

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2018

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

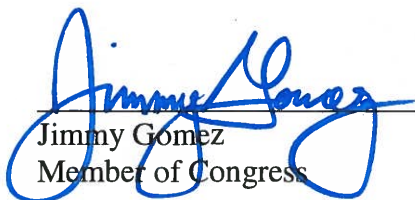
We thank you for your leadership in encouraging a speedy resolution to Mr. William Anh Nguyen's case during your meetings with the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh on July 9, 2018. We are also grateful for the professional and effective work of your staff to date on this matter. We write to you today to ask that you take additional action to secure Mr. Nguyen's release and return him to his family in the United States without further delay.


As you may know, on June 9, Mr. Nguyen arrived in Ho Chi Minh City for a short vacation before his upcoming graduation at the National University of Singapore in July. The following day, Mr. Nguyen attended peaceful demonstrations opposing the Vietnamese government's plans to establish special economic zones (SEZs). As Vietnamese police attempted to contain these demonstrations, Mr. Nguyen was taken into police custody and investigated under Article 318, "Disturbing the Public Order." He was subsequently charged under the criminal component of Article 318, and scheduled for trial on July 20, 2018. If convicted, Mr. Nguyen faces a possible sentence of 2 to 7 years in a Vietnamese jail and/or a fine. As elected representatives of Mr. Nguyen's family and the greater Vietnamese-American community, we remain very concerned about the seriousness of the pending charges and the sentence he faces.


One of our most important responsibilities as elected representatives is to protect the American people, both at home and abroad. Writing today as a bipartisan and bicameral group of Members of the House and Senate, we strongly urge you to use all diplomatic means at your disposal to ensure Mr. Nguyen's swift return to the United States.

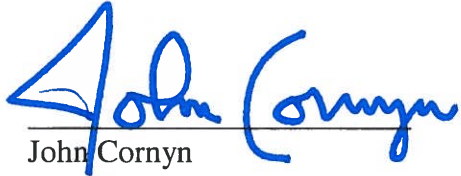
Consistent with the mission of your Department, there is no doubt that a favorable resolution to this matter will advance the national interests of the United States and its people.

Sincerely,


Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress


John A. Culberson
Member of Congress


Chris Smith
Member of Congress



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



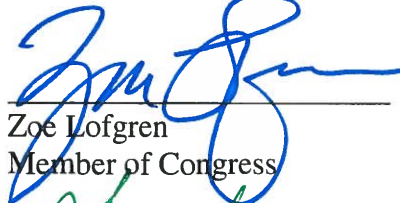
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



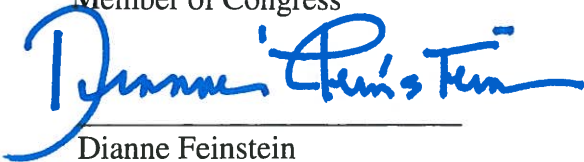
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



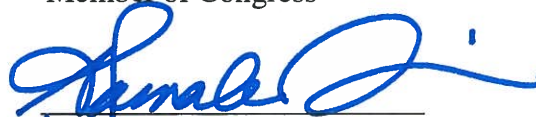
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator