



19 November 2018

Mr Hoi Trinh
Found and Executive Director of VOICE Australia and the US

Email: hoitrinh@gmail.com

Dear Mr Trinh

Human Rights issues in Vietnam

I write in regard to your appearance before the Human Rights Sub-Committee on 19 June 2018. At that briefing you presented the Sub-Committee with a number of recommendations aimed at improving human rights in Vietnam.

The Sub-Committee wrote to the Foreign Minister to raise your concerns and recommendations and also to lend its support to the Australian Government calling for the release of the prisoners of conscience you had referred to.

On 22 August 2018 the then Foreign Minister, the Hon Julie Bishop MP responded and I write to advise you of this response.

The Foreign Minister noted that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) had met with representatives from Voice Australia on 18 June 2018 and that Voice Australia also participated in Civil Society Consultation with DFAT on 17 July 2018 in preparation for the Australia Vietnam Human Rights Dialogues.

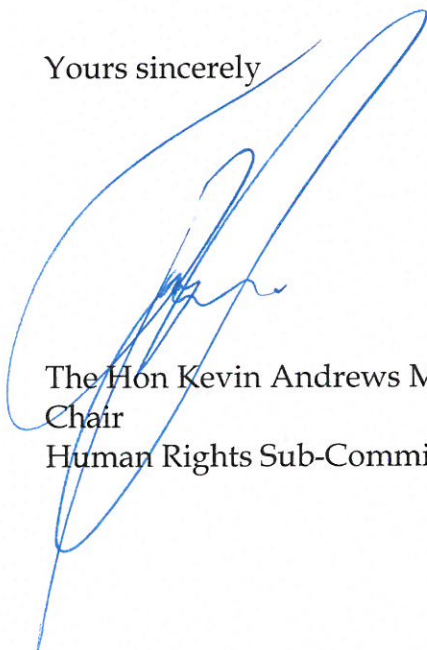
The Foreign Minister assured the Sub-Committee that concerns regarding human rights including harassment and detention of human rights activists and prisoners of conscience, are regularly raised with the Vietnamese Government and that DFAT was already aware of the priority prisoner cases referred to by you in your briefing with the Sub-Committee, as well as other cases of human rights defenders in Vietnam.

The Foreign Minister had requested that these cases be raised at this year's Human Rights Dialogue where rule of law, freedom of expression and assembly, the impact

of the cyber security law and the important role of civil society organisation were to be discussed. The Foreign Minister also stated that Australia would raise concerns about the human rights situation during Vietnam's next Periodic Review in January 2019.

I would like to thank you for bringing these matters to the attention of the Human Rights Sub-Committee. Please contact the Secretariat on 02 6277 4306 if you have any questions or require further information.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Kevin Andrews MP
Chair
Human Rights Sub-Committee

