

**TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead expressing concern over the detention of Tran Khai Thanh Thuy and the crackdown on several dissidents in Vietnam.**

24 November 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 serious concern for the safety of writer and journalist **Tran Khai Thanh Thuy** (f).

According to our information, Tran Khai Thanh Thuy (pen names Nguyen Thai Hoang and Nguyen Thi Hien) was briefly detained on 2 September 2006 for her Internet writings, followed by three weeks of daily interrogation sessions. She was again briefly detained on 11 October and interrogated about the essays 'The Grotto', 'Self-Narration' and 'Dialogue' written after her detention in September. She was also reportedly brought to an open 'People's Court', in which members of the public are forced to participate in the abuse and humiliation of those accused. She is now believed to have been placed under effective house arrest and has been banned from published her writings on-line.

Her case appears to be part of a pattern of organized and widespread police harassment of dissident writers and human rights activists in Vietnam since August 2006, apparently in the lead up to the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum (APEC) summit held in Hanoi from 12-19 November. Other dissident writers to have been recently subjected to police harassment, brief detention and house arrest include the following:

- **Hoang Tien, Nguyen Khac Toan, and Nguyen Van Dai**, editor, deputy editor and journalist respectively of the independent magazine *Tu do Dan Chu* (*Freedom and Democracy*);
- **Pham Hong Son**, released from prison on 30 August 2006 and former main case of PEN Canada;
- Novelist **Nguyen Xuan Nghia**;
- Pro-democracy activists and Internet writers **Truong Quoc Huy, Vu Hoang Hai, Nguyen Ngoc Quang** and **Pham Ba Hai**, arrested in August and September 2006 for their support of the Manifesto on Freedom and Democracy for Vietnam, a pro-democracy movement formed on 8 April 2006 known as '8406 Bloc'
- Essayist **Do Nam Hai**, reportedly arrested on 15 October 2006 and charged with 'espionage' and 'anti-Socialist propaganda' for drafting the Manifesto of the Alliance for Democracy and Human Rights in Vietnam;
- Writer, lawyer, Mennonite pastor and PEN Canada Honorary Member **Nguyen Hong Quang**, reportedly harassed and threatened;
- Lawyer and cyber-dissident **Le Thi Cong Nhan** (f), repeatedly harassed and interrogated since September 2006; and,
- Lawyer and cyber-dissident **Bui Thi Kim Thanh** (f), reportedly forcibly detained at a psychiatric hospital in Ho Chi Minh City since 4 November 2006.

**PEN Canada expresses serious concern for the safety of writer and journalist Tran Khai Thanh Thuy. We are also alarmed about the crackdown on dissident writers, pro-democracy and human rights activists in Vietnam in recent weeks. PEN Canada reminds the Vietnamese government of its commitment to freedom of expression as**

**guaranteed by the Vietnamese Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Vietnam is a signatory.**

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  
Hanoi  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

*Care of:*

Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Ottawa  
470 Wilbrod Street  
Ottawa ON K1N 6M8  
Fax: +1 613 236 2704  
E-mail: vietem@istar.ca

Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United Nations  
866 UN Plaza, Suite 435  
New York, NY 10017  
Fax: +1 212 644 5732  
E-mail: vietnamun@vnmission.com

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

Gabriel Lessard  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Canada in Vietnam  
31 Hung Vuong  
Hanoi, Vietnam  
Fax: +011 84 4 734 5049  
E-mail: Hanoi@international.gc.ca

The Hon. Peter MacKay  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Lester B. Pearson Building, Room A-10  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2  
Fax: (613) 996 3443  
E-mail: peter.mackay@international.gc.ca

Peter Harder  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Foreign Affairs Canada  
E-mail: peter.harder@international.gc.ca

Alexandre Leveque  
Deputy Director, Southeast Asia and Pacific Division  
Foreign Affairs Canada  
E-mail: alexandre.leveque@international.gc.ca

Abdul Omar  
Senior Policy Officer, Southeast Asia and Pacific Division  
Foreign Affairs Canada  
E-mail: abdul.omar@international.gc.ca

Ioanna Sahas Martin  
Political Officer, Vietnam  
Southeast Asia and Pacific Division  
Foreign Affairs Canada  
E-mail: Ioanna.SahasMartin@international.gc.ca

Gwyn Kutz  
Director, Human Rights Division  
Foreign Affairs Canada  
E-mail: gwyn.kutz@international.gc.ca