

Pham Doan Trang received British and Canadian awards despite being imprisoned by Vietnam

February 11, 2022



PHAM DOAN TRANG

| Journalist and activist Pham Doan Trang

Canada and the UK awarded the Media Freedom 2022 of the two countries to Vietnamese journalist currently in prison, Ms. Pham Doan Trang.

The announcement was made by Canadian Minister Melanie Joly and British Secretary of State Lord Ahmad, who is also the representative of the British Prime Minister, at the Press Freedom Conference in Tallinn, Estonia on the afternoon of February 10, 2022. British Foreign Office.

9-year prison sentence for journalist Pham Doan Trang

Supporters wrote poems and letters to Pham Doan Trang before the trial

International Publishers Association: 'Respect Doan Trang, condemn the Vietnamese government'

The British Minister in charge of South Asia and the Commonwealth, and the British Prime Minister's special envoy, named Ms. Pham Doan Trang:

"Democracy is under attack around the world, and journalists who shine in those dark corners are paying a heavy price.

The truth is always worth pursuing and that is why the UK and Canada established the Media Freedom Awards. This award recognizes journalists, individuals and organizations who work tirelessly to promote and protect media freedom.

I'm pleased to announce that this year's Media Freedom Award winner is Pham Doan Trang. I congratulate Pham Doan Trang as an award-winning independent journalist and Vietnamese human rights defender."

The British Foreign Office website wrote: "Mrs. Trang is known for her books on democracy and articles written on civil society and dissidents in Vietnam. As a rights

advocate. people and the rule of law, Ms. Trang has written about important environmental issues. Reporters Without Borders awarded Ms. Trang the 2019 Press Freedom Prize in recognition of this merit."

In December 2021, Ms. Trang was sentenced to 9 years in prison for "Propaganda against the State". She spent 434 days in prison before being sentenced.

Pham Doan Trang: 'I have never regretted going back to Vietnam'

Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada said:

"Journalists play an essential role in any democracy by illuminating important issues of our time. On behalf of all Canadians, I would like to thank you for your courage. and Ms. Trang's determination to hold those in power accountable. Canada will continue to fight for media freedom around the world."

Previously, on January 19, 2022, in Geneva, Switzerland, the organizers of the Martin Ennals human rights award also named Ms. Pham Doan Trang, as one of the three winners of the 2022 Martin Ennals Prize, also known as ""Nobel Prize for Human Rights". The organizers describe Ms. Trang as "a leading journalist, editor and democracy activist in Vietnam, where the Communist Party leaves little room for opposition voices to flourish". .

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

She also received Reporters Without Borders' 2019 Press Freedom Award in the "Influence" category.



Pham Doan Trang won the Press Freedom Award, Influence category, of Reporters Without Borders, 2019

Who is Pham Doan Trang ?

Journalist Doan Trang, 43 years old this year, residing in Cat Linh ward, Dong Da district, Hanoi; graduated from Hanoi-Amsterdam School and Hanoi Foreign Trade University and worked as a reporter for Vnexpress Electronic Newspaper, an employee of HAKI Advertising Company, VTC Digital Television Company, a contributor to Vietnamnet Newspaper and a Newspaper Reporter. Law of Ho Chi Minh City.

After a period of writing newspapers, Ms. Trang gradually became a famous dissident blogger. She wrote many

famous books such as Popular Politics, Prison Farming Manual, Non-Violent Resistance.

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

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

Ms. Pham Doan Trang won the Press Freedom Award 2019

The Martin Ennals Award 2022 is presented to Ms. Pham Doan Trang

She was arrested on October 6, 2020 at her home in Ho Chi Minh City on charges of conducting propaganda against the state.

On the evening of December 14, 2021, after a day of trial and deliberation, the People's Court of Hanoi sentenced Ms. Pham Thi Doan Trang (43 years old) to 9 years in prison for propagandizing against the State of the

Socialist Republic of Vietnam. provided for in Article 88 of the Penal Code 1999.



PHAM DOAN TRANG

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

After the trial, Phil Robertson, Deputy Asia Director, Human Rights Watch, issued a statement saying:

"It is infuriating that Pham Doan Trang was sentenced to 9 years in prison just for expressing his views and defending his beliefs."

"The imprisoning of a reformer dedicated to promoting human rights, good governance and justice is a stinging indictment."

Previously, 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. portray the situation in Vietnam.