

VIETNAM

Vietnam: The US awarded Pham Doan Trang an award for 'lack of objectivity'

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VOA Vietnamese

Responding to the event that the US awarded the "International Women of Courage" (IWOC) award to journalist Pham Doan Trang, the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam said that the US action was unobjective and not beneficial to the public's interests. development of relations between the two countries.

“Vietnam considers that the US Department of State awarding an award to Pham Thi Doan Trang, an individual who violated Vietnamese law, has been put on trial and is serving a prison sentence, is an unbiased act. , is not suitable and not conducive to the development of relations between the two countries," the spokeswoman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, Le Thi Thu Hang, said at a press conference on the afternoon of March 17.

Earlier, on March 14, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken hosted the awarding ceremony of the "International Women of Courage" award to independent journalist Pham Doan Trang in Vietnam and 11 other women around the world. The award aims to demonstrate their exceptional courage, strength and leadership in advocating for peace, justice, human rights... despite the danger of their lives.

In a video posted on the website of the US Embassy in Hanoi on the day of the award ceremony, US Ambassador to Vietnam Marc Knapper described Pham Doan Trang as someone who "fearlessly pursues a global society". greater representation and space for freedom of expression in Vietnam”.

“We applaud you, Pham Doan Trang, for your work as a human rights activist. Your bravery continues to inspire people in Vietnam and around the world,” said the US diplomat, after he affirmed that “the United States values our comprehensive partnership with Vietnam.” Male. We work to help promote a strong, prosperous and independent Vietnam.”

Journalist Pham Doan Trang is currently serving a 9-year prison sentence for "conducting propaganda against the state", related to her articles and peacefully expressing opinions, the US State Department announced on 8 /3 said. She was arrested on October 6, 2020 and sentenced on December 14 last year.

Pham Doan Trang is the third woman in Vietnam to be awarded the International Women of Courage Award by the United States. Before that, blogger Mother Mushroom (Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh) was awarded this award in 2017, and Blogger Ta Phong Tan was awarded in 2013. All three were sentenced to many years in prison by the Vietnamese government for the charge of "Propaganda against the State”, according to Article 88 of the 1999 Penal Code.

Responding at a press conference on March 17, spokeswoman Le Thi Thu Hang repeated her affirmation many times that "Vietnam's consistent policy is to always protect and promote the basic rights of the people, including: women's rights".

Ms. Hang said that Vietnam's efforts and achievements in improving human rights in recent years "have been recognized and appreciated by the international community".

According to the International Human Rights Watch (HRW), as of December 2021, at least 146 people have been jailed by Vietnam for exercising their basic rights, including bloggers and bloggers. Famous human rights activists such as Tran Huynh Duy Thuc, Pham Chi Dung, Nguyen Tuong Thuy, mother and daughter Can Thi Theu, Truong Minh Duc, Pham Van Troi...

The US State Department's human rights report released last year also said that Vietnam has "major human rights problems", including: the illegal or arbitrary deprivation of life by the government; torture by government employees; Arbitrary arrest and detention of people by the authorities; political prisoners; or major issues of judicial independence; arbitrary or unlawful interference with private life; severely restrict freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and freedom of the Internet, including arbitrary arrest and prosecution of government critics, censorship, closure of websites, legislation on defamation criminal nature; substantially interfere with the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association...
