Dear Mr/Mrs\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am writing to bring the case of the religious leader and environmentalist Phan Van Thu to your attention. Thu is a member of the An Dan Dai Dao, a persecuted Buddhist sect in Vietnam. Thu is currently serving a life sentence after being arrested in 2012 with 21 other members of the group. Thu has been denied basic human rights like the right to free speech, the right to freedom of religion, and the right to a fair trial.

Thu suffers from a range of health issues including diabetes, arthritis and hypertension. Thu has been denied specialist medication and dental visits. His family has reported that he is in very poor health and struggles to walk. Requests for his release or temporary postponement of his sentence to seek treatment have been denied. One member of the group, Doan Dinh Nam, has already died of kidney failure because of inadequate medical treatment. It is especially important that Thu receives treatment now because of his vulnerability to the coronavirus.

I am asking that you raise awareness of this case in order to pressure the Vietnamese authorities to provide Thu with the medical attention that he desperately needs. The International Commission of Jurists raised the issue with the Vietnamese government last year, but their calls have been ignored. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated by Thu’s family, who is extremely worried.

You can find more information about Thu by visiting his profile on The 88 Project website.

<https://the88project.org/profile/120/phan-van-thu/>

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Kind Regards,

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