



To: Health Professional Network
From: Health and Human Rights Team
Date: 4 April 2006

Health professional action

Dr Pham Hong Son

Viet Nam

(update on health professional action ASA 41/023/2004, 1 October 2004 and update ASA 41/022/2005, 1 August 2005)

Summary

Amnesty International would like to call for another round of appeals on behalf of Dr Pham Hong Son, who has been in prison since March 2002. He reportedly is coughing up blood and suffers from an inguinal hernia. AI reiterates its call for his immediate and unconditional release, and investigation and appropriate treatment of his health problems.

Background

Dr Pham Hong Son is a 37-year-old prisoner of conscience, medical doctor and businessman. Before his imprisonment, Dr Pham Hong Son shared information about democracy and human rights that he found on the worldwide web and wrote, via the Internet, to friends and government officials. Charges against him included contact with other dissidents in Viet Nam and e-mail contact with people in the Vietnamese community in exile overseas, and collecting and distributing information accusing the state of violating human rights.

Dr Pham Hong Son was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment for espionage on 18 June 2003, which was reduced to five years' imprisonment following an appeal. He was also sentenced to three years' house arrest on release from prison.

Recommended action

Please write to the authorities below, using the following as a guideline:

- Explain that you are a health professional concerned with human rights and are writing about the case of Dr Pham Hong Son, detained at the Yen Dinh prison camp in Thanh Hoa province;
- Referring to your previous letter if applicable;

- Say that you consider him to be a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned for the peaceful expression of his political opinions, and as such he should be immediately and unconditionally released;
- Express concern at reports that Dr Pham Hong Son has been coughing up blood and ask if he has been given a full medical examination and appropriate medical care; and note also that he is suffering from an inguinal hernia for which he has reportedly received inadequate medical care;
- Ask the authorities if any treatment is planned, urging them to provide Dr Pham Hong Son with access to full and appropriate medical care immediately;
- Invite a response.

Addresses

Phan Van Khai
Prime Minister, Office of the Prime Minister
 Hoang Hoa Tham
 Ha Noi, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
 Fax: + 844 823 4137
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Uong Chu Luu
Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice
 58-60 Tran Phu Street
 Ha Noi
 Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
 Fax: + 844 843 1431
Salutation: Dear Minister

Le Hong Anh
Minister of Public Security, Ministry of Public Security
 44 Yet Kieu Street
 Ha Noi, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
 Fax: + 844 826 0774
Salutation: Dear Minister

Please also write to diplomatic representatives of Viet Nam accredited to your country.

If you receive no reply within six weeks of sending your letter, please send a follow-up letter seeking a response. Please send copies of any letters you receive to the International Secretariat, attention of Health and Human Rights Team.