

## VIETNAM

# Pham Doan Trang will be honored by the First Lady of the United States as "International Women of Courage 2022"

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VOA Vietnamese

Independent journalist Pham Doan Trang, who is being held by the Vietnamese government, will be honored by Jill Biden, the First Lady of the United States, in honor of International Women of Courage 2022, along with 11 other women around the world.

The online award ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. Washington time on March 14, chaired by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, according to the US State Department's announcement.

Journalist Pham Doan Trang, currently serving a nine-year prison term for "Propaganda against the State", will be named by First Lady Jill Biden, recognizing her outstanding "courageous achievement".

Pham Doan Trang is an internationally recognized author, blogger, journalist and human rights defender who, through her writings and interviews, uses well-researched legal arguments. to advocate for human rights, the rule of law, and to bring every voice into political spaces in Vietnam," the State Department said in a statement.

Pham Doan Trang is an author and co-founder of many community service organizations that focus on expanding political participation and promoting human rights, good governance, and access to justice. As a journalist, she boldly reported on social issues that the Vietnamese press had never mentioned before, according to the US State Department.

The US State Department notes that Ms. Trang has received numerous international awards for her work. She was arrested on October 6, 2020 and sentenced to nine years in prison on December 14, 2021, for “Propaganda against the state”, related to her writings and expressing opinions in a manner mild.

This year's honorees along with Pham Doan Trang come from Bangladesh, Brazil, Burma, Colombia, Iraq, Liberia, Libya, Moldova, Nepal, Romania, and South Africa.

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