

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



ARTICLE 19

CenterLaw Philippines
www.centerlaw.org

EFF ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION

**ENGLISH
PEN**

FLD FRONT LINE DEFENDERS



Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

media defence
SOUTH EAST ASIA

MLDI
Media Legal
Defence Initiative

NED National Endowment
for Democracy
Supporting freedom around the world

**REPORTERS
WITHOUT BORDERS**
FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

ASF
NETWORK

WORLD MOVEMENT for DEMOCRACY
Confronting the Challenges to Democracy in the 21st Century

Also by email: webmaster@president.gov.vn

Also per telefax: 0084 37 33 52 56

H.E. Mr. Trương Tấn Sang

President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

02 Hung Vuong street, Ba Dinh district

Ha Noi

Viet Nam

Also by email: vpcc@chinhphu.vn

Also per telefax: 0084 08 04 41 30

H.E. Mr. Nguyễn Tấn Dũng

Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

01 Hoang Hoa Tham street, Ba Dinh district

Ha Noi

Viet Nam

August 26, 2014

Re: Arbitrary detention of Mr. Le Quoc Quan

Your Excellencies,

The signatory organizations request the release of Mr. Le Quoc Quan, a well-respected human rights lawyer and blogger.

Mr. Le Quoc Quan was arrested on 27 December 2012 on alleged charges of tax evasion. Following his arrest, he was held incommunicado and denied permission to see his lawyer for two months. Repeated requests by his family to visit him were also denied. Mr. Quan first saw a family member at his trial on 2 October 2013, at which he was convicted of evading corporate income tax and sentenced to 30 months imprisonment and a fine of 1.2 billion dong (approximately USD 59,000).

In 2013, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention condemned Mr. Le Quoc Quan's detention as violating his right to freedom of expression and his right to a fair trial.ⁱ It found that Mr. Le Quoc Quan had been targeted for his work as an activist and as a blogger and called for his immediate release or for his conviction to be reviewed by an independent court. It also recommended that Viet Nam pay damages to Mr. Le Quoc Quan for his arbitrary detention.

The government of Viet Nam has not responded to this decision. On 18 February 2014, the Court of Appeal in Hanoi upheld Mr. Le Quoc Quan's conviction. The decision of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention was not taken into account.

In view of the upcoming Viet Nam National Day, on September 2, 2014, we once more urge the authorities of Viet Nam to comply with the decision of the United Nations Working Group and to release Mr. Le Quoc Quan immediately and unconditionally.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the President of the United States and to the representative of the European Union in Hanoi.

Yours sincerely,

Amnesty International USA

Leila Chacko
Viet Nam Country Specialist
leilachacko@gmail.com

Article 19

Thomas Hughes
Executive Director
info@article19.org

Center for International Law (Centerlaw), Philippines

H. Harry L. Roque, Jr.
Chairperson
hroque@roquebutuyan.com

Electronic Frontier Foundation

Eva Galperin
Global Policy Analyst
eva@eff.org

English PEN

Cat Lucas
Writers at Risk Programme Manager
cat@englishpen.org

Front Line Defenders

Mary Lawlor
Executive Director
mary@frontlinedefenders.org

Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L)

Adrie van de Streek
Executive Director
info@lawyersforlawyers.nl

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (LRWC)

Gail Davidson
Executive Director
lrwc@portal.ca

Media Defence – Southeast Asia (MDSEA)

HR Dipendra
Director
dipendra3000@gmail.com

Media Legal Defence Initiative (MLDI)

Nani Jansen
Legal Director
nani.jansen@mediadefence.org

National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

Sally Blair
Senior Director, Fellowship Programs
sallyb@ned.org

Reporters Without Borders

Benjamin Ismail
Head of Asia-Pacific Desk
asia@rsf.org

Réseau Avocats Sans Frontières / ASF Network

Anne Lutun
ASF Network Coordinator
coordination@asf-network.com

World Movement for Democracy

Art Kaufman
Senior Director
artk@ned.org