

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST HELD IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Since 2023, activist and well-known noodle seller **Bùi Tuấn Lâm**, also known as “Green Onion Bae”, has been imprisoned in Xuân Lộc prison in Đồng Nai province for his videos on social media about social issues and human rights concerns. Since April 2025, he has subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment with no access to clean water, electricity or light. His eyesight is deteriorating as a result of being held in a dark cell. There are grave concerns that, without improvement in prison conditions, his health and well-being could further deteriorate. **Bùi Tuấn Lâm**, detained solely for exercising his freedom of expression, must be immediately and unconditionally released.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

State President Lương Cường
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Your Excellency,

*I am writing to express my grave concern for the health of **Bùi Tuấn Lâm**, an activist and father of three daughters who was sentenced in 2023 to five years and six months in prison for “opposing the State of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam” after he posted videos on social media about social issues and human rights concerns.*

*It is deeply disturbing to learn of reports that **Bùi Tuấn Lâm** has been subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in Xuân Lộc prison. From 30 April to 10 May 2025, **Bùi Tuấn Lâm**’s legs were shackled as a punishment for his hunger strike against harsh conditions in prison.*

***Bùi Tuấn Lâm** is reportedly continuing to suffer torture or other ill-treatment while incarcerated due to his vocal opposition to prison conditions. From 10 May until now, **Lâm** has been kept in solitary confinement with no access to clean water, electricity or light. **Bùi Tuấn Lâm** informed his wife during her recent visit that his vision has deteriorated due to the darkness of the prison cell. Concerningly, the prison has refused to answer his family’s complaint regarding this ill-treatment. There are grave concerns for **Lâm**’s well-being as a result of the inadequate conditions he is held in.*

***Bùi Tuấn Lâm** should be celebrated and supported by the Vietnamese authorities rather than detained and subjected to torture or other ill-treatment.*

State President, I urge you to ensure that:

- ***Bùi Tuấn Lâm*** is immediately and unconditionally released, as he is detained solely for exercising his human right to freedom of expression;
- Pending his release, ***Bùi Tuấn Lâm*** is treated in full accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and provided access to adequate healthcare.

Your sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Bùi Tuấn Lâm, also known as Peter Lam Bui or Geen Onion Bae (Vietnamese Thánh Rắc Hành), has been an activist and human rights defender since 2013. He actively volunteered with the catholic community in Viet Nam, established relief funds for victims of injustice and took part in many protests for territorial sovereignty, environmental issues and human rights promotion. Lam used to share his opinion and videos on social media about social issues and human rights concerns.

Over the ten years that they were activists, Lâm and his wife have faced intense harassment and surveillance from local authorities. Lam was summoned and harassed by the police several times for his peaceful activism.

In November 2021, Bùi Tuấn Lâm was summoned by the Da Nang city police after a video of his went viral on Facebook. In the video, Lam served streetside noodles using the same gestures as famed Turkish chef Nusret Gökçe, known as Salt Bae, after a video of Viet Nam's Minister of Public Security Tô Lâm eating at Salt Bae's expensive London restaurant sparked outrage back home.

The satirical video led many to refer to Bùi Tuấn Lâm as "Green Onion Bae". Bùi Tuấn Lâm's Facebook and YouTube channel has more than 12,000 followers, where he shared his opinions on human rights and social issues, often in a humorous vein.

On 7 September 2022, he was arrested under Article 117 of the 2015 Criminal Code, which punishes the dissemination of 'propaganda against the state' and is routinely used against human rights defenders. It carries a prison term of up to 12 years. On 6 April 2023, his wife Lê Thanh Lâm, received a notice from authorities that their investigation of Bùi Tuấn Lâm had concluded. He was sentenced to five years and six months in prison. According to the family, the charges are based on dozens of Facebook and YouTube videos by Bùi Tuấn Lâm.

In 2023, Amnesty International [condemned](#) the arbitrary arrest and unfair trials of Bùi Tuấn Lâm.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English, Vietnamese
You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 10 June 2026
Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Bui Tuan Lam (he/him)