

*Please write to the Minister of Justice or to the local Vietnamese Ambassador.*

**H**E. Mr. Ha Hung Cuong

Minister of Justice

56-60 Tran Phu St.

Ba Dinh District,

Vietnam

Your Excellency,

The Benenson Society wish to raise our concerns at the apparent campaign against human rights activists and religious groups in Vietnam. In particular we draw your attention to the arrest of Le Quoc Quan, a respected human rights lawyer, who has commenced a hunger strike, and to the imprisonment of blogger and Catholic activist Maria Ta Phong Tan, whom it is reported is in bad health in prison.

Freedom of expression is guaranteed by the UN Declaration on Human Rights. Freedom of expression is also guaranteed by the ICCPR, which Vietnam has ratified on 24 December 1982 and is legally binding.

At a time when so many are visiting your beautiful country and when there are growing contacts with the rest of the world, repressive measures by your Governments harms the image and reputation of Vietnam. We urge the Vietnamese authorities to:

* Release Le Quoc Quan immediately and unconditionally;
* Ensure the good treatment of Maria Ta Phong Tan
* To ensure effective protection of the internationally protected rights of Le Quoc Quan and Maria Ta Phong Ta, including freedom of expression and the right to engage in human rights advocacy and criticism of government actions

We thank you for your attention to this very important matter and look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely,