

TO:

UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION

Mr. Malick Sow (Senegal)

Ms. Shaheen Ali (Pakistan)

Mr. Vladimir Tochilovsky (Ukraine)

Mr. Roberto Garretón (Chile)

Mr. Mads Andenas (Norway)

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

in the matter of
Le Quoc Quan
(the “Petitioner”)

v.

Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

31 October 2013

Update concerning the Petition filed on behalf of Mr Le Quoc Quan on 13 March 2013

Submitted by:

Media Legal Defence Initiative

The Grayston Centre

28 Charles Square

London N1 6HT

United Kingdom

On behalf of:

Lawyers’ Rights Watch Canada

Lawyers for Lawyers

Access Now

Media Defence – Southeast Asia

Electronic Frontier Foundation

Reporters Without Borders

Frontline Defenders

English PEN

Avocats Sans Frontières Network

Index on Censorship

Article 19

To the UN Working Group:

Further to our response of 30 August 2013 to the Government of Viet Nam's comments, we are providing the Working Group with an update on the ongoing detention of Mr Le Quoc Quan. This update provides information on the conviction and sentencing of Mr Quan and the requests for visits by his family. We hope that this update will be of use to the Working Group in its consideration of Mr Quan's Petition which was filed on 13 March 2013

On 2 October 2013, Mr Quan was convicted of evading corporate income tax.¹ He was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment and a fine of 1.2 billion dong (approximately USD 59,000). His trial began and ended on 2 October 2013.² Mr Quan has appealed his conviction.

On 8 October 2013, Mr Quan was visited by his wife, mother, brother and two younger sisters. It was the first time he had seen members of his family other than his wife (whom he spoke with at his trial) since his arrest in December 2012.³ The visitors were separated from Mr Quan by a glass screen.⁴ His brother stated that authorities told Mr Quan's family that they will now be allowed regular monthly visits.⁵

Please let us know if any additional information would be helpful for the Working Group in its consideration of Mr Quan's Petition.

On behalf of Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Lawyers for Lawyers, Access Now, Media Defence – Southeast Asia, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Reporters Without Borders, Frontline Defenders, English PEN, Avocats Sans Frontières Network, Index on Censorship and Article 19,

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¹ BBC, 'Vietnam dissident Le Quoc Quan jailed over tax evasion' (2 October 2013) available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-24361701> (last accessed 16 October 2013).

² *Id*; Radio Free Asia, 'Vietnamese Dissident Meets Family Members for First Time Since Arrest' (8 October 2013) available at <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/le-quoc-quan-10082013143855.html> (last accessed 16 October 2013) ("Radio Free Asia").

³ *Id*. See also section IV, subsection B.5 of the Petition and page 2 to 3 of the Response to the Government of Viet Nam's Comments and Annexes 1A, 1B and 2 thereto.

⁴ Radio Free Asia; PEN International, 'News: VIET NAM: Prominent blogger and human rights lawyer sentenced to 30 months in prison' (10 October 2013) available at <http://www.pen-international.org/newsitems/viet-nam-prominent-blogger-and-human-rights-lawyer-sentenced-to-30-months-in-prison/> (last accessed 16 October 2013).

⁵ Radio Free Asia.