

## VIETNAM

# Pham Doan Trang wins RSF's 2019 Press Freedom Award

September 12, 2019

VOA Vietnamese

On the evening of September 12, 2019 in Berlin, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) officially awarded the Press Freedom award in the category of Influence to independent journalist and blogger Pham Doan Trang of Vietnam.

Blogger Pham Doan Trang, the author of several political books banned from publication in the country, told VOA that she decided not to go to Berlin to attend the RSF award ceremony on September 12 because she knew that the Vietnamese government could cause harm. prevented her from leaving the country, even though the German Embassy in Hanoi intervened.

Female blogger Pham Doan Trang says:

“I think if I want to go, the government can give it away, but certainly before I go, I have to sit down and negotiate, and I have to accept some conditions set by the government, and if I don't accept it, then I don't want to go. can not go. Since I didn't want to talk to them, I decided not to go.

“As far as I know, the German Ambassador intervened with the Vietnamese government to return the right to carry passports as well as ensure the freedom of entry and exit of some Vietnamese activists including myself.

“The German side is very enthusiastic, but in my experience, we have to negotiate with the Vietnamese police anyway such as: not campaigning, not propagandizing, not slandering the country...otherwise they will start a campaign. element; they'll also think they'll have a hard time deciding whether or not I'll go home, so it's best for me to decide not to go.”

**// Either way, they have to negotiate with the Vietnamese police, such as: not campaigning, not propagating, not slandering the country... otherwise they will prosecute...**

Pham Doan Trang

On August 29, activist Pham Doan Trang, co-founder of the online website *Law Faculty Magazine*, was nominated by RSF for the Freedom of the Press Award in the Influence category.

Daniel Bastard, RSF Asia-Pacific Head, commented to VOA: “Pham Doan Trang is a true heroine - as we know the state of press freedom in Vietnam is the politicians. Newspapers and bloggers who do not follow the line of the Communist Party face extremely serious consequences.”

A representative of RSF said that the Vietnamese government was determined to stifle her voice through intimidation by the police, simply because she exposed injustices and spoke out to ensure civil and political rights.

**// Despite constant harassment and repression since 2016 until now, Ms. Doan Trang is determined to play an important role in helping people access independent information and apply the rule of law - as the Vietnamese Constitution stipulates - to combat the authoritarian acts of the government.**

Mr. Daniel Bastard, RSF.

Mr. Bastard said that despite constant harassment and repression from 2016 until now, Ms. Doan Trang is determined to play an important role in helping people access independent information and apply the rule of law. respect the law - as the Vietnamese Constitution stipulates - to combat the arbitrary acts of the government.

Mr. Bastard added: “We invited her to participate in the award ceremony in Berlin, but the Vietnamese government did not allow her to go abroad – that is a shame.”

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**SEE MORE:**

Pham Doan Trang was nominated for the  
2019 RSF Press Freedom Award

Ms. Doan Trang commented on the reason why she was nominated by RSF for the Influence category :

“I think maybe they know that in the last 2-3 years I have published a lot of books, besides my editorial work at *Law Faculty of Journalism* . Every year I publish 2-3 books and have such a large readership that I am surprised myself. Maybe they use that to award prizes.

“I know that the value that RSF pursues when considering this award is that they want journalists around the world, especially journalists who are victims of persecution, harassment, abuse, government abuse. right to know that these journalists are not alone in their fight.

“RSF has really helped people in my situation feel that they are not alone.”

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Blogger Pham Doan Trang's books recently released by Freedom Publishing House include Popular *Politics*, *Nonviolent Resistance*, *Prison Raising Manual*, *Politics of A Police State* , etc.

On the evening of September 12, present in Berlin, journalist Trinh Huu Long announced on Facebook:

“For many reasons, journalist Doan Trang did not go to Germany to attend this award ceremony. Journalist Trinh Huu Long, Editor-in-Chief of *Law Khoa* , will attend the event on behalf of journalist Doan Trang.”

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