March 11, 2014

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_
US Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to urge your support for S. 1649, Vietnam Human Rights Act, and to request a meeting with you as part of a large delegation of Californians coming to the National Capital this March 26 and 27. We expect to be joined by a thousand Vietnamese Americans hailing from across the country for this third annual Vietnam Advocacy Day.

Our purpose is to raise concern about the political crackdown that has been going on in Vietnam since 2007. With Burma initiating important reforms, Vietnam now stands out as the worst violator of human rights and worst enemy of democracy in Southeast Asia. At the Universal Periodic Review of Vietnam on February 5, the U.S. mission to the United Nations expressed severe concern over aggravating human rights abuses:

*“Vietnam still harasses and detains those who exercise universal rights and freedoms, such as the freedom of expression and association.  Vietnam also restricts religious freedom and harassment of unregistered churches continues. We are concerned with restrictions on the formation of independent trade unions, the use of child and forced labor, and the government’s use of compulsory labor.”*
I would like to ask that you co-sponsor Vietnam Human Rights Act, call for the  immediate release of all prisoners of conscience, and ensure that human rights, particularly labor rights, be part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations with Vietnam. It is important to send a clear and strong message to the Vietnamese government that expanded trade and partnership with the United States must be pre-conditioned on significant improvements in human rights starting with the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience.

I look forward to being granted a meeting with you in Washington DC in late March. A representative of Boat People SOS (BPSOS) will contact your scheduler to follow up on this request.

Sincerely,

[Name]
[Address]

March 11, 2014

The Honorable \_\_\_\_
US House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman \_\_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to request a meeting with you as part of a large delegation of Californians coming to the National Capital on March 26 and 27. We expect to be joined by a thousand Vietnamese Americans hailing from across the country for this third annual Vietnam Advocacy Day.

Our purpose is to raise our concern about the political crackdown that has been going on in Vietnam since 2007. With Burma initiating important reforms, Vietnam now stands out as the worst violator of human rights and worst enemy of democracy in Southeast Asia. At the Universal Periodic Review of Vietnam on February 5, the U.S. mission to the United Nations expressed severe concern over aggravating human rights abuses:

*“Vietnam still harasses and detains those who exercise universal rights and freedoms, such as the freedom of expression and association.  Vietnam also restricts religious freedom and harassment of unregistered churches continues. We are concerned with restrictions on the formation of independent trade unions, the use of child and forced labor, and the government’s use of compulsory labor.”*
I thank you for having voted for Vietnam Human Rights Act last August and am calling on you to ensure the immediate release of all Vietnamese prisoners of conscience and the inclusion of human rights, particularly labor rights, in our government’s Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations with Vietnam. It is important to send a clear and strong message to the Vietnamese government that expanded trade and partnership with the United States must be pre-conditioned on significant improvements in human rights starting with the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience.

I look forward to being granted a meeting with you in Washington DC in late March. A staff of Boat People SOS (BPSOS) will contact your scheduler to follow up on this request.

Sincerely,

[name]

[address]