

PUBLIC

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To: Health professional members

From: Medical team / Asia program

Date: 8 April 2003

MEDICAL ACTION

Dr Nguyen Dan Que:

no visitors or medical treatment for over three weeks since his arrest

Viet Nam

(further information on medical action ASA 41/008/2003, 28 March 2003)

Key words prisoner of conscience / doctor / freedom of expression

Amnesty International is extremely concerned that in the three weeks since his arrest on 17 March 2003, Dr Nguyen Dan Que has not been allowed to receive any visitors in the detention facility in Ho Chi Minh City where he is presumed to remain. As a consequence it has not been possible for him to be provided with medicines and clothing which he needs. Dr Que is in poor health and is believed to be suffering from a bleeding ulcer, kidney stones and high blood pressure for which he needs medication. Dr Nguyen Dan Que should be allowed immediate access to family, a lawyer and medical treatment in accordance with international standards, such as the *Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment* and the *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners*.

Recommendations

Please write letters in English or your own language to the authorities below, using professionally-headed paper if you use this in your profession:

- introducing yourself in your professional capacity and/or as a member of Amnesty International and referring to your previous letter if applicable;
- expressing concern that Dr Nguyen Dan Que has not been allowed any visitors since his arrest on 17 March 2003;
- expressing concern that Dr Que may not be receiving the medical treatment that he needs;
- urging the authorities to immediately allow Dr Que access to his family, a lawyer, and medical treatment in accordance with international standards for the treatment of prisoners in detention.
- urging the authorities to release Dr Nguyen Dan Que, detained for the peaceful expression of his beliefs, immediately and unconditionally.

Addresses

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

Le Hong Anh
Minister of Public Security
Ministry of Public Security
15 Tran Binh Trong Street
Hoan Kiem District
Ha Noi
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Uong Chu Luu
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
25A Cat Linh Street
Dong Da District
Ha Noi
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Copies of appeals

Nguyen Dy Nien
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1 Ton That Dam Street
Ba Dinh District
Ha Noi
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

and to diplomatic representatives of Viet Nam accredited to your country.

If you receive no reply from the government or other recipients within six weeks of dispatch of your letter, please send a follow-up letter seeking a response, referring to your previous letter(s). Please check with the medical team if you are sending appeals after 31 May 2003, and send copies of any replies you do receive to the International Secretariat (att: medical team).

Monitoring of actions

If you have access to e-mail you can help our attempt to monitor letter writing actions. If you write one, two or more letters please send us an e-mail and let us know. Please write in the subject line of your e-mail the index number of the action and the number of letters you write e.g. ASA 41/009/2003 - 3

Please send your message to medical@amnesty.org

Thank you