



Submission No 3

Inquiry into Australia's Human Rights Dialogues with China and Vietnam

Organisation: Prisoners Of Conscience Fund Inc
105 Fairfax Circuit
ALBANVALE, VIC, 3121



POCF

Prisoners Of Conscience Fund Quỹ Tù Nhân Lương Tâm

Our mission is to provide moral and financial support to all Prisoners of Conscience and their family in their fight for freedom, democracy and human rights in Vietnam

29th July 2011

Committee of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Human Rights Sub Committee
Hon Laurie Ferguson MP
Hon Philip Ruddock MP

Dear Sirs/Madams,

The objective of the Prisoners of Conscience Fund Inc. (POCF) is to provide moral and financial support to the prisoners of conscience and their family in their relentless fight for freedom, democracy and human rights in Vietnam.

Since its creation, POCF has been channelling its support to all political prisoners in Vietnam known to us, but the sad news of the recent death of one prisoner prompted us to take up action with more urgency. In response to the media release of 23rd June 2011, we would like to submit a short list of critical cases of "Vietnamese Prisoners of Conscience" to the Human Rights Sub-Committee.

Our organisation urges the committee to consider the following 18 cases and the list of some 81 Christian Montagnard prisoners (an indigenous minority from the Central Highlands of Vietnam). These prisoners have received extreme punishment but their requests for review of their cases have been either ignored by the Vietnamese government, or they have been unable to voice their plight due to language barriers.

Despite this being a short list, we implore you to recognize it as critical and to continue to acknowledge the absence of human rights in Vietnam. By considering this list, you will have the opportunity to disprove the deceptive claims that "there are no political prisoners in Vietnam", as the Vietnamese Communist government has led the world to believe.

The POCF would be profoundly grateful for a chance to change the lives of wrongfully condemned prisoners and also for the prospect of human rights reforms in Vietnam.

Yours sincerely,

Phung Mai
President of the POCF

CC:

- Nguyen The Phong – President of VCA
- Chris Hayes MP (Fowler, NSW)
- Jason Clare MP (Blaxland, NSW)
- Mark Furner (Senator for QLD)
- Graham Perrett MP (Moreton, QLD)
- Melissa Park MP (Fremantle, WA)
- Andrew Leigh MP (Fraser, ACT)
- Gai Brodtmann MP (Canberra, ACT)
- Gary Humphries (Senator for ACT)
- Bernie Ripoll MP (Oxley, QLD)