

EXTERNAL

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MEDICAL CONCERN

**Tran Vong Quoc
VIET NAM**

Amnesty International is concerned for Tran Vong Quoc, a 43-year-old political prisoner in Viet Nam who is reported to be in very poor health. He was arrested in December 1984, together with his two brothers who were later released in 1987 and 1989. He was tried in December 1988 on charges of "anti-government activities" and is serving a sentence of 12 years' hard labour and five years' probation. Tran Vong Quoc is the son of the former Chairman of the Viet Nam chapter of the International League for Human Rights who was also, prior to 1975, chairman of the opposition coalition in the National Assembly. Tran's father was imprisoned following the end of the Viet Nam war and died in a "re-education" camp in late 1976. Following his death, Tran Vong Quoc and his brothers are reported to have been harassed by police and were forced to undergo periods of "re-education". In December 1984 they were arrested at their home by members of the city's public security bureau.

The "anti-government activities" for which Tran Vong Quoc was sentenced are reported to have included "collecting information about activists tried and executed for their "crimes"; intending to pass information to human rights organizations abroad in order to discredit the government; corresponding with anti-government elements overseas and inducing others to participate in anti-government activities". Tran Vong Quoc's case is under investigation by Amnesty International which believes that he may have been arrested solely for his political views.

Throughout much of his imprisonment, Tran is reported to have suffered from various illnesses, including beriberi, and for some time now is reported to have been suffering from cardiac and renal problems with accompanying oedema. Information received in early 1993 indicates that he has been suffering "heart attacks". No further information is as yet available, but it appears that he is without access to adequate medical attention and it is unclear whether any proper diagnosis has been made. Tran Vong Quoc is currently held in a camp in Ham Tan, Tuan Hai province in southern Viet Nam.

Amnesty International believes him to be in need of urgent medical attention and is appealing to the Vietnamese authorities to ensure that he receive specialist care.

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AI Index: ASA 41/02/93
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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Asia
Date: 11 March 1993

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

Tran Vong Quoc
VIET NAM

Keywords

Theme: Ill-health/ medical care

Summary

Tran Vong Quoc is a 43-year-old political prisoner who was arrested in 1984 and sentenced in 1988 to 12 years' hard labour and five years probation. He has suffered from a number of health problems throughout his imprisonment and is now reported to be suffering from cardiac and renal problems. Please see the information attached.

Recommended Actions

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses below:

- expressing concern at the reports of Tran Vong Quoc's ill-health;
- seeking information on the medical care available to him, the diagnosis which has been made and the treatment he is receiving, and urging that he will be given access to any medical attention and treatment he requires, including specialist care if necessary;
- seeking information about the basis of the charges on which Tran Vong Quoc was sentenced and expressing concern that he may have been imprisoned solely for his political views and activities.

(Letters should note that Tran Vong Quoc is held in Camp K1, Z30D Ham Tan, Thuan Hai.)

Address

Minister of the Interior

Bui Thien Ngo
Minister of the Interior
16 Tran Binh Trong Street
Ha Noi
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

*Please send copies to the Vietnamese
embassy in your country*