His Excellency Secretary General and State President
Nguyễn Xuân Phúc

Văn phòng chủ tịch nước, số 2,

Hùng Vương, Ba Đình,

Hà Nội, 10020,

Việt Nam

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my grave concern over the recent arrest of Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh, a humanitarian and human rights defender who should be celebrated and supported by the Vietnamese authorities, rather than harassed and detained.

Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh’s work has focused on helping the families of prisoners so that they can see their loved ones who are serving lengthy prison sentences once a month. Many of these prisoners have been separated from their families for years and even decades, often in dire prison conditions.

It is distressing to learn that Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh faces up to 20 years in prison under Article 117 of the Criminal Code. Her selflessness, sincerity, and tireless work on behalf of those in need have made her one of the mostwidely respected human rights defenders in Viet Nam.

Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh is a prisoner of conscience, who has been detained solely for her peaceful exercising of her human rights and undertaking humanitarian work. Therefore, I urge you the State President, to ensure that:

* Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh is released immediately and unconditionally;
Pending her release,
* Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh is granted prompt, regular and unrestricted access to family visits and access to a lawyer;
* Nguyễn Thúy Hạnh is treated in full accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), and is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, including poor conditions of detention and prolonged pre-trial detention

Sincerely,