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The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has as its aim to promote the sciences and strengthen their influence in society.

Stockholm 3 June 2020
Elisabeth Rachlew /ch

His Excellency Nguyễn Phú Trọng
President of the Socialist Republic
of Vietnam
c/o His Excellency
Mr Phan Dang Duong
Ambassador of Vietnam to Sweden
125 21 Älvsjö

Your Excellency,

We, the joint Human Rights Committee of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, the Swedish Academy and the Young Academy of Sweden, write respectfully to express our most urgent concern about the health and well-being of two professional colleagues, Pham Van Troi and Nguyen Ngoc Anh, imprisoned in Vietnam as a result of their peaceful exercise of rights protected by international law. Given that they are being held in detention facilities under difficult conditions, they are particularly vulnerable to serious consequences in case of a coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection.

We understand that, while many countries have released prisoners in recent weeks, Mr. Troi remains held in Ba Sao Prison (Ha Nam province), and Mr. Anh continues to be held in Xuan Loc prison (Dong Nai province).

The World Health Organization and United Nations human rights experts have called on public authorities to take immediate steps to address prison overcrowding, including the priority release of prisoners who have been detained for offenses not recognized under international law. In light of this urgent situation, we respectfully request your help in ensuring Mr. Troi's and Mr. Anh's release from prison on humanitarian grounds without delay. Such assistance would be widely welcomed throughout the international scientific community.

We thank you, Your Excellency, for your attention to this important matter. These are dire and challenging times and we send our best wishes to you and the people of Vietnam.

Sincerely yours

Elisabeth Rachlew
Professor, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee

Copy: His Excellency Phạm Bình Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Stockholm, Sweden
The Embassy of Sweden in Hanoi, Vietnam



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Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Số 16, Lê Hồng Phong, Bà Đình
Hà Nội, Vietnam

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