

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 41/01/98

6 January 1998

Further information on EXTRA 47/97 (ASA 41/08/97, 2 April 1997) - Fear of imminent execution

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
Pham Huy Phuoc
Le Duc Canh
Tran Quang Vinh

Le Minh Hai (pardoned)

Amnesty International has learnt that Pham Huy Phuoc, Le Duc Canh and Tran Quang Vinh will be executed by firing squad before dawn on 8 January 1998.

Pham Huy Phuoc is the former director of the state trading company Tamexco and member of the Viet Nam Communist Party, Le Duc Canh is the former chief of the Notary Public Office No 1 of Va Ria-Vung Tau province, Tran Quang Vinh is the former director of the private Binh Gia Company Ltd and Le Minh Hai is the former director of the private Dolphin Company Ltd. The four men were sentenced to death on 31 January 1997 for misappropriation of state funds and deliberate violation of state regulations for financial management. Their sentences were upheld by the Supreme People's Court on 31 March but Le Minh Hai's sentence was subsequently commuted by a presidential pardon. The final appeals of the other three men were unsuccessful.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes in English or in your own language:

- urging that the scheduled execution of Pham Huy Phuoc, Le Duc Canh and Tran Quang Vinh on 8 January 1998 is not carried out and that the death sentences are commuted;
- stating that the death penalty is a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- welcoming the commutation of the death sentence imposed on Le Minh Hai and urging commutation of all outstanding death sentences.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency President Tran Duc Luong
President
Office of the President
35 Ngo Quyen
Ha Noi

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Telegrams: President Tran Duc Luong, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Faxes: + 844 8234137 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 February 1998.