

# SCHOLARS AT RISK

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N E T W O R K

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Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Via email to: [banbientap@mofa.gov.vn](mailto:banbientap@mofa.gov.vn) (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

September 3, 2010

## Re: Professor Pham Minh Hoang

Your Excellency:

I write on behalf of the Scholars at Risk Network with regard to Professor Pham Minh Hoang, a lecturer of mathematics at Ho Chi Minh City Polytechnic Institute. We respectfully urge you to disclose Professor Hoang's current location, examine the circumstances of his detention and, pending his release, ensure his access to medical care, family and legal counsel.

Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of over 230 universities and colleges in 29 countries dedicated to promoting academic freedom and its constituent freedoms of thought, opinion, expression, association and travel. In cases like Professor Hoang's involving alleged infringement of these freedoms, Scholars at Risk investigates hoping to clarify and resolve matters favorably.

Professor Hoang is a lecturer of mathematics at Ho Chi Minh City Polytechnic Institute. Scholars at Risk has learned that Professor Hoang was arrested on August 13, 2010 on charges of participating in a banned opposition political group, the Viet Tan. According to media reports, the arrest followed the interrogation two days earlier of Professor Hoang and his wife at a police station in Ho Chi Minh City, where they were questioned on their alleged affiliations with the Viet Tan, allegations Professor Hoang's wife denies. Scholars at Risk understands that Professor Hoang was taken to an undisclosed location where he has been since held without access to family or his lawyer.

Professor Hoang's arrest raises concerns of retaliation against a scholar for the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights of free expression and association, which are guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Vietnam is party.

We therefore join with national and international academic associations, human rights organizations and individual scholars in respectfully urging you to examine the circumstances of

Professor Hoang's detention and disclose his location. We respectfully urge you to intervene to ensure his well-being including ensuring immediate and regular access to legal counsel of his choosing, to family and to any necessary medical treatment. Given the public reports surrounding Professor Hoang's detention, we further urge you to explain publicly the reasons for his detention or absent this, to arrange for his earliest release.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this important matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Quinn  
Executive Director, Scholars at Risk

Cc:

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