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June 9, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I am writing to request your assistance in fighting for the release of Blogger Ta Phong Tan, a human rights advocate, who is currently imprisoned in Vietnam. At present Ms. Ta has fasted in protest for more than 25 days and is in danger of dying at any time if she is not released immediately. Like many others in Vietnam, Ms. Ta was prosecuted because she has criticized the Vietnamese government for its human rights violation and lack of action in their territorial disputes with China.

Despite Vietnam's desire to benefit from its relationship with the U.S. especially through the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, Vietnam has not reduced its oppression of journalists, dissidents, or simply human rights advocates. As a County Supervisor whose district encompasses the Little Saigon Community, I speak for many in raising our concerns and voicing our protests about the continued political suppression which exists in Vietnam and hope that your office can join us in demanding that Vietnam respect the basic tenets of freedom and democracy that we, as a nation, demand from our business partners.

As a beacon of civil liberties around the world, our country has never shied away from its commitment to basic human rights. We will not stand idly by while tyrants repress their people, least of all from our trade partners. Access to our economy and the opportunity for economic advancement that access presents must be earned through compliance with the basic rules of human dignity and fairness we live by. Unfortunately, Vietnam has continued to push the limits of our tolerance in this regard. Almost four decades after the Vietnam War, Vietnam has continued its use of force, intimidation and imprisonment to silence and oppress its people.

The incarceration of Ms. Ta Phong Tan is a prime example of the political oppression that the Vietnamese People must continue to live under. Her death will be on our conscience if we do nothing to support the noble cause she stands for. We believe the U.S. Government and Vietnamese expatriates around the world, especially those here in America, have the unique power to effectuate political change in Vietnam, and for that reason we appeal to you, a tireless advocate for the disenfranchised around the world, to be a leader and lend your voice to this noble cause.

As representative of the largest Community of Vietnamese residents outside of Vietnam, I respectfully request that you ask Secretary of State John Kerry convey to them that the U.S. demands the release of Ms. Ta Phong Tan and to send a clear message to the Government of Vietnam that the United States has no tolerance for intolerance and political suppression. If I can assist you with any further information in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (714) 834-3110 or andrew.do@ocgov.com.

Respectfully Yours,



Andrew Do
Supervisor, First District

CC: Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State
Honorable John McCain, U.S Senator
Honorable Ed Royce, U.S. Representative