

Blogger Pham Doan Trang is an honorary member of PEN, Germany

My Hang
BBC News Vietnamese

May 19, 2021



PHAM DOAN TRANG

| Activist Pham Doan Trang and her mother

PEN in Germany has just recognized dissident blogger Pham Doan Trang as an honorary member of this organization.

Mr. Ralf Nestmeyer, Vice Chairman and Representative of PEN's 'Captive Writers' Committee in Germany, confirmed the above information to BBC News Vietnamese on May 19.

"We make journalist Pham Doan Trang an honorary member because she is a strong supporter of freedom of expression in Vietnam and has been arrested for it. We demand the immediate release of honorary member Pham Doan Trang and assure her of our unending solidarity," Mr Ralf Nestmeyer told the BBC.

Pham Doan Trang's legal representative in Australia, Ms. Hoa Nguyen, also verified this information with BBC News Vietnamese on May 19.

Ms. Hoa Nguyen says:

"This is good news and encouragement for Trang and her family and friends in the fight against dictatorship and in defense of vulnerable people."

What does the PEN statement say?

[PEN's website](#) on May 18 posted a statement in German that reads:

"Vietnam: Pham Doan Trang becomes an honorary member of PEN Germany.

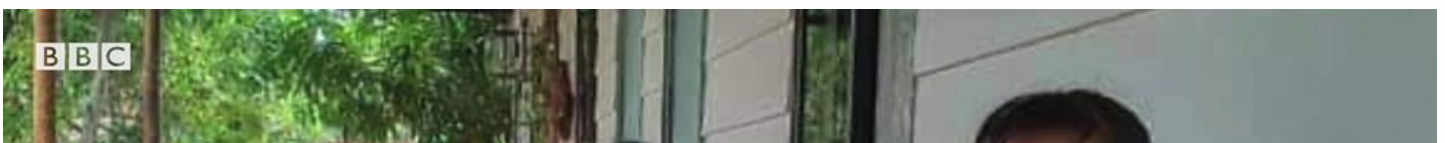
The German PEN Center named independent journalist Pham Doan Trang an honorary member and demanded her immediate release.

She is one of the most famous critics of the Vietnamese government and was arrested on October 6, 2020 at her apartment in Ho Chi Minh City. She faces 20 years in prison on charges of conducting propaganda against the state."

Ralf Nestmeyer, Vice Chairman and Representative of PEN's 'Captive Writers' Committee said in a statement:

"Vietnam is one of the countries in the world that specifically restricts freedom of speech. The Communist Party terrorizes media workers in such a serious way that Trang has no contact with her family and friends. her attorney."

PEN's statement reiterates Pham Doan Trang's activities to contribute to the education of the people and to support democracy, such as founding the online magazine Luat Khoa and being the editor of TheVietnamese, two channels for disseminating legal knowledge. France.





| "Dong Tam may be one of the direct reasons for Doan Trang's arrest"

The statement also mentions Dong Tam Newspaper, which Ms. Trang is the editor of and published a month before her arrest.

"Because of her job, Trang has been repeatedly targeted by Vietnamese authorities. In August 2018, she was detained by the police and hospitalized. Now, she is in danger of being reversed again. in prison. In 2014, she received the Feuchtwanger Fellowship of Villa Aurora in Los Angeles. In 2019, she received the Press Freedom Award from Reporters Without Borders," the statement read.

On its website, PEN in Germany says that with its headquarters in Darmstadt, it is one of more than 150 writers' associations worldwide that are united in PEN International. This association was originally founded in England in 1921 to advocate free speech and was seen as the voice of persecuted writers.

'Special meaning'

From Australia, Ms. Hoa Nguyen told the BBC:

"The beautiful act of Van pen Duc organization has a special meaning. Accepting Pham Doan Trang as their member while she was imprisoned by the Vietnamese communist government is a statement to defend and support her. It also speaks to the attitude of this organization, and tells the Vietnamese authorities what foreign organizations and the international community think about Pham Doan Trang's case."

According to Ms. Hoa Nguyen, on May 19, more than 7 months after being arrested, Pham Doan Trang still had not been able to meet her relatives and had not been in contact with a lawyer.

A month ago, Ms. Bui Thi Thien Can, Pham Doan Trang's mother, made an application to the Director of the Hanoi People's Procuracy and the Head of the Hanoi City Investigation Agency, asking to meet her son.

"But Ms. Can's application has so far received no response," Ms. Hoa Nguyen told the BBC.

CỘNG HÒA XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM

ĐỘC LẬP – TỰ DO – HẠNH PHÚC

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ĐƠN ĐỀ NGHỊ ĐƯỢC THĂM GẶP CON

Kính gửi: - VIỆN TRƯỞNG VIỆN KIỂM SÁT NHÂN DÂN THÀNH PHỐ HÀ NỘI
- THỦ TRƯỞNG CƠ QUAN AN NINH ĐIỀU TRA – CÔNG AN THÀNH PHỐ HÀ NỘI

Tôi tên là: BÙI THỊ THIỆN CĂN

Sinh năm: 1941

Thường trú tại: [Address], Thành phố Hà nội.

Là mẹ đẻ của cô PHẠM THỊ ĐOAN TRANG, người bị Cơ quan An ninh Điều tra - Công an thành phố Hà nội khởi tố hình sự theo quy định tại điều 88 Bộ Luật Hình sự năm 1999 và điều 117 Bộ luật hình sự năm 2015. Con gái tôi bị bắt giữ vào ngày 07/10/2020 tại Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh sau đó di lý ra Thành phố Hà nội.

Với đơn này, tôi trân trọng đề nghị quý Ông sự việc như sau:

Nguyên, từ thời điểm con gái tôi bị bắt giữ ngày 07/10/2020 cho đến nay (tháng 04/2021) đã là 06 tháng. Thế nhưng, tôi, với tư cách là mẹ đẻ đã không hề được thăm gặp con hoặc được thông tin gì về sức khỏe của con.

Tình cảnh này khiến tôi hết sức lo lắng. Vì lẽ, ngay vào thời điểm bắt giữ, tôi biết rõ sức khỏe của con gái tôi không tốt, không thể ngồi xổm hoặc duỗi chân bình thường được.

Thế nên, tôi trân trọng đề nghị quý Ông xem xét cho tôi được thăm gặp con gái tôi tại trại giam. Điều này giúp động viên tinh thần cho tôi, một bà mẹ già đã hơn 80 tuổi và cho cả ĐOAN TRANG, là người đang bị giam giữ.

Tôi tin rằng đề nghị của mình là chính đáng, mong quý Ông sớm xem xét, chấp thuận.

Trân trọng.

Thành phố Hà nội, ngày 7 tháng 4 năm 2021

Người đề nghị



BÙI THỊ THIỆN CĂN

| Application letter to visit the child of blogger Pham Doan Trang's mother

Who is Pham Doan Trang?

Pham Doan Trang is a famous dissident journalist and blogger. She wrote many famous books such as Popular Politics, Prison Farming Manual, Non-Violent Resistance.

Ms. Trang is the co-founder of the blog Luat Khoa Magazine, which provides information on legal issues to help Vietnamese people protect their rights.

Ms. Trang received the Homo Homini Award 2018 from the Czech-based human rights organization People In Need.

In September 2019, Pham Doan Trang was awarded the Press Freedom Award by Reporters Without Borders, "Influence" category.



PHAM DOAN TRANG

| Dissident journalist Pham Doan Trang (centre) in a meeting with international politicians

In 2019, when Ms. Trang received the award from Reporters Without Borders, the People's Public Security newspaper wrote:

"Reporters Without Borders again played the trick of awarding the Freedom of the Press Award, in the 'Influence' category, to Pham Doan Trang, who used to take advantage of democracy and human rights issues to slander and transgressively sculpt the situation in Vietnam."

Pham Doan Trang was arrested on October 6, 2020 at her home in Ho Chi Minh City on charges of conducting propaganda against the state. Trang faces the heaviest prison sentence of 20 years.



PHAM DOAN TRANG

Journalist and social activist Pham Doan Trang is also the spokesman for the Freedom Publishing House and publications published by the Tu Publishing House.

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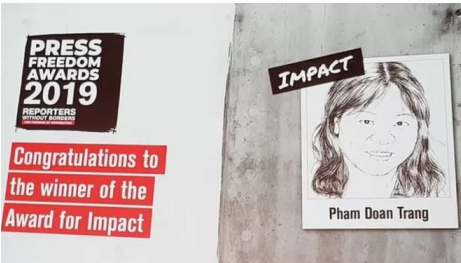
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