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

I am writing to bring the case of the Dinh Thi Thu Thuy to your attention. Thuy is an aquaculture engineer and environmental campaigner from Nga Bay city in Vietnam. Thuy is currently serving a seven-year prison sentence after being arrested in April 2020 for criticising government policies on Facebook. Thuy has been denied basic human rights like the right to free speech, the right to a fair trial, and freedom from arbitrary detention.

Despite being in good health before her arrest, Thuy is now suffering from a variety of health conditions due to her time in pre-trial detention facilities, which the UN Committee against Torture observed do not meet minimum international standards[[1]](#footnote-1). Thuy now suffers from vestibular disorders, heart valve regurgitation, calcium deficiency and insomnia. Thuy spent eight months in detention unable to see her young son and family, which had a detrimental effect on her mental health. It was only after Thuy was hospitalised that her family was allowed to visit her. It was not until December 2020, one month before her trial, that Thuy was able to meet her lawyers. Because of this harsh treatment, Thuy does not feel strong enough to appeal her sentence, and endure further suffering in pre-trial detention, where she would be required to await the decision of her appeal.

I am asking that you raise awareness of this case in order to pressure the Vietnamese authorities to release Thuy and ensure that she receives adequate medical treatment. Thuy was convicted on the basis of just five Facebook posts which received only 130 Likes and 80 Shares, despite the fact that Vietnam’s 2013 Constitution guarantees freedom of expression. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated by her family, especially by her ten-year old son who misses his mother dearly.

You can find more information about Thuy by visiting her profile on The 88 Project website.

<https://the88project.org/profile/481/dinh-thi-thu-thuy/>

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Kind Regards,

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1. <https://www.policinglaw.info/assets/downloads/Committee_against_Torture_Concluding_Observations_on_Vietnam_(2018).pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)