

PUBLIC

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**Further Information on UA 01/04 (ASA 41/001/2004, 2 January 2004) and follow-ups (ASA 41/016/2004, 29 July 2004, ASA 41/018/2004, 6 August 2004) - Health concern/ incommunicado detention/ unfair trial/ prisoner of conscience**

**SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

**Dr Nguyen Dan Que (m), aged 62**

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Prisoner of conscience Dr Nguyen Dan Que was released on 2 February as part of an amnesty for over 8,000 prisoners to mark Tet, the Lunar New Year. Three other men, Nguyen Dinh Huy, Buddhist monk Thich Thien Minh and Catholic priest Father Thadeus Nguyen Van Ly, who were also adopted as prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International, were released at the same time.

Dr Nguyen Dan Que has spent 20 of the last 26 years in prison for criticizing Viet Nam's human rights record. Most recently, he was arrested in March 2003 after issuing a statement asserting that there was no freedom of information in Viet Nam. His statement was circulated via the internet and published outside the country. After an unfair trial, he was sentenced to two and half years' imprisonment on 29 July 2004 on charges of "abusing democratic rights to jeopardise the interests of the state, and the legitimate rights and interests of social organizations and citizens". He was due to be released in September 2005.

Some reports suggest that since his release Dr Que is once again under surveillance by the authorities. Amnesty International will be closely monitoring his situation.

**Amnesty International believes that sustained pressure from its members worldwide has helped secure Dr Nguyen Dan Que's release. Thanks go to all those who have campaigned on his behalf. No further action is required.**