An Appeal for the Immediate Release of Democracy Activists Arrested in Vietnam

To:

- **H.E. Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State, United States of America**
- **H.E. Bernard Kouchner, Minister of Foreign Affairs, France**
- **H.E. Kantathi Suphamongkhon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Thailand**

We wish to express our deep concern regarding the arrest of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan (American citizen), Mr. Truong Leon (American citzen), Ms. Nguyen Thi Thanh Van (French citizen) and Mr. Somsak Khunmi (Thai citizen) by Vietnamese security police on November 17, 2007 in Saigon.

These four individuals, along with three Vietnamese citizens—Mr. Nguyen The Vu, Mr. Nguyen Trong Khiem (*), and Mr. Nguyen Viet Trung (detained November 20th in Phan Thiet)—were arrested solely for the peaceful expression of their beliefs. They were targeted by the communist authorities merely for publicizing ideas on promoting democracy through peaceful, non-violent means.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Further, as a member of the UN Security Council, the Government of Vietnam has special responsibility to honour international covenants.

We, the undersigned, respectfully request:

1. The American, French and Thai Embassies in Vietnam to request immediate and regular visitation rights to ensure the well-being of individuals under detention, in particular to demand the Vietnamese government to disclose the location and physical condition of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan.
2. The United States, French and Thai governments to demand the immediate release of the seven pro-democracy activists arrested on November 17 & 20, 2007 and all other democracy activists who are being imprisoned .

Together, we must hold the Government of Vietnam responsible for any serious deterioration to the health and lives of these political prisoners.

The Undersigned,

FULL NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE

When completed, please forward this Petition to Viet Tan's local representative, alternatively email a scanned copy to petition@freethemnow.net

(*) We acknowledge that recent international lobbying have put pressure on the Vietnamese government to release Mr. Nguyen Trong Khiem on the 24th Nov 2007.