

TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead protesting the continued imprisonment of Nguyen Vu Binh.

October 20, 2006

Nguyen Minh Triet
President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam
C/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs
E-mail: Banbientap@mofa.gov.vn

Excellency,

I wish to add my name to this appeal from PEN Canada, the Canadian centre of the international writers' organization, International PEN. PEN Canada is writing to express its concern for the health of writer **Nguyen Vu Binh**.

According to our information, Nguyen Vu Binh is said to require urgent medical treatment for undiagnosed chronic gastrointestinal disease and high pressure. Also a leading member of the Democracy Club for Vietnam, he has been held incommunicado since 25 September 2002. He was sentenced on 31 December 2003 to seven years' imprisonment followed by three years' house arrest by the Hanoi People's Court on charges of espionage. The trial lasted three hours.

Following the proceedings, the official Vietnam News Agency reported that Nguyen Vu Binh had been convicted for having "written and exchanged, with various opportunist elements in the country, information and materials that distorted the party and state policies". He is also said to have been accused of communicating with "reactionary" organisations abroad. His sentence was upheld on appeal on 5 May 2004.

Nguyen Vu Binh is currently held at Ba Sao forced labour camp, Nam Hà province, where he is said to be held among common-law prisoners in cramped conditions and without access to the specialist medical treatment he requires.

PEN Canada urges that Nguyen Vu Binh be allowed to see a specialist doctor so that his condition can be diagnosed and effectively treated in hospital, where his family can care for him. We call for his immediate and unconditional release in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Vietnam is a signatory, and on humanitarian grounds.

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]

Copies to:

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung
1 Hoang Hoa Tham Street
Hanoi
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Le Doan Hop
Minister of Culture and Information
1 Hoang Hoa Tham Street
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Care of:

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Please send copies of your appeal to the following Canadian authorities:

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