H.E. Pham Minh Chinh

Prime Minister
Hoang Hoa Tham Street Nr. 1
Ba Dinh, Ha Noi
VIET NAM

Contact in: [**https://primeminister.chinhphu.vn/contact.htm**](https://primeminister.chinhphu.vn/contact.htm)

Dear Prime Minister,

With great concern, I still hear reports that death sentences continue to be passed and enforced in Vietnam.

For example, I have learned of the case of Ms. **Lo Thi Hoa**. In April 2021, the Hanoi People's Court sentenced her to death for "illegal transportation of drugs". She had already been sentenced to 18 months in prison in another case for "drug trafficking".

According to the trial verdict, on the morning of July 26, 2020, the Hanoi police Y 2-141 squad, assisted by a unit from Kim Lien, inspected a vehicle in which Ms. Hoa was travelling. They discovered nearly one kilo of heroin and methamphetamines hidden in a bag and in the clothes of this lady. The act of smuggling by Ms. Hoa, of Hmong ethnicity, was undoubtedly dictated by a dramatic socio-economic situation. Vulnerable, Mrs. Hoa may have been an easy prey for criminal networks.

Furthermore, I wish to draw your attention to the fate of the brothers **Le Dinh Cong** and **Le Dinh Chuc**, son of **Le Dinh Kinh**, murdered in Dong Tam in January 2020. In March 2021, the Hanoi High Court upheld the death sentence against them on appeal. I also draw your attention to the censorship to which lawyers and human rights defenders have been subjected throughout the trial. Due to the irregularities in the court proceedings, I ask you for the immediate release of the brothers.

The death penalty is cruel and inhumane. In the case of Lo Thi Hoa, as in that of the Le Dinh brothers, it is a totally disproportionate and inappropriate measure.

According with art. 6 (4) on the right to life of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Vietnam is a state party, I ask you to:

* revoke and commute these death sentences;
* agree to a moratorium on the death penalty with the aim of abolishing it completely;
* ensure that all detainees are treated humanely, in accordance with the United Nations minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners and detainees in custody.

I thank you for the attention you will give to this concern.

Yours respectfully

(Copy of this letter has been sent to the Embassy of Viet Nam in Italia)