

Gen Tran Dai Quang
Ministry of Public Security
44 Yet Kieu Street, Hoan Kiem district Ha Noi
VIET NAM

Dear Minister:

I am writing today to urge you to release Bùi Thị Minh Hằng immediately and unconditionally, as she is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for her peaceful activities defending human rights.

Bùi Thị Minh Hằng, imprisoned since February 2014, is in poor health and has been imprisoned for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression. The charges brought against her and her co-defendants are fabricated and politically-motivated. Furthermore, despite repeated requests, she has received no medical treatment, and her health is at risk of deteriorating further. While still detained, she should be immediately provided with appropriate medical care, and treated in accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Offenders, including access to family and doctors.

Viet Nam is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. However, these rights are severely restricted in law and in practice in Viet Nam. Unprovoked physical attacks by security officers, plain-clothed police, and unidentified men against activists have become more frequent in Viet Nam. No one has been held accountable, despite complaints having been made by victims of attacks to the authorities.

I call on you and the government of Viet Nam to respect human rights and to abandon the practice of imprisoning individuals who are exercising the basic human right of free speech in peacefully advocating for political change and social justice.

Sincerely,