

**Secretary General and State President Nguyen Phu Trong**

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my serious concern about the health and well-being of Chau Van Kham, a 71-year-old Vietnamese Australian.

In January 2019, Mr Chau was arrested within hours of his arrival in Viet Nam. Though he had not done anything before being detained, still he was accused of "terrorism to oppose the government". In November he was sentenced to 12 years in prison and the only "evidence" presented by the authorities during the trial was his membership of a group called Viet Tan.

Mr Chau is suffering from several different health problems including enlarged prostate, cervical spondylosis, and diabetes. He has also been denied communication with his family. Mr Chau's only chance of an appeal was rejected in March 2020, and he no longer has lawyers actively working for his case.

While Mr Chau is in your care, he must be given the medical care that he needs, granted regular access to his family, and a lawyer of his choice in accordance with Vietnamese laws.

I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release Chau Van Kham so he can be safely reunited with his family in Australia.

**HELP FREE VIETNAMESE AUSTRALIAN CHAU VAN KHAM**

Chau Van Kham, a 71 year old Vietnamese Australian, was detained within hours of arriving in Vietnam in 2019 and sentenced to 12 years in prison for being a member of the political party, Viet Tan.

Kham's wife and children have grave concerns for his well being, especially as he suffers from several different health problems.

Prison conditions in Vietnam are notoriously harsh, with regular testimonies from detainees about the poor food quality, lack of drinking water and the absence of adequate medical treatment. Furthermore, prisoners of conscience often face additional harassment, intimidation and ill-treatment.

With no family allowed to visit him, and no lawyers in Vietnam actively working on his case, there is no way to monitor Kham's health condition and ensure he receives the medical care he needs.



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**CHALLENGE INJUSTICE.**

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