Hanoi, 07.10.2024

Dear friends, colleagues and international organizations,

Since 28.09.2024 my husband Dang Dinh Bach has gone on a hunger strike in Prison No. 6, Nghe An province, to demand **strict enforcement of laws and dignified prison conditions**, after all his and my efforts combined to file formal complaints were mostly ignored. (During 3 years nearly 30 letters of complaints, suggestions and denunciations of mistreatment in prison).

Bach is joined by 2 other prisoners of conscience Bui Van Thuan and Trinh Ba Tu.

Bach explained during my visit on 03.10.2024 that the decision to go on a hunger strike was not easy to take, but he can no longer witness older prisoners (70, 80 years old) going broken under current inhuman detention conditions.

**Bách expressed his wish to establish a direct dialogue mechanism with the New Board of Directors of Prison Camp No. 6 since April 2024 ( Deputy Warden Thai Van Thuy and Head of Sub-camp 1 Nguyen Van Du), in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect, in order to thoroughly resolve outstanding issues, ensure legal detention conditions to meet basic living conditions for prisoners.**

Below are some of the situations that Bach requests to be at least reversed to the situation before April 2024, for prisoners in Group A, Sub-camp 1, Prison Camp No. 6:

+ Abolish the tiger cage confinement.

Like before, the cell door should be kept open from 5:30 am to 5:30 pm so that the prisoners can go to the small yard (in front of each cell) to exercise and do yoga outdoors.

Right now, the cell is only opened 4 hours a day, not enough for the laundry to dry outside, and the cell is always dark, sticky and humid.

+ Like before, prisoners of group A should be allowed to go to the group's common yard to socialize and have common activities on Saturdays and Sundays .

+ Like before, prisoners must be allowed to give, donate, exchange books with each other and with the family at home.

+Like before, the family must be allowed to provide a small desk lamp for reading and writing because it´s very dark in the cell even during daytime .

+ Electrical wires and outlet boxes must be maintained to ensure safety for prisoners. Outlets and switches should be inside the cell and not outside, to avoid that the prisoner must blind-search them with the fingers before using.

+Give clear and reasonable notice of censorship time for letters and books sent by families. If letters and books are confiscated, the reason must be given in writing.

+ Request for immediate repair of the telephone in the visiting room. It is very often disconnected/ interrupted at least 3-4 times during each visit, causing inconvenience, wasting time and affecting the rights of prisoners and their families. The time spent waiting for the phone to be repaired and reconnected should be compensated to ensure the 60-minute visit time.

+ Like before, boiling water should be provided 3 times/day. Currently, it can only be bought in the morning in an “unofficial way” and “paid” with instant noodles.

+ **Very urgent!** Prisoners with latent tuberculosis should be treated (WHO recommendation) and not only dismissed with the explanation “latent tuberculosis is no tuberculosis”, to protect the person and control the spreading of TB in the high risk environment of a prison.

**Together with Bui Van Thuan and Trinh Ba Tu, Bach call on the State to release political prisoners and social activists,**

**-to pave the way for the country to democratize,**

**-to build a state of law,**

**-to respect the law,**

**-and to protect the human rights of each person in a genuine way.**

**Only then, the country can enter an era of national development.**

**The Communist Party of Vietnam should give up its monopoly on the country and society.**

Dear friends, colleagues and international organizations,

I am very worried about my husband’s health but I understand the urge in Bach´s heart to try to support and protect the old and weak. His actions are justified.

I call on you all to request the Vietnamese authorities to meet, discuss, and work directly with my husband to meet his demands for legitimate rights.

As Vietnam is serving as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the 2023-2025 term, **please help us in calling for an emergency visit** of the Special rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Yours faithfully,

Tran Phuong Thao