

PUBLIC

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***FURTHER INFORMATION ON MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION***

**(See AI Index: ASA 41/08/98, 30 September 1998, and ASA 41/05/97, 4 February 1997)**

**VO Van Pham *alias* VO Thanh Long  
VIET NAM**

**Theme:** release of prisoner of conscience

Amnesty International has just learned that Vo Van Pham *alias* Vo Thanh Long has recently been released in Viet Nam where he was believed to be held at a "reeducation" camp at Ham Tan in Binh Thuan province.

Vo Van Pham, a nurse, was arrested in July 1991 and subsequently found guilty of "participating in the establishment [of an] organization aimed at overthrowing the people's government [and] caus[ing] grave consequences". He was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment as well as to two years probation at the end of his prison term. Amnesty International considered Vo Van Pham a prisoner of conscience detained solely for the peaceful expression of his beliefs.

The American National Academy of Sciences has now been informed by the Vietnamese government that Vo Van Pham has recently been released.

**No further action by the health professional network is required.**

**Many thanks to all those who expressed solidarity with Vo Van Pham by sending appeals since February 1997.**