

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK

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February 16, 2008

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

According to the press release issued on January 22, 2008 by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the United States and Vietnam have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) allowing the U.S. to deport thousands of Vietnamese nationals, who entered the United States on or after July 12, 1995.

Given the rampant violations of human rights by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as reported by the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), and respected international human rights organizations such as Reporters Without Borders and Amnesty International, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren and 12 other House members have sent you a letter on January 23, 2008 requesting that no implementation of this agreement take place until Congress has a chance to review and approve it.

We are extremely concerned that ICE has entered into an agreement to deport back to Vietnam thousands of Vietnamese nationals living in the United States, especially including those who have escaped the Communists to avoid political persecutions.

Vietnam Human Rights Network is very grateful and fully supports Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren's position that this agreement should be placed on moratorium until the U.S. Congress has a chance of thoroughly reviewing it and making sure human rights of everyone involved is properly protected.

Sincerely Yours,

Nguyen Thanh Trang
President