

# URGENT ACTION

## VIETNAMESE BLOGGER "LOSES ARM" IN PRISON

**Imprisoned blogger Nguyen Hoang Hai, known as Dieu Cay, has "lost his arm," according to a security official at the prison investigation office. No further information has been given and requests to meet with Hai continue to be denied. He has not been seen by his family or lawyer since October 2010.**

Prisoner of conscience Nguyen Hoang Hai completed a two-and-a-half-year prison sentence on politically motivated charges of tax fraud in October 2010. Instead of releasing him, the authorities told his family that he was being held for investigation for "conducting propaganda" against the state. The authorities have rejected repeated requests from his family and lawyer to visit him and provide food and medicines.

On 5 July, his wife again went to the prison where he was last detained to try to see him, and to deliver food for him. She spoke with a security official, who told her that Nguyen Hoang Hai had "lost his arm," but provided no further information, and gave no answer to her request to meet with her husband.

Nguyen Hoang Hai is the co-founder of the independent Free Vietnamese Journalists' Club, formed in 2007; has written articles critical of China's foreign policies with regard to Vietnam; and taken part in peaceful protests. He had publicly criticized government policies before his arrest in April 2008 and spoke out for human rights in Vietnam in his blogs. Amnesty International considers him a prisoner of conscience, detained for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression.

Prison conditions in Vietnam are generally harsh. With poor food and limited health care, prisoners are reliant on additional supplies from their families. In 2009 Nguyen Hoang Hai was held incommunicado for several months after being transferred to a prison further from his home in Ho Chi Minh City, making it difficult for his family to visit him. Political prisoners held incommunicado are particularly vulnerable to torture and ill-treatment.

### **Please write immediately in English or your own language:**

- Demanding that the authorities urgently provide information on the whereabouts and physical wellbeing of Nguyen Hoang Hai, especially details of how he "lost an arm," as an official told his wife on 5 July;
- Demanding that they release Nguyen Hoang Hai immediately and unconditionally;
- Urging them to give him access to his family, a lawyer of his choice and any medical attention he may require.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 7 SEPTEMBER 2011 TO:**

#### **Minister of Public Security**

Le Hong Anh  
Ministry of Public Security  
44 Yet Kieu Street  
Ha Noi, Vietnam

**Fax: 011 844 3942 0223**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

#### **Minister of Foreign Affairs**

Pham Gia Khiem  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
1 Ton That Dam Street  
Ba Dinh district, Ha Noi  
Vietnam

**Fax: 011 844 3823 1872**

**Email: [bc.mfa@mofa.gov.vn](mailto:bc.mfa@mofa.gov.vn)**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

### **Also send copies to:**

Ambassador Le Cong Phung, Embassy of Vietnam  
1233 20th St NW #400, Washington DC 20036

**Fax: 1 202 861 0917 | Email: [info@vietnamembassy.us](mailto:info@vietnamembassy.us) OR [consular@vietnamembassy.us](mailto:consular@vietnamembassy.us)**

Check with AIUSA Urgent Action office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Freedom of expression, association and assembly are severely restricted in Vietnam. The authorities routinely harass and imprison peaceful activists who criticize government policies and advocate greater freedoms, in order to silence them. Dozens of prisoners of conscience, including bloggers, lawyers, writers, labor activists, business people, and supporters of opposition groups, are serving long prison terms under legislation which criminalizes peaceful dissent.

**Name:** Nguyen Hoang Hai, also known as Dieu Cay (m) - *Journalist*

**Issue(s):** Health Concern / Prisoner of Conscience

**Further information on UA132/11 (10 May 2011)**

**Issue Date:** 27 July 2011

**Country:** Vietnam