

## November 20, 2007: Sanchez Calls for Release of Two U.S. Citizens Reportedly Arrested in Vietnam

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 20, 2007

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WASHINGTON, D.C.- Today Representative Loretta Sanchez (D-California), Co-founder of the Caucus on Vietnam issued the following letter to Secretary Condoleezza Rice expressing her serious concerns regarding the reported arrests of two United States citizens, Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan and Mr. Truong Van Ba (Leon), in Vietnam on November 17, 2007. It is reported that Dr. Quan and Mr. Ba (Leon) were arrested for participating in a peaceful discussion. Given the Government of Vietnam's history of unlawful arrests as in the case of Mr. Cong Thanh Do, a United States citizen, Sanchez requests that the Department of State work to investigate the incident and ensure their rights as U.S. citizens are upheld returning them back to United States.

Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, born 1953, was a high-school teacher in Kien Giang province, Vietnam. He emigrated to the United States in 1981 and graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1987 with a Ph.D. in Mathematics. He specialized in research on Machine Translation from English to Vietnamese. A co-founder of the Vietnamese Professionals Society, he is married with two children and a resident of Sacramento, California.

Mr. Truong Van Ba, born 1953, emigrated to the United States in 1979. He operated a food catering truck while devoting most of his time as a community activist. He has two children living in the United States and two grown children in Vietnam. He is a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Below is the full text of the letter.

November 20, 2007

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice

United States Department of State

2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

We are writing to you to express our serious concerns regarding the reported arrests of two United States Citizens, Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan and Mr. Truong Van Ba (Leon), in Vietnam on November 17, 2007. We request your immediate assistance to investigate these cases and ensure that their rights as United States citizens are upheld.

It has been just over a year since the Government of Vietnam arrested another United States citizen, Mr. Cong Thanh Do, on August 14, 2006, and held him on unlawful charges in Vietnam. Mr. Do, a constituent of Congresswoman Lofgren, was eventually returned to his family in the United States, and we thank you for the involvement of the State Department in securing the release of Mr. Do.

We are disappointed to hear that the Government of Vietnam has arrested United States citizens in Vietnam for reportedly having a peaceful discussion. Not only do we ask you to work to return these United States citizens to the United States, but we ask you convey to the Government of Vietnam that the arbitrary detention of United States citizens is unacceptable.

We thank you for your efforts. Any information you can provide on the status of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan and Mr. Truong Van Ba is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Loretta Sanchez

Zoe Lofgren

Neil Abercrombie

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

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