

March 12, 2008: Sanchez Calls on President to Pressure Vietnam For Release of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan

Sanchez Calls on President Bush to Pressure Vietnam to Ensure Release of U.S. Prisoner in Vietnam

Sanchez meets with Mai Huong, wife of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, detained U.S. citizen

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today Representative Loretta Sanchez (D-Garden Grove) met with Ms. Mai Huong, wife of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, a U.S. citizen who remains incarcerated in Vietnam since his arrest on November 17, 2007, and Mr. Duy Hoang, representative of the Viet Tan Party, to discuss further congressional action to pressure the Government of Vietnam to release Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan.

Sanchez recently issued a letter to President Bush expressing her strong concerns regarding the arrest and detainment of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, and the repeated, unlawful arrests and harassments of U.S. citizens by Vietnamese authorities. The letter dated March 6, 2008, calls for immediate action from President Bush and his Administration to ensure that Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan is released and allowed to return home to the United States. The letter also underscores the inexplicable rescission of Mai Huong's visa to visit her husband in Vietnam.

Sanchez expressed her deepest sympathies to Ms. Mai Huong. "I can't begin to imagine the emotional anguish she and her family are going through," said Sanchez. "She thought she was going to be able to see her husband, and the Vietnamese authorities abruptly changed their minds without any explanation. This is completely unacceptable."

"I call on the President to join with the Congress in demanding that the Government of Vietnam release Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan," stated Sanchez. "Such action will send a message that the United States does not tolerate arbitrary and unlawful detainment of its citizens and will hold Vietnam accountable for failing to respect the human rights of its own people."

Sanchez, Co-founder of the Caucus on Vietnam, has spearheaded successful congressional efforts to release Mr. Truong Van Ba, a U.S. citizen who was arrested for promoting peace and non-violence in Vietnam; and Mr. Le Van Phan and his wife, Ms. Nguyen Thi Thinh, U.S. citizens who were falsely accused of entering Vietnam with a firearm.

Sanchez has issued letters to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice requesting immediate assistance to investigate Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan's case. She has also led a bipartisan group of 11 House Members in issuing a letter to Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung calling for the release for his release on November 17, 2007.

Attached is a PDF copy of the letter.

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PDF copy of Letter to President Bush