

VĂN BÚT VIỆT NAM HẢI NGOẠI  
VIETNAMESE ABROAD PEN CENTRE

*Hiển dương những Tiếng Nói của Lương Tâm và các Tiếng Lòng Vang Vọng của người Việt Nam khắp thế giới  
Promote the Voices of Conscience and the Echoes of Compassion of Vietnamese across the Globe*

[www.PENVietNam.org](http://www.PENVietNam.org)

[Facebook.com/VanButVietNamHaiNgoai](https://www.facebook.com/VanButVietNamHaiNgoai)

June 12, 2018

**Bulletin**

HS: 2018/TB/KT04

**Letter of Objection**

**Protesting Vietnam's New Cyber Security Law**

**Granting Unlimited Powers to Infringe on the Freedoms of Expression and Association**

The Vietnamese Abroad PEN Centre protests the new Cyber Security Law drafted by Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security and recently passed by the National Assembly granting unlimited powers to the security forces to infringe on the freedom of expression and the freedom of association.

The Vietnamese Abroad PEN Centre expresses deep concerns about the following provisions in Vietnam's new Cyber Security Law:

**Clause 8:** Prohibit all types of activities deemed unacceptable to the security forces, namely organizing, encouraging, teaching, reviving historical facts, “destroying the people's solidarity”. These broad prohibitions clearly infringe on Vietnamese citizens' constitutionally-guaranteed freedom of expression and freedom of association. This Clause undoubtedly would be used against *political dissidents* and the *majority of Vietnamese citizens*, who vocally object to official policies such as the recently proposed legislation to open the floodgates to century-long leases of Vietnam's inland territories to China (*Dự thảo Luật Đơn vị hành chính - kinh tế đặc biệt Vân Đồn, Bắc Vân Phong, Phú Quốc*).

**Clause 15:** Prohibit call for protest and encouragement to protest “causing disturbance to the peace.” These broad prohibitions clearly infringe on Vietnamese citizens' constitutionally-guaranteed freedom of expression and freedom of association. This Clause undoubtedly would be used against *social activists*, who voice concerns over blatant injustices and official abuses of power, and *environmental activists*, who express objections to the enormous damages to the environment caused by China-financed factories in Vietnam.

**Clause 26:** Require Internet providers and social network companies to supply personal information of activists upon request by Vietnam's security forces. This troubling blanket requirement threatens the personal security and confidential

information of *Vietnamese citizens*, who disagree with official polities and/or protest against social injustice and share personal views via their social network accounts.

**The Vietnamese Abroad PEN Centre calls upon the Vietnamese government to refuse to enforce the new Cyber Security Law and then seek steps to rescind the said law.**

Furthermore, **the Vietnamese Abroad PEN Centre urges the Vietnamese government to order the security forces and secret service refrain from harassing and/or arresting Vietnamese citizens**, who peacefully protest the new *Cyber Security Law* and exercise their constitutionally guaranteed freedom of expression to raise concerns over violations of democratic rights and social injustices as well as to object to China's illegal occupation and militarization of Vietnam's islands and territories.

**Vietnamese Abroad PEN Centre**

**Lloyd DUONG  
President**

---

**USA: 2010 Brooks Lane, Oviedo, FL 32765**

The **Vietnamese Abroad PEN Centre** is an organization of writers, poets and literary composers, *etc.*, from across the globe and has been **an official member Centre of PEN International** since 1979. The Vietnamese Abroad PEN Centre has many members in Canada and the United States of America. In August 2016 the Vietnamese Abroad PEN Centre held a successful summer camp for members in Houston. Mayor S. Turner issued a Proclamation declaring August 19-20/8/2016 as the Vietnamese Abroad PEN Centre Days in Houston, Texas. In December 2017 the Vietnamese Abroad PEN Centre's 11th Congress received many congratulatory notations, among which is the official communiqué from the government of Ontario authored by Premier K. Wynne.

---