

Justitia et Pax ≈ Hannoversche Str.5 ≈ 10115 Berlin

To:  
The Honorable Le Thi Nga  
Judicial Committee of the National Assembly  
National Assembly Building  
No. 2 Doc Lap Street  
Ba Dinh District  
Ha Noi City

**GESCHÄFTSSTELLE**

Arbeitsbereich  
Menschenrechte  
Human Rights Desk  
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Dear Chairwoman Le Thi Nga,

The German Commission for Justice and Peace ("Deutsche Kommission Justitia et Pax"), a joint commission of the German Bishops' Conference and the Central Committee of German Catholics, sees itself as an ecclesiastical forum and agent of social and political dialogue on international and global issues of peace, human rights and development. To this end, the Commission works closely with partners from the Church and civil society in Germany and also with the Justice and Peace Commissions from other countries. In view of its specific role in the context of church relief organisations, institutions and associations, the German Commission for Justice and Peace assumes the role of a strategic think tank that works in an innovative, exemplary, subsidiary and action-oriented manner.

We have been informed that property of the Thiên An bei Huế Monastery has been confiscated and destroyed and that its monks have been threatened with violence. According to reports, large parts of the forests of the monastery were confiscated by local authorities as well as by the Hue Tourist Company, building an entertainment centre at Lake Thuy Tien. Some of the trees were burnt or replaced. Furthermore, according to reports, the statue of the Holy Cross, an artefact of high religious value belonging to the monastery, was damaged and removed. Moreover, according to reports, the monks living in the monastery have repeatedly been threatened with violence. In 2017 and 2018 inhabitants of the monastery were even beaten up severely. Furthermore, according to reports, Antone Nguyen Van Duc, the abbot of the monastery, is currently banned from entering Vietnam and therefore also from returning to his monastery.

- Please, uphold and facilitate the freedom of religion and belief in your country.
- Please, allow Antone Nguyen Van Duc to enter Vietnam and to return to his monastery.
- Please, ensure that the authorities in charge return the confiscated land to the Thiên An bei Huế Monastery.
- Please, ensure that the inhabitants and visitors of the monastery can practice their faith freely, without being threatened and having to fear becoming the victim of physical violence.
- Please, ensure that all sacred objects and places of the monastery are respected and no properties of the monastery are damaged.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. des. Bernd Hirschberger  
Human Rights Desk