## On the Conviction of Vietnamese Author and Journalist Pham Doan Trang

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

**NED PRICE, DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON** 

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The United States condemns the conviction and sentencing to 9 years imprisonment of noted Vietnamese author and journalist Pham Doan Trang, who did nothing more than peacefully express her opinions. We note as well the recent opinion of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which found Trang's detention to be arbitrary and in contravention of Vietnam's international human rights commitments and obligations. The United States calls on the Vietnamese government to release Trang, who has been recognized internationally for her work to advance human rights and good governance in Vietnam, and to allow all individuals in Vietnam to express their views freely and without fear of retaliation. We also urge the government to ensure its laws and actions are consistent with the human rights provisions of Vietnam's Constitution and Vietnam's international obligations and commitments.