



**CONSERVATIVE PARTY  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

[www.conservativehumanrights.com](http://www.conservativehumanrights.com)

Statement of Support for the  
**Movement for Democracy in Vietnam**  
September 2006: for immediate release

The Conservative Party Human Rights Commission is a body established by the Shadow Foreign Secretary to highlight international human rights concerns, and to inform, advise and develop the party's foreign policy by making human rights a priority. Freedom and human dignity should be at the heart of foreign policy.

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Background

Vietnam is a one party Communist state, whose government has held total power in the country since 1975. The Communist Party regime seriously abuses the Vietnamese people's rights as human beings.

The government of Vietnam denies the Vietnamese people:

Their right to free and fair elections  
Their right to free speech  
Their right to free expression through the media  
Their right to free association  
Their right to free worship  
Their right to free movement

The government attacks, harasses, imprisons and confines those who speak out against its oppression. These people include, but are by no means limited to:

Nguyen Khac Toan: Journalist. Released in January after four years of a twelve-year sentence for pro-democratic writings. Confined to his ward in Hanoi and subject to frequent re-arrest and harassment; his home is constantly watched, communications cut off, he is followed around the clock by security police.

Nguyen Vu Binh: Journalist. Having attempted to form an independent party in 1999, he was arrested in September 2002 for submitting testimony on human rights abuses to the US Congress and discussing abuses on the internet with overseas Vietnamese. Like many current prisoners of conscience he was convicted of 'spying' and sentenced to seven years in jail and three years under house arrest. He is currently believed to be in Ba Sao prison camp, Nam Ha province.

Hoang Minh Chinh: Former high-level communist party official, 86 years old. Imprisoned for 22 years for writings critical of the Vietnamese regime, his home is now subject to mob attacks. His communications are cut off and he is confined to his district.

Father Nguyen Van Ly: Priest. Imprisoned for 15 years for calling for political and religious freedom, including 7 years in solitary confinement and 2 years shackled to his cell wall. He is now under constant surveillance, confined to his district and subject to frequent harassment.

Statement

The Conservative Party Human Rights Commission supports the movement for democracy in Vietnam in its peaceful struggle for freedom. Many dissidents have now come together to form 'Bloc 8406'. All pro-democracy dissidents are subject to routine abuse by the Vietnamese government, including torture, arbitrary detention and imprisonment without trial.

The Conservative Party Human Rights Commission supports all those in Vietnam who struggle peacefully for freedom, human rights and democracy.

The Vietnamese people have the right to live in a multi-party democracy, free from oppression and violation of their human rights by the Communist Party of Vietnam. It is our belief that Vietnam's communist regime, like dictatorships everywhere, must eventually give way to freedom.

Vietnam will be free.

On behalf of the Conservative Party Human Rights Commission:

Gary Streeter MP (Chair)    Ben Rogers (Deputy Chair)    Rado Tylecote (Country of focus, Vietnam)