

**Resolutions and Recommendations submitted to the Assembly of Delegates of International PEN, meeting in Mexico City, 22-28 November 2003.**

**(v) Resolution on Vietnam, submitted by the Swiss German, Swiss Italian and Reto-romansh, Suisse Romand and Vietnamese Writers Abroad Centres**

***The Assembly of Delegates of International PEN, meeting at its 69<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Mexico City, 22-28 November 2003,***

**Considering** the aggravation of the repression against writers, journalists and intellectual having peacefully exercised their right to freedom of expression and opinion in accordance with International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of which the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is one of signatories;

**Deploring** that, since the adoption of the Resolution on Vietnam by the Assembly of Delegates of the International PEN meeting in Ohrid, Macedonia, in September 2002, persecuted writers and honorary members of PEN Centres, still remain in prison or in arbitrary detention. Moreover, noting the increasing number of persons arrested without charge nor trial, placed in arbitrary detention or condemned to heavy sentences of imprisonment, in violation of their right to speak, to write, to search for, to receive and to circulate and publish information on Internet, and to form an association freely;

**Alarmed and worried** by the deteriorating health of certain detainees, among whom Lê Dinh Nhân (Buddhist monk Thich Huyền Quang 86 years old), Nguyễn Dinh Huy (71 years old), Trần Dung Tiên (74 years old), Phạm Quê Duong (72 years old), and in particular, Lê Chi Quang (33 years old) who suffers from acute renal failure and Dang Phúc Tuê (Buddhist monk Thich Quang Đô 75 years old), who suffers from a heart condition (heart surgery in June 2003), diabetes and high blood pressure. Appropriate and urgent treatments have been refused to them;

**Shocked** by the fact that persecuted writers have been tried and sentenced following unfair trials, not in conformity with international standards that the Vietnamese government is under obligation to respect. During these trials, the right to defence has not been assured to the accused. Besides, diplomats and foreign journalists are not allowed to attend these trials;

**Finding** unworthy and worrying the fact that independent and dissident writers, journalists and intellectual have been incarcerated on charges, among others, of spying,, violating national security, abusing socialist rights in order to prejudice the interests of the State or of disturbing public order;

**Call upon the Vietnamese authorities**

1. to release immediately and unconditionally
  - Nguyễn Dinh Huy (15 years in prison August 1995),
  - Nguyễn Văn Ly (15 years in prison, sentence reduced to 10 years in prison July 2003),
  - Lê Dinh Nhân (Thich Huyền Quang, house arrest December 1994),
  - Lê Chi Quang (4 years in prison November 2002),
  - Nguyễn Khắc Toàn (12 years of in prison December 2002),
  - Phạm Hồng Sơn (13 years in prison, sentenced reduced at 5 years in prison August 2003),
  - Nguyễn Văn Bình (detention without charge September 2002),
  - Trần Khuê (detention without charge December 2002),
  - Phạm Quê Duong (detention without charge December 2002),
  - Trần Dung Tiên (10 months in prison November 2003),
  - Nguyễn Đan Quê (detention without charge March 2003),
  - Nguyễn Xuân Tú (house arrest February 2001),
  - Bùi Minh Quốc (house arrest January 2002),
  - Dang Phúc Tuê (Thich Quang Đô, house arrest October 2003),

- Pham Van Thuong (Thich Tuê Sy, prisoner sentenced to death in 1988, penalty commuted to 20 years of imprisonment, amnestied in 1998, 24 months under house arrest October 2003), and all others writers, journalists and intellectual still in prison, in arbitrary detention or under house arrest, in violation of their right to freedom of expression;
- 2. to stop harassing and imprisoning the followers and the relatives of spiritual leaders such as the niece and the two nephews of Nguyễn Van Ly (all of them were arrested and condemned to prison sentences on September 10<sup>th</sup> , 2003 for having publicly supported their uncle);
- 3. to stop the deprivation of their financial support;
- 4. to provide them with medical treatment;
- 5. to abolish censorship and to lift all restrictions on freedom of expression, freedom to create and publish, and freedom of the press.