

Prime Minister  
Phạm Minh Chính  
16 Le Hong Phong Street  
Ba Đình Hà Nội  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Dear Prime Minister,

Please allow me to express my concern for the imprisonment of Vietnamese blogger and entrepreneur Trần Huỳnh Duy Thức.

Trần Huỳnh Duy Thức was arrested in May 2009 and held in pre-trial detention until he was sentenced to sixteen years in prison and a five-year-long house arrest upon his release. He is currently held in Nghe An Province.

Trần Huỳnh Duy Thức demands to release him because there was an amendment to the penal code that came into force in 2018. Accordingly, for the crime of "attempting to overthrow the government", the sentence is now "only" 0-5 years. Trần Huỳnh Duy Thức was sentenced to 16 years in prison in 2010 under the 1999 Criminal Code in effect at the time.

Amnesty International considers Trần Huỳnh Duy Thức a prisoner of conscience. I kindly ask the Vietnamese authorities to immediately and unconditionally end the imprisonment of Trần Huỳnh Duy Thức. He was solely imprisoned for the peaceful expression of his dissenting political beliefs. I am very concerned that although freedom of opinion and expression are guaranteed in the Constitution of Viet Nam, as the practice of these rights is strictly controlled by the state in law, thus effectively criminalizing those peacefully expressing their beliefs and opinions.

Sincerely yours,