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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

ZOE LOFGREN

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August 6, 2012

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The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

We are writing to express our concerns about the situation in Vietnam. We understand that you recently visited Vietnam, and commend you for raising the issue of human rights during your trip. Vietnam has a troubling record on human rights, and as co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, we urge you to continue to speak out against the repression that is taking place in that country.

We remain concerned about the imprisonment of U.S. citizen Nguyen Quoc Quan, who was arrested in Vietnam on April 17, 2012. We appreciate the response to the July 6 letter that we sent with a number of our colleagues, and would like an update on Mr. Nguyen's situation.

As we continue to build and strengthen our ties with Asia, we hope that you will keep human rights at the forefront of your efforts. Despite the Vietnamese government's efforts to portray itself as a modern and open-minded partner, this is an authoritarian regime that censors free speech, silencing the voices of its citizens with repressive and draconian laws, reportedly uses drug treatment centers as forced labor camps, and suppresses religious freedom. Reporters Without Borders lists Vietnam as one of nine "Internet Enemies," with countries like Iran and Cuba, and ranks the country as 172nd of 179 in its Press Freedom Index, only two places above China. Vietnam's abysmal record on human rights is counter to American values, and we hope that you will continue to push for change. We request an update on your efforts to this end, and specifically on the status of Nguyen Quoc Quan, who has been imprisoned for nearly four months.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress