

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 41/12/90

Distr: UA/SC

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UA 352/90

Health Concern

6 February 2015

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM (SRV) Father Joseph Le Thanh Que

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Amnesty International has received information that Father Joseph Le Thanh Que, a prisoner of conscience, is seriously ill.

Father Que, a Roman Catholic priest, who is believed to be detained at a "re-education" camp Z30A, Xuan Loc district, Dong Nai province, Gia Ray, Dong Nai, is reportedly suffering from several disorders: serious diabetes, high blood pressure, and possible psychological disturbances. Prisoners in "re-education" camps are believed to have little or no access to medical treatment and Amnesty International is concerned that without immediate adequate medical attention Father Que will become dangerously ill.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In late 1980 and early 1981 the authorities closed the Dac-Lo Centre for the Society of Jesus and arrested nine of the country's leading Jesuit priests. These included Jesuit Superior Father Joseph Nguyen Cong Doan and Father Que.

In June 1983 the two priests were tried at the People's Court in Ho Chi Minh City, along with a number of Roman Catholics. All were accused of "plotting to overthrow the government and dissemination of counter-revolutionary propaganda". Father Que was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. The rest received sentences of three years to life imprisonment. By September 1990 all but Father Joseph Le Thanh Que had been released from detention.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern that Father Joseph Le Thanh Que is seriously ill;
- urging the government to ensure that Father Que receive immediate and adequate medical attention;
- seeking assurances that dietary provision in "re-education" camps in prison is adequate for the health and strength of inmates, in accordance with the United Nations "Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners";
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Father Joseph Le Thanh Que.

APPEALS TO:

Mai Chi Tho
Minister of the Interior
16 Tran Binh Trong St
Ha Noi

Telegrams: Interior Minister

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Ha Noi, Vietnam

Tran Quyet
Chief Procurator
Supreme People's Organof Control
16 Tue Tinh St
Ha Noi
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Telegrams: Chief Procurator,
Ha Noi, Vietnam

COPIES TO:

Pham Song
Ministry of Public Health
138A giang Vo St
Ha Noi
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

and to diplomatic representatives of Viet Nam in your own country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 September 1990.