

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 41/03/91
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MEDICAL CONCERN

@Nguyen Huu Hai
£VIET NAM

Amnesty International is seeking information from the Vietnamese authorities about Nguyen Huu Hai who has been held in "re-education" camp in Viet Nam for almost 16 years. He is now aged 56 and is said to suffer from hypertension and to show signs of depression and stress.

Background

Nguyen Huu Hai was formerly a Deputy Commissioner of Police and a military police officer in South Viet Nam during the Viet Nam war. Following the end of the war in mid-1975, most senior members of the armed forces, civil servants and the South Vietnamese political establishment were summoned to register for a period of "re-education". Although "re-education" was initially said to be intended to last for a maximum of three years, many people remained in the camps for considerably longer periods. "Re-education" camps were established throughout the country and became an integral part of the penal system. Since 1980 a series of amnesties have been declared by the Vietnamese authorities which resulted in the release of large numbers of detainees from these camps. From 1987 onwards, this process of release accelerated with the announcement of large-scale amnesties. A number of people, however, still remain in "re-education" camps. Many of those still held are believed to have been officers in the South Vietnamese army.

Nguyen Huu Hai was interned in "re-education" camp on 12 June 1975, shortly after the cessation of hostilities. He has since remained in detention without charge or trial and without access to a lawyer. Detainees in "re-education" camp are required to carry out hard labour although many, including Nguyen Huu Hai, are said to be weak and malnourished with little access to medical care. In addition to hypertension, Nguyen Huu Hai is said to suffer occasional acute chest pains and to have collapsed at times while carrying heavy loads. He is also said to have oedema in the legs.

Nguyen Huu Hai is held in Ham Tan "re-education" camp in Thuan Hai province. Amnesty International is seeking information from the Vietnamese authorities about the reasons for his continued detention and is seeking assurances that while he remains in "re-education" camp he will be granted access to proper medical attention and care.

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Asia
Date: 31 May 1991

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

**Nguyen Huu Hai
VIET NAM**

Keywords

Theme: ill-health/imprisonment without charge or trial

Summary

Nguyen Huu Hai, who is now aged 56, has been held in "re-education" camp since mid- 1975, shortly after the cessation of the Viet Nam war. He is reported to be weak and in ill-health. Amnesty International is seeking information on the reason for his continued detention after the majority of those sent to "re-education" camps have been released, and is urging the Vietnamese authorities to ensure that he receives any medical care he requires while he remains in camp.

Recommended Actions

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses given below:

- stating that you are writing to enquire about Nguyen Huu Hai, who has been detained in "re-education" camp since June 1975, and who is currently in Ham Tan camp, Thuan Hai province
- seeking information on the reason for his continued detention and asking whether there is any legal basis to justify such continued detention
- asking whether he was considered for release at the time of amnesties which were granted in the 1980s and whether his release has since been considered
- noting with concern that he is in ill-health, asking what medical attention is available to him and seeking assurances that he will receive any medical care he requires while he remains in re-education camp

Addresses

Mai Chi To
Minister of the Interior
16 Tran Binh Trong St.
Ha Noi
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Phan Hien
Minister of Justice
5 Ong Ich Kheim St.
Ha Noi
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Pham Song
Minister of Public Health
138A Giang Vo St.
Ha Noi
Socialist Republic of Viet nam