### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROFILE

#### LE THU HA

Year of Birth: 1982 • Place of Birth: Thanh Hóa • Brotherhood for Democracy (Hội Anh Em Dân Chủ)

### **Appeal for Assistance**

<u>Lê Thu Hà</u> was arrested on December 16, 2015 and sentenced to nine years in prison on April 5, 2018 under Article 79 of the 1999 Criminal Code.

The Conscience Foundation requests **4 million VND/month (approx. US\$ 175)** for the family to visit Lê Thu Hà and look after Lê Thu Hà's mother until the time of her release from prison.

Please donate via PayPal at <a href="mailto:quyluongtamvn@gmail.com">quyluongtamvn@gmail.com</a>

## **Background**



On December 16, 2015, Hà was arrested in her office at the Brotherhood for Democracy on 10 Đoàn Trần Nghiệp Street, Hanoi. The police arrested her after she refused to allow them to search the office. Some days afterwards, the police issued an arrest warrant for Hà on charges of "propaganda against the socialist state," under Article 88 of the 1999 Criminal Code. Later, in July 2017, the authorities charged Hà and lawyer Nguyễn Văn Đài under Article 79 of the 1999 Criminal Code for "attempting to overthrow the people's government."

Prior to 2011, Lê Thu Hà was an English language tutor in Hanoi. In 2011, she began posting critical views of the government on social media and, in 2013, she joined the Brotherhood for Democracy, which is an online network of activists based in Vietnam that advocates for human rights as defined by the 2014 Constitution and international agreements, such as the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. In 2014, Hà and fellow member of the Brotherhood, lawyer Nguyễn Văn Đài, began providing free English classes for students with an interest in making positive social and political change in Vietnam.

Hà also established <u>Conscience TV</u> in 2015, of which she was the Chief Editor for programming.

Hà has never participated in or supported any form of violent protest.

# **Family Background**

Hà's father is now deceased, while her mother, Hoàng Thị Bình Minh (b. 1957), continues to work as a vendor. Hà's siblings include two older brothers (b. 1981 and 1982) and two younger brothers (b. 1985 and 1988), who are all factory workers, and a younger sister (b. 1997), who is a university student. Hà is unmarried.