

TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead calling for the release of cyber-dissident Pham Hong Son.

July 28, 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 call for the immediate release of **Pham Hong Son**.

We have received reports that the health of imprisoned writer Pham Hong Son is deteriorating and that he is now said to be seriously ill. Requests from his family for him to be given a medical examination to determine the nature of his illness have not been granted. His symptoms include coughing up blood. He is also believed to require an operation for a hernia.

Pham Hong Son, 37, was arrested on March 27, 2002, and sentenced to thirteen years in prison and three years' house arrest by the Ha Noi People's Court on June 18, 2003. He was convicted on espionage charges for his pro-democracy activities, including using e-mail to "Translate and send anti-Party documents and anti-government documents" to colleagues abroad. In an appeal hearing on August 26, 2003, the Hanoi Supreme Court upheld the conviction against Pham Hong Son, but reduced his sentence from thirteen to five years' imprisonment. He will still be required to serve three years of administrative detention (house arrest) upon his release from prison.

PEN Canada protests the detention of dissident writer Pham Hong Son solely for expressing his views, and is seriously concerned for his health. We remind 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, and call for the release of all writers held solely for the exercise of their right to freedom of expression.

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

Robert Burley
Political Officer, Vietnam
Southeast Asia and Pacific Division
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: Robert.burley@international.gc.ca