



To the persons in charge of Vietnam Bauxite,
To the Vietnamese and foreign media,
To all,

My name is Le Thi Kieu Oanh, 46 years old, living in Saigon. I address to you this letter, with a lot of grief and bitterness, to alert you to the arrest of my husband, on August 13th 2010 by the Vietnamese authorities for a so-called investigation according to the 79th article of the Vietnamese Penal Code.

My husband is Mr. PHAM Minh Hoang, 55 years old, lecturer at the Superior Polytechnic School in Hochiminh City. He left Vietnam to carry on his graduate studies in France, in 1973. Having discovered the pragmatic and fair teaching methods there, his dearest wish was to return to his fatherland to become a teacher, and contribute to offer a worthy future to Vietnamese young people.

After a first return to Vietnam to visit his sick parents, in the end of the 90s, he was troubled by the technical lacks endured by the Vietnamese students. He decided to establish definitively in his homeland, ready to abandon the material comfort in France. Then he could take care of his parents and get a lecturer position at the Superior Polytechnic School to make his dream become true. His deepest desire was to make the young Vietnamese comprehend the extent of their responsibilities and duties, so that the nation would be led towards progress in all fields.

Since he returned in Vietnam, 10 years ago by now, in addition of his concerns on the issues of education and youth, my husband also worried about the chronic issues of his country, from corruption to social injustices. He discussed with me as well on the situation of environment pollution in Vietnam. When the government authorized China to exploit the bauxite in the Central Highlands, he was frustrated and wondered how such a harmful decision could have been taken. This is why, when he read the petition to stop the exploitation of the bauxite, issued by the professors Nguyen Hue Chi, Pham Toan and the Doctor Nguyen The Hung, he did not hesitate to sign, or to encourage his friends to sign this petition. The issues of the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Islands as well as the hostage-taking of Vietnamese fishers by the Chinese authorities also exasperate him. He took part to the conference on "the Oriental Sea and the Vietnamese islands" organized in Saigon on July 24th 2009 to better understand these topics.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a teacher loving his country, concerned about education, environment and nation sovereignty, my husband has always been honest and integrity. Authorities have thanked him by imprisoning, while trying to charge it without any evidence than investigations on his relationships when he lived in France and on his extra-curriculum voluntary classes on intellectual capacities improvement for his students.

These lessons aim at teaching the psychological techniques in order to improve self-confidence, to have a pragmatic behavior more suitable to social life. These techniques are largely taught in the world and particularly in the United States in high school. Currently, they are many similar to Vietnam training and they are very appreciated by young people.

Is organizing this kind of free class a crime?

Is the fact of having relatives and friends in France also considered as a crime by the government?

Is sharing one's worries on his country's issues, on the population's torments a crime too? If a teacher cannot suffer when his society and nation are in trouble, how can he pass on his love of his homeland to the young, to those who will one day take in charge the fate of the nation?

In this drama that suddenly hitting our family these days, I decided to address you this letter calling for your help, so that my husband will not be unjustly imprisoned, with nobody knowing about it. I address you this letter in a state of stress and alarm. I am afraid that those who arrested my husband mistreat him or injury him without anybody being informed. I am afraid of the questioning methods of those who want my husband to confess crimes he did not commit, blackening his noble efforts. I am afraid for Tram Anh, our beloved little daughter who just turned 6 years old. What will she become without the presence of her dear father?

I call for your help to spread these information in order to protect my husband Mr. Pham Minh Hoang as well as all those who love their nation, those who dedicate their lives to protect their country and construct for it a worthy future.

I sincerely thank you for your attention.

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