

PUBLIC

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Health Concern/Prisoner of conscience 5 March 1998

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM Dong Tuy (m), 64

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The health of prisoner of conscience Dong Tuy has deteriorated to the point where he is unable to stand up straight or walk without assistance. He is reportedly not receiving proper medical treatment, and is also suffering from loss of memory and concentration.

Dong Tuy has been in poor health since his arrest in November 1993. At different times his medical problems have included beri beri, stomach and lung problems, high blood pressure and trembling limbs, which may have apparently worsened under the conditions of his imprisonment.

Detainees in Viet Nam's prisons and prison camps usually live under very poor conditions. They receive inadequate health care, diet and sanitation, and may be held in solitary confinement or in very overcrowded conditions. In prison camps they are also often required to carry out manual labour.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Dong Tuy was sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment in August 1995, after being convicted of "attempting to overthrow the people's government" along with eight other men. All were members of the "Movement to Unite the People and Build Democracy", a political organization advocating peaceful political reform in Viet Nam, and of which Dong Tuy was Vice President. The men were arrested after trying to organize an international conference on development and democracy in Ho Chi Minh City.

Dong Tuy was also detained for "re-education" for 13 years between 1975 and 1988 because of his political affiliations. Before 1975 he was a professor of literature and philosophy.

Amnesty International has adopted Dong Tuy as a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for his non-violent political beliefs.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or French or your own language:**

- expressing concern that Dong Tuy is seriously ill and that his health is deteriorating;
- urging the authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure that Dong Tuy receives the medical treatment that he urgently needs;
- urging that Dong Tuy should be immediately and unconditionally released.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency Phan Van Khai  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Hoang Hoa Tham  
Ha Noi  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

**Telegrams: Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

**Faxes: + 844 8234137 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

His Excellency Le Minh Huong  
Minister of Interior  
Ministry of Interior  
Tran Binh Trong  
Ha Noi

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

**Faxes: + 844 8234137 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 April 1998.