

Mrs. Tran Thi Nga

Blogger, citizen journalist, human rights activist — Vietnam

Charged with “conducting propaganda against the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam” under Article 88 of the Vietnam Penal Code and sentenced to 9 years imprisonment, followed by 5 years probation.

Vietnamese Activist Sentenced to 9 Years in One-Day Trial

Tran Thi Nga, also known as Thuy Nga, is a blogger, a citizen journalist and long time labor rights activist in Vietnam who often shared articles and videos on social media highlighting police brutality, human trafficking, unlawful land grabbing, labor abuses, and political corruption. Her YouTube videos drew millions of viewers.

In 2014, in the presence of her two little boys she was viciously assaulted on the street in Hanoi by five plain-clothes police armed with metal pipes. She suffered from broken arm and leg, dislocated shoulder, and sprained fingers. She spent months in rehabilitation but never fully recovers. She is now walking with a limp..

Nga was arrested in January 2017 and indicted for “defaming the People’s Administration”. On July 25 2017, she was sentenced to nine years in prison followed by five years under house arrest in pursuance of Article 88 of the Vietnam Penal Code, a vague national security law frequently invoked to punish critics and stifle dissent.

In March 2018, Tran Thi Nga was transferred to Gia Trung prison in Gia Lai province, over 1,000 km away from her family. Such deliberate transfers are tactics frequently used by the Vietnamese authorities aiming to worsen prisoners’ isolation by making it more difficult and costly for family and friends to visit them.

Tran Thi Nga is suffering from ill-treatments by prison officials and reportedly bullied by inmates acting with sanction from prison wardens. She is often disciplined and placed in solitary confinement or denied visits from her family for maintaining her innocent. Nga is the mother of two little boys (age 7 and 9), who will be separated from their mother for a very long time.



Nga and her two little boys at a medical check-up



Tran Thi Nga at her trial

Tran Thi Nga is a founding member of **Vietnamese Women For Human Rights**, an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, whose missions are to protect and promote human rights, especially women’s rights, and protect the interest and promote the role of Vietnamese women in the society.

Nga was only 20 years old when she became a victim of human trafficking. She was lured by a labor broker into seeking employment in Taiwan in hope of getting decent pay so that she could afford to send money back home to support her family. Instead, she was forced to work up to 17 hours a day, performing duties not as described in her work contract. Not only the broker kept 80 percent of her wages, he also seized her passport so that she could not make an escape.

Nga was severely injured in an accident and almost became paralyzed. Abandoned by the Vietnam Embassy in Taiwan, she was helped by the assistance program at the Vietnamese Migrant Workers and Brides Office established by a Vietnamese Catholic priest. Upon her recovery, Nga began to work as a volunteer at that office and helped other victims like her.

After her return to Vietnam, Nga took it upon herself to assist exploited workers, particularly women who were victims of human trafficking, and she eventually became a land rights activist against unlawful land grabs by authorities in Vietnam. She is also a avid advocate to save the lives of death row inmates convicted under duress and torture. With her help, multiple questionable cases have gained so much attention of both the public in Vietnam and the international community that the authorities decided to suspense the execution and order a review of the cases.

- Please write to Tran Thi Nga at: Ayun Center, Gia Trung prison, Mang Yang district , Gia Lai province, Vietnam.
- Please advocate for Tran Thi Nga in your capacity and raise her case in discussions with the Vietnamese government officials, or write to:
 1. Mr. To Lam, Minister of Public Security, 44 Yết Kiêu Street, Hoàn Kiếm District , Hà Nội, Việt Nam.
 2. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister’s Office, Hanoi, Vietnam
 3. President Nguyen Phu Trong, 1A Hung Vuong Street, Ba Dinh district, Hanoi