is yet another example of human rights violations continuing in Vietnam. Mr. Cong is a U.S. citizen who was falsely accused and arrested without being charged and with no evidentiary proof. I strongly believe that these accusations were based solely on Mr. Cong's affiliation with dissident organizations and his personal correspondence against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

"Time and time again, the government of Vietnam has broken promises to reform its civil, religious and human rights policies. I hope today's release will send a clear message to the Vietnamese government that the U.S. government and its citizens are concerned about civil liberties violations and will continue to be a voice for the Vietnamese people."

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