

# URGENT ACTION

## JAILED SCHOLAR ON HUNGER STRIKE

**Dr Cu Huy Ha Vu, a Vietnamese legal scholar, has been on hunger strike since 27 May in protest at his treatment in prison. He is serving a seven-year sentence for “conducting propaganda” against the state. He has a chronic heart condition, and his health is at risk.**

**Dr Cu Huy Ha Vu**, a 56-year-old prisoner of conscience, was arrested in November 2010 and accused of calling for a multi-party political system in online articles and giving interviews to foreign media. In April 2011 he was sentenced to seven years’ imprisonment and three years’ house arrest on release for “conducting propaganda” against the state. He had previously attempted to sue government officials, including the Prime Minister: once in an attempt to stop a controversial bauxite-mining project, and later – two months before his arrest – to challenge the legality of a decree banning class-action petitions. He is now in Prison No 5, Department of Police, Yen Dinh in the northern province of Thanh Hoa.

In November 2012 he made a complaint, in accordance with prison regulations, to the Director of Prison No 5 about his treatment in prison, in particular abuses by one of the guards. He claimed that his health had deteriorated because of ill-treatment, that he had been prevented from receiving food and other necessities brought by his family, and that he was not allowed to receive evidence from his trial for use in his appeal. No response to his complaint was made and on 12 May 2013, Dr Cu Huy Ha Vu wrote again to the prison director, saying that he would go on hunger strike in two weeks if a resolution was not found. He began his hunger strike on 27 May.

Dr Cu Huy Ha Vu’s wife visited him on 1 June in the presence of prison guards. In a letter calling for help, she described him as very weak. The family’s petition letters to the authorities have received no response.

### **Please write immediately in English, Vietnamese or your own language:**

- Demanding the release of Dr Cu Huy Ha Vu, a prisoner of conscience detained only for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression;
- Urging the authorities to instruct the prison authorities in the meantime to take immediate steps to find a solution to the complaints made by Dr Cu Huy Ha Vu, which would lead to him ending his hunger strike; and
- Calling on them to ensure that Dr Cu Huy Ha Vu has access to any medical attention he may require and is treated in accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 JULY 2013 TO:**

#### Minister of Public Security

Lt Gen Tran Dai Quang  
Ministry of Public Security  
44 Yet Kieu Street, Hoan Kiem District  
Ha Noi, Viet Nam  
Fax: +844 3942 0223  
Online contact form:  
[http://www.mps.gov.vn/web/guest/contact\\_english](http://www.mps.gov.vn/web/guest/contact_english)

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

#### Minister of Foreign Affairs

Pham Binh Minh  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
1 Ton That Dam Street  
Ba Dinh District, Ha Noi, Viet Nam  
Fax: +844 3823 1872  
Email: [bc.mfa@mofa.gov.vn](mailto:bc.mfa@mofa.gov.vn)

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

#### **And copies to:**

Chairman of the National Assembly  
Nguyen Sinh Hung  
Office of the National Assembly  
35 Ngo Quyen St, Hoan Kiem District  
Ha Noi, Viet Nam  
Online contact form:  
<http://www.na.gov.vn/htx/English/C1330/default.asp?sAction=lienhe#I7QInwBAqPhn>

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Cu Huy Ha Vu is a highly respected legal activist and human rights defender. He is the son of a famous revolutionary poet and associate of Viet Nam's late President Ho Chi Minh.

Prison conditions in Viet Nam are generally harsh, with poor food and limited health care. According to former prisoners of conscience, political prisoners are sometimes subjected to solitary confinement, which makes them vulnerable to ill-treatment by the guards and other prisoners.

Freedom of expression is severely restricted in Viet Nam. The authorities routinely harass and imprison peaceful activists who criticise government policies and advocate greater freedoms, in order to silence them. Dozens of prisoners of conscience, including bloggers, lawyers, writers, labour activists, business people and supporters of opposition groups, are serving long prison terms under legislation which criminalizes peaceful dissent.

Name: Cu Huy Ha Vu

Gender m/f: m

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