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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0545

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March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Mr. Tô Lâm  
General Secretary  
Communist Party of Vietnam  
1 Hung Vuong Street  
Ba Dinh District, Hanoi  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Dear General Secretary Tô Lâm:

I write to request an opportunity to visit and inspect the conditions of prisoners of conscience being held against their will by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. As the United States Representative of the largest Vietnamese diaspora outside of Vietnam located in California, I remain deeply concerned by the extensive reports on the regime's egregious record on human rights.

While the United States and Vietnam are committed to strengthening and enhancing their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, significant concerns regarding human rights persist. As you know, Vietnam is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and as such, the Vietnamese government is expected to ensure that human rights and fundamental freedoms are protected.

According to the Human Rights Watch's 2026 World Report, the Communist Party of Vietnam holds more than 160 political prisoners and has arrested at least 40 other peaceful dissidents. Some prisoners of conscience currently incarcerated in your prisons include Lê Hữu Minh Tuấn, Phạm Thị Đoàn Trang, Nguyễn Bắc Truyển, and Dang Dinh Bách. According to UN expert observers, prisoners of conscience are subject to extremely inadequate prison conditions including overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, poor quality of food and water, denial of medical care, and exposure to torture and maltreatment. Given this troublesome human rights situation, it is imperative that I meet with prisoners directly to assess their well-being and ensure their medical needs are being properly addressed.

I urge the Vietnamese government to demonstrate its commitment to improving its record on human rights and its relationship with the United States by taking the crucial step of allowing United States Members of Congress to visit prisoners of conscience and ensure their imprisonments are in accordance with legal and humanitarian standards. Doing so would reflect Vietnam's stated commitments to human rights and the rule of law.

A refusal of my request to directly meet with prisoners of conscience would signal Vietnam's failure to uphold a good faith diplomatic relationship with the United States and a disregard for universal human rights. I look forward to your prompt and cooperative response to my request by March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek T. Tran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent horizontal line across the top.

Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Marco Rubio, Secretary of State

cc: Melissa A. Brown, Consul General at the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City