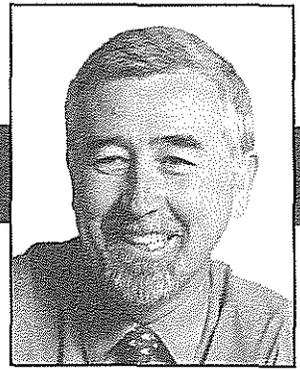


# Gary Humphries



Senator for the ACT

148 Bunda Street Canberra ACT 2600  
Tel: (02) 6247 6444 Fax: (02) 6257 4140  
email: senator:humphries@aph.gov.au

The Hon Stephen Smith MP  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA

Ref: PJ - NGUY

Dear Minister,

I am writing this letter to express my concern at the recent jailing of 9 democracy activists in Vietnam.

These include poet Tran Duc Thach, High school teacher Vu Hung, Engineer Pham Van Troi, Writer Nguyen Xuan Nghia, university student Ngo Quynh, former communist party member Nguyen Manh Son, essayist Nguyen Van Tinh, land rights activist Nguyen Van Tuc, and electrician Nguyen Kim Nhan. Their sentences range from two to six years of imprisonment.

These activists were criminalised for their exercise of the freedom of speech which is supposedly protected by the Vietnamese Constitution. This is a clear violation of the international covenants on human rights to which Vietnam is a signatory. Of a particular concern is the case of writer and human rights activist Tran Khai Thanh Thuy. I was informed that Thuy and her husband were assaulted and arrested by plain clothes policemen while travelling to support the above activists on trial. I have learnt that since being detained, Ms Thuy's health has deteriorated with worsening diabetes and heart conditions due to poor medical care while in prison.

I am therefore quite concerned about her well-being and seeking your assistance, through our embassy in Vietnam, to make inquiries into the maltreatment of Ms Thuy and her family.

I look forward to your response.

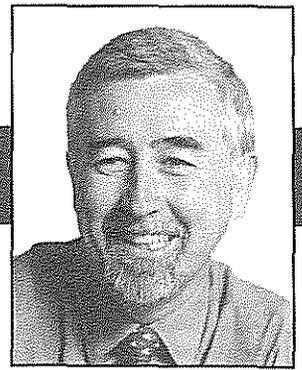
Yours sincerely,

Gary Humphries  
Senator for the ACT

25 November 2009

*Experience that counts for Canberra*

# Gary Humphries



Senator for the ACT

148 Bunda Street Canberra ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6247 6444 Fax: (02) 6257 4140

email: senator.humphries@aph.gov.au

President Nguyen Minh Triet  
The Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
Hoang Hoa Tham  
Ha Noi  
VIETNAM

Ref: PJ - NGUY

Dear Mr President,

I am writing this letter to express my concern at the recent trials where nine democracy activists were sentenced to jail.

These include poet Tran Duc Thach, High school teacher Vu Hung, Engineer Pham Van Troi, Writer Nguyen Xuan Nghia, university student Ngo Quynh, former communist party member Nguyen Manh Son, essayist Nguyen Van Tinh, land rights activist Nguyen Van Tuc, and electrician Nguyen Kim Nhan. Their sentences range from two to six years of imprisonment.

These activists were criminalised for their exercise of the freedom of speech which is supposedly protected by the Vietnamese Constitution. This is a clear violation of the international covenants on human rights to which Vietnam is a signatory. Of a particular concern is the case of writer and human rights activist Tran Khai Thanh Thuy. I was informed that Thuy and her husband were assaulted and arrested by plain clothes policemen while travelling to support the above activists on trial. I have learnt that since being detained, Ms Thuy's health has deteriorated with worsening diabetes and heart conditions due to poor medical care while in prison.

I am therefore quite concerned about her well-being and seeking your assistance to intervene by ensuring an impartial investigation into the maltreatment of Ms Thuy and her family. I also urge you to immediately release all imprisoned human rights activists as Vietnam is about to chair ASEAN in 2010 and therefore must set a positive example in protecting human rights and promoting free speech.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Humphries  
**Senator for the ACT**

25 November 2009

*Experience that counts for Canberra*