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PUBLIC STATEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENT
October 6, 2025

Vietnam should release journalist and author Pham Doan Trang

Amnesty Freedom calls on Vietnam to release journalist and author Pham Doan Trang, whose work helped readers understand legal and political rights.

What we know

Police arrested Pham Doan Trang in October 2020. On December 14, 2021, a court sentenced her to nine years in prison on an anti-state propaganda charge. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found her detention arbitrary. On October 6, 2025, the fifth anniversary of her detention, Reporters Without Borders and an international coalition again called for her release. [1–5]

Our position

A writer who explains legal and political rights to readers is not an enemy of the state. Vietnam is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which protects freedom of expression, and the UN Working Group has found her detention arbitrary. [3, 6–7]

Our calls

Amnesty Freedom calls on the authorities to:

1. Release Trang and provide an effective remedy.
2. Stop using broadly framed propaganda offenses to punish peaceful expression.
3. Until her release, ensure adequate medical care, confidential access to counsel, and regular family visits.
4. Allow independent publishers to operate without fear of prosecution for their work.

Supporting information

1. Pham Doan Trang - Committee to Protect Journalists
2. Viet Nam: Crackdown on dissent continues with ‘egregious’ nine-year sentence for Pham Doan Trang - Amnesty International
3. UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Opinion No. 40/2021 concerning Pham Doan Trang
4. #FreePhamDoanTrang: RSF, international coalition call for Vietnamese journalist’s release on 5th anniversary of her arrest | RSF
5. Vietnam: Immediately release independent journalist and human rights defender Pham Doan Trang | Human Rights Watch
6. United Nations, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
7. United Nations, Nelson Mandela Rules on the treatment of prisoners

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Note to editors: *This statement is based on the public sources listed above. The date shown is that of the most recent development recorded in those sources; later developments may not be reflected.*