

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 334

Calling on the Government of Vietnam to release from prison, end the detention without trial, and cease the harassment and house arrest of the people who signed the Manifesto on Freedom and Democracy for Vietnam, and expressing the sense of Congress that the President should encourage Vietnam to release such people from prison and to direct the Secretary of State to establish a Countries of Particular Concern list to condemn countries like Vietnam, which engage in “particularly severe violations” of human rights.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2009

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Calling on the Government of Vietnam to release from prison, end the detention without trial, and cease the harassment and house arrest of the people who signed the Manifesto on Freedom and Democracy for Vietnam, and expressing the sense of Congress that the President should encourage Vietnam to release such people from prison and to direct the Secretary of State to establish a Countries of Particular Concern list to condemn countries like Vietnam, which engage in “particularly severe violations” of human rights.

Whereas on April 8, 2006, 118 Vietnamese citizens signed a Manifesto on Freedom and Democracy for Vietnam, with the objective “to reestablish fundamental rights of the people” of Vietnam, “sacred rights of the Vietnamese nation [which] have been brutally trampled upon the moment the communist government was installed in Vietnam”;

Whereas these 118 Vietnamese citizens who signed the Manifesto are referred to as the Bloc 8406, based on date the Manifesto was signed, on the eighth day of April in the year 2006;

Whereas the Manifesto calls on those inside and outside Vietnam to support peaceful, nonviolent action to bring democracy and basic human rights to the Vietnamese people;

Whereas 13 of these brave supporters of democracy have since been sentenced to a total of 68 years in prison for signing the Manifesto;

Whereas 11 of these democracy advocates have since been detained by the Government of Vietnam for 18 months or more, for signing their names to the Manifesto;

Whereas at least five other signers of the peaceful, nonviolent Manifesto have been harassed and placed under house arrest by the Government of Vietnam; and

Whereas in addition to the 118 signers of the Manifesto, the Government of Vietnam has continued to harass, arrest, and detain peaceful, nonviolent supporters of democracy:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the House of Representatives—

1 (A) calls on the Government of Vietnam to
2 release those imprisoned for signing the Mani-
3 festo on Freedom and Democracy for Vietnam,
4 including—

5 (i) Father Nguyen Van Ly, sentenced
6 to 8 years;

7 (ii) Nguyen Phong, sentenced to 6
8 years;

9 (iii) Nguyen Binh Thanh, sentenced
10 to 5 years;

11 (iv) Nguyen Bac Truyen, jurist, sen-
12 tenced to 4 years;

13 (v) Nguyen Van Dai, lawyer, sen-
14 tenced to 5 years;

15 (vi) Le Thi Cong Nhan, lawyer, sen-
16 tenced to 4 years;

17 (vii) Tran Quoc Hien, jurist, sen-
18 tenced to 5 years;

19 (viii) Le Van Soc, Hoa Hao Buddhist,
20 sentenced to 6 years;

21 (ix) Hang Tan Phat, sentenced to 6
22 years;

23 (x) Truong Quoc Huy, sentenced to 6
24 years;

1 (xi) Truong Minh Duc, sentenced to 5
2 years;

3 (xii) Pastor Nguyen Thi Hong, sen-
4 tenced to 3 years;

5 (xiii) Nguyen Van Hai, sentenced to
6 2.5 years;

7 (xiv) Luong Van Sinh, sentenced to 2
8 years;

9 (xv) Vu Hoang Hai, sentenced to 2
10 years and 2 years probation;

11 (xvi) Nguyen Ngoc Quang, sentenced
12 to 3 years;

13 (xvii) Nguyen Ngoc Quang, sentenced
14 to 5 years; and

15 (xviii) Doan Van Dien, sentenced to
16 an unknown number of years; and

17 (B) urges the Government of Vietnam to
18 end its detention of those who are being held
19 without a trial, for their signature to the Mani-
20 festo, including—

21 (i) Le Ba Triet;

22 (ii) Ho Thi Bich Khuong;

23 (iii) Vu Van Hung;

24 (iv) Dang Hung;

25 (v) Pham Thanh Nghien;

- 1 (vi) Pham Van Troi;
- 2 (vii) Ngo Quynh;
- 3 (viii) Vu Hung;
- 4 (ix) Nguyen Van Tuc;
- 5 (x) Nguyen Xuan Nghia;
- 6 (xi) Tran Duc Thach; and
- 7 (xii) Le Thi Kim Thu; and

8 (C) insists that the Government of Viet-
9 nam cease harassment, police surveillance, and
10 house arrest of those nonviolent democracy ad-
11 vocates who signed the Manifesto, including—

- 12 (i) Do Nam Hai, co-founder of Bloc
13 8406;
- 14 (ii) Tran Khai Thanh Thuy, novelist;
- 15 (iii) Hong Trung, Seventh-day Ad-
16 ventist pastor;
- 17 (iv) Nguyen Hong Quang, Mennonite
18 pastor;
- 19 (v) Pham Ngoc Thach, Mennonite
20 evangelist;
- 21 (vi) Nguyen Tan Hoanh (aka Doan
22 Huu Chuong), labor rights activist;
- 23 (vii) Somsak Khunmi (aka Nguyen
24 Quoc Hai);
- 25 (viii) Nguyen The Vu; and

1 (ix) Le Nguyen Sang, medical doctor;

2 and

3 (2) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
4 tives that—

5 (A) the President should request that the
6 President of Vietnam release all of these non-
7 violent, peaceful supporters of Democracy; and

8 (B) the President should direct the Sec-
9 retary of State to establish a Countries of Par-
10 ticular Concern list to condemn countries like
11 Vietnam, which engage in “particularly severe
12 violations” of human rights, parallel in struc-
13 ture to the Countries of Particular Concern list
14 for countries with “particularly severe violations
15 of religious freedom,” as mandated under the
16 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998
17 and amended under Public Law 106–55.

○