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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



EDWARD R. ROYCE  
Fortieth District-California

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February 10, 2012

His Excellency Truong Tan Sang  
President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
c/o Embassy of Vietnam  
1233 20<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear President Truong:

I write to you once again with great concern over the treatment of Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh, a Mennonite Pastor who was taken into police custody on April 28, 2011.

Pastor Nguyen has been aggressively interrogated on over 300 occasions by Vietnamese police officers, and has suffered at least 19 brutal beatings, as documented by human rights organizations. He has been forcefully removed from his local residence countless times, and there have been numerous attempts to end his life. A photograph of Pastor Nguyen's battered and bloodied face following one of these brutal interrogations has been widely viewed throughout the world.

I understand that Pastor Nguyen's family has not received any updates on his condition from police or local government officials. It has been over nine months since they have seen Pastor Nguyen. Understandably, his family and many others are gravely concerned about his condition. I therefore request that you allow his family to visit Pastor Nguyen immediately. Doing so would greatly relieve fears that Pastor Nguyen's health is suffering.

Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong's previous letter to my office regarding Pastor Nguyen assured me that the Vietnamese government looks forward to working to build strong ties between the United States and Vietnam. However, it will be difficult to move our relationship forward if peaceful human rights activists like Pastor Nguyen continue to be mistreated. I urge his release.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Royce".

EDWARD R. ROYCE