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# *amnesty international*

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## VIET NAM

### @Rearrest of Government Critic

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Amnesty International is concerned about the whereabouts and health Nguyen Ho, 77 year old former Chairman of the veterans association "Club of Resistance Fighters", who was reportedly rearrested on 7 March 1994 at his home in Ho Chi Minh City for writing an article which was critical of the Communist Party of Viet Nam. Police officials allegedly moved him to a detention place which was not made known to his relatives. Nguyen Ho suffers from digestive tract infection and dizzy spells.

In May 1990 together with Ta Ba Tong, former Vice-Chairman of the veterans association, Nguyen Ho was placed under house arrest in Ho Chi Minh City for giving "unauthorized" interviews to a foreign journalist who had entered Viet Nam on a tourist visa. The journalist was subsequently expelled from the country. A critical article published in the 29 March 1990 edition of the weekly international journal, Far Eastern Economic Review, discussed the relationship of the Communist Party and the "Club of Resistance Fighters" and cited remarks made by Nguyen Ho and Ta Ba Tong. Nguyen Ho and Ta Ba Tong stepped down from their posts at the Club's annual meeting in March 1990, in resignations widely believed to have been engineered by the Communist Party of Viet Nam as part of a move to silence government critics. He had earlier resigned as a member of the Communist Party. The house arrest restrictions on Nguyen Ho were lifted in May 1993.

Amnesty International believes that Nguyen Ho may be a prisoner of conscience imprisoned solely for the peaceful expression of his beliefs and calls on the Vietnamese authorities to make known his current whereabouts, the reasons for his rearrest and legislation used to detain him and if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence to release him immediately and without conditions.

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