

Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Stasjonsveien 31, 0771 Oslo
Norway

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express grave concern regarding the continued detention of Pastor Nguyen Trung Ton, a Protestant pastor, human rights defender and member of the Brotherhood for Democracy, who was sentenced in 2018 to 12 years in prison for peaceful advocacy of democracy and religious freedom in Vietnam.

Pastor Ton was arrested in July 2017 and convicted under Article 79 of Vietnam's 1999 Penal Code. He is currently being held in Gia Trung Prison, where he is facing serious health issues, including near-total vision loss, post-COVID complications, and an untreated leg injury – reportedly due to previous mistreatment.

Despite his deteriorating condition, authorities have reportedly denied him access to essential medical treatment, and his family is not permitted to send him medication or pay for care. International organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), have raised his case as emblematic of the crackdown on peaceful dissent and religious expression in Vietnam.

I respectfully call upon the Vietnamese government to:

- Release Pastor Nguyen Trung Ton immediately and unconditionally
- Ensure he receives urgent medical attention while in custody
- End all harassment against his family
- Guarantee that all citizens of Vietnam can exercise their rights to religious belief and expression in accordance with the Vietnamese Constitution and international treaties

Vietnam's credibility in the international community depends on upholding human rights commitments. I urge you to act with compassion and in accordance with Vietnam's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Thank you for your time and attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,