

June 19, 2008: Sanchez Urges Bush to Address Human Rights with Vietnam's Prime Minister

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 19, 2008

Rep. Sanchez Joins Congressional Caucus in Urging President Bush to Address Human Rights Abuses in Vietnam Before Meeting with Vietnam's Prime Minister

Sanchez urges Bush to insist on specific improvements and political freedom

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In preparation for Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung's visit to Washington, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, joined her Caucus colleagues at a press conference urging President Bush to address and insist on specific improvements to Vietnam's deteriorating human rights record.

A long-time human rights advocate, Sanchez has continuously called on the Bush Administration to require the Government of Vietnam to improve its human rights record.

"It is important that we continue to support and strengthen these peaceful efforts to improve human rights, and religious freedom and promote democracy in Vietnam," said Sanchez. "When I meet with Dr. Dan Que Nguyen in Vietnam, he urged me to continue building international support for the peaceful democracy activists who are persecuted and imprisoned."

Sanchez underscored Vietnam's broken promises of reform with their continued harassment, detainment, and imprisonment of countless peaceful democracy advocates and American citizens who are not afforded fair trials.

She highlighted the case of Nguyen Hoang Hai, otherwise known as "Dieu Cay", a popular blogger in Vietnam who was arrested by Vietnamese authorities because he was at the forefront of a movement of citizen journalists, reporting on issues of national concern such as corruption, worker exploitation, and police brutality. In addition many other bloggers have been called in for questioning by the Government of Vietnam. They have lost their jobs, been evicted from their homes, and suffered other forms of harassment because they exercised free speech on their blogs.

"The United States and the entire international community must recognize that the abuses going on in Vietnam are unacceptable and must be stopped. I urge the State Department to establish a list of Countries of Particular Concern (CPC) based on human rights violations so that nations like Vietnam can be held accountable," added Sanchez.

"The Bush Administration must stress the importance of human rights not just trade. They must address human rights."

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