

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DEMONSTRATION TO SUPPORT
DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN VIETNAM**

Washington D.C, USA – On February 19th, 2010, with the backing of more than 75 other Vietnamese communities, organizations, and individuals nationwide and worldwide, The Vietnamese Community of Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia will have a demonstration to support Democracy Movement and Freedom of Religion in Vietnam in front of the Vietnam Embassy at 1233 20th St, NW, Washington D.C, 20036, USA, starting at 11:00am.

The demonstration is to protest the recent violent suppression of religious freedom by the Vietnamese Communist Government at the Dong Chiem Parish, the Linh Pho pagoda, following other brutal assaults and evictions of the followers at Tam Toa Parish and Bat Nha Monastery. At the same time, within the month of January, the Vietnamese Communist Government had also issued a series of prison sentences of 3 to 16 years to 14 human rights activists for peacefully exercising their freedom of expression and freedom of associations.

All of the above actions of the Vietnamese Communist Government strongly violated what they have solemnly committed to honor when they joined the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, ASEAN, the European Union, and in their relationship with the United States. Worst of all, these actions were against the Vietnamese Constitution, betrayed the trust of 86 millions Vietnamese people inside the country and more than 3 million Vietnamese Overseas.

The demonstration in front of the Vietnam Embassy in Washington D.C by Vietnamese Americans nationwide aims to establish a direct dialogue with the current Vietnamese Communist Party and the United States State Department to demand the following:

- 1/ The Vietnamese Communist Party to immediately release all dissidents unconditionally.
- 2/ The Vietnamese Communist Party to respect what the Vietnamese Government has signed and committed to honor with the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, ASEAN, the European Union, the United States, and all other countries in the world.
- 3/ The Vietnamese Communist Party and the Vietnamese Communist Government to immediately honor the United Nation Human Rights Declaration, and to illustrate that with actions to be supervised by an International Human Rights Oversight Committee with offices in Vietnam.

We respectfully submit these requests to the United Nations, the United States State Department, the World Trade Organization, ASEAN, the European Union, and all other nations in relationship with the United States as we are demanding the Vietnamese Communist Government to respond to these above issues on February 19th, 2010 in front of their Embassy in Washington D.C.

We strongly support all human rights activists in Vietnam and call for all Vietnamese nationwide and worldwide to unite behind the democracy movement for Vietnam in solidarity.

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