Letter of Protest
Condemning Human Right Violations in Vietnam
in light of the Recent Trial of Peaceful Activists on April 5, 2018

The Vietnamese Abroad PEN Centre protests the severe sentences handed down by the Vietnamese court against peaceful activists including writers and reporters on April 5, 2018:

Nguyễn Văn Đài, _attorney and blogger_, received 15 years imprisonment and 5 years probation.

Trương Minh Đức, _reporter and blogger_, received 12 years imprisonment and 3 years probation.

Nguyễn Trung Tôn, _minister and blogger_, received 12 years imprisonment and 3 years probation.

Nguyễn Bác Truyện, _blogger_, received 11 years imprisonment and 3 years probation.

Lê Thu Hà, _teacher and blogger_, received 9 years imprisonment and 2 years probation.

Phạm Văn Trỗi, _writer_, received 7 years imprisonment and 1 years probation.

The Vietnamese Abroad PEN Centre calls for the **unconditional and immediate release** of the above-named activists, who simply exercised their constitutional rights peacefully including the _freedom of association, freedom of thought and freedom of speech_ as guaranteed by Vietnam’s current Constitution as well as the _Universal Declaration of Human Rights_ and the _International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights_ to which the Vietnamese government agreed to adhere.

**Vietnamese Abroad PEN Centre**

Lloyd DUONG
President

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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.