Prime Minister´s Office

Nguyễn Xuân Phúc

16 Le Hong Phong St.

Ba Đình Hà Nội

Viet Nam

Ort, Datum

**Re: Trần Thị Nga**

Your Excellency,

please allow me to express my concern. I am writing for the imprisonment of Trần Thị Nga, a 42-year-old mother of two children, who was convicted under Article 88 of the Viet Nam Penal Code and sentenced to 9 years in prison, with an additional 5 years of probation. She was convicted for ‘using the Internet to spread propaganda videos and writings that are against the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam’.

I consider Trần Thị Nga as a prisoner of conscience. She is a human rights defender who promotes labour and land rights online through peaceful means. She is a member of the organization Vietnamese Women for Human Rights. Because of her work, she has been the target of numerous instances of harassment, abuse, and assaults by government agents (including an attack in May 2014 where men armed with pipes attacked her in front of her children, leaving her with a broken arm and leg). This culminated in her arrest on January 21, 2017, six months of detention (where she was refused access to medical treatment for injuries she suffered from attacks by government agents), and her trial, conviction, and sentencing on July 25, 2017.

I remind you that Viet Nam has signed, ratified, and is a party to a number of international conventions, including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Viet Nam has committed itself to upholding principles of human rights for its citizens, including the freedoms of opinion and expression (UDHR Article 19; ICCPR Article 19)

I kindly ask you to release Trần Thị Nga immediately and unconditionally, as she is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for peacefully exercising her rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Please ensure that pending her release, she is protected from torture and other ill-treatment. And please ensure that all allegations are effectively investigated, impartially and independently, and those responsible are brought to account.

Please also end prison transfers as a punitive measure and ensure that Trần Thị Nga has regular access to her family and lawyer of her choice, as well as to the adequate medical care she may require.

Yours Sincerely,