

AI Index: AI 41/02/91  
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Date: 22 April 1991

### *MEDICAL CONCERN*

@Tran Duy HINH  
VIET NAM

Tran Duy Hinh is a 52-year-old writer who has been imprisoned in Viet Nam since 1975. Amnesty International has recently learned that he was transferred to Cho Quan Hospital from Ham Tan "re-education" camp in 1990. According to information received, he was admitted to hospital for treatment of mental illness and was in isolation at the hospital without any access to visitors. His wife and children, now adults, left Viet Nam for the USA shortly after Tran Duy Hinh's arrest in 1975.

#### **Background**

Tran Duy Hinh was born in December 1938 in the north of Viet Nam. He was a writer and freelance journalist and served as an officer in the South Vietnamese army. He had published four short stories and some 30 novels and was a member of Vietnamese PEN. (PEN is an international association of writers.)

Amnesty International believes that the reason for Tran Duy Hinh's continued imprisonment may be that during the Viet Nam war he was attached to the South Vietnamese counter intelligence agency. Following the cessation of hostilities in Viet Nam 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". Originally, "re-education" was to last for a maximum of three years, but many people remained in the camps for considerably longer periods, effectively detained without trial. "Re-education" camps were established throughout the country and became an integral part of the penal system.

Since 1980 the authorities have declared a series of amnesties resulting in the release of large numbers of detainees from "re-education" camps; this process accelerated from 1987 onwards with the announcement of large-scale amnesties.

Amnesty International is seeking information from the Vietnamese authorities on the reasons why Tran Duy Hinh has remained in "re-education" camp after the release of the majority of those detained in the 1970s. It is also seeking information on his current state of health and the circumstances which led to his hospitalization.

EXTERNAL

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To: Medical professionals  
 From: Medical Office / Research Department - Asia  
 Date: 22 April 1991

**MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION**

Tran Duy HINH  
 VIET NAM

**Keywords**

Theme: "re-education" camp; ill-health

**Summary**

Tran Duy Hinh is a 52-year-old political prisoner who has been detained without trial in a "re-education" camp since the end of the Viet Nam war in mid-1975. Recent reports indicate that he was hospitalized in 1990 for treatment of an unspecified mental illness. Amnesty International is seeking information on his current situation and the reasons for his continued detention.

**Recommended Actions**

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

- stating that you are writing about the case of Tran Duy Hinh who was last known to have been detained in Ham Tan "re-education" camp and is reported to have been admitted to Cho Quan hospital in 1990 for treatment of mental illness
- seeking information on his current state of health and asking whether he has been returned to the "re-education" camp from hospital
- noting that he has been interned in a "re-education" camp since 1975; seeking information on the grounds for his continued imprisonment and asking when he is due for release

**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 Khiem 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