

Absender:

Prime Minister  
Nguyễn Xuân Phúc  
16 Le Hong Phong Street  
Ba Đình Hà Nội  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

, 2020

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 is on strike to demand that the High Court review the sixteen year sentence handed down to him in 2010, so as to adhere to the changes in the Penal code of 2015, which carries a maximum sentence of five years for the charges against him.

When he was visited by his family last week, he passed on a note to them saying, "You must continue our struggle for human rights and use my death as inspiration to push our struggle forward through the end of this year and into the next".

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,