

**SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

**Independence - Freedom - Happiness**

---

Hanoi, date 9 January 2012

**To: The International Red Cross**

**Cc: Red Cross VIETNAM**

My name is Nhan Bui.

Address: 69/40/6Le Hong Phong road, Ward 7, Vung Tau City, Baria - Vung tau Province

Telephone: 016 5705 7540

By this letter, I'm begging humanitarian assistance from the Vietnam Red Cross and International Red Cross Society to assist in the plight of my mother, Ms. Bui Thi Minh Hang, currently on her second hunger strike at Thanh Ha re-education institution in Vinh Phuc Province, Vietnam where she is wrongfully held by the Hanoi authorities.

My mother Ms. Bui Thi Minh Hang, was detained by the Hanoi authority while she was participating in peaceful demonstrations against Chinese aggression in the East Sea.

On 27 November 2011, while she was participating in demonstrations in Ho Chi Minh City to support the congressional proposals of Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, my mother was amongst a group of people who were detained and arrested by the authorities. All those arrested were released in the same day, except my mother.

My family were not informed by the authorities of my mother's arrest. I wandered around, knocking on the doors of the local authorities to ask about my mother but did not receive any answer and even for attempting to find out about my mother's whereabouts I too was arrested and kept in Police custody for two days from 07 to 08 December 2011.

After 10 days following my mother's disappearance I received a letter of notice from Thanh Ha re-education institution in Vinh Phuc province, advising that they had my mother in their charge based on the decision 5225/QĐ-UB issued by the Hanoi Peoples Committee

I was allowed to visit my mother on 16/12/2011. She advised me to protest against her unlawful detention in the re-education institution and that she went on a hunger strike for 15 days. After the hunger strike, my mother could not eat the rice she was given and instead she asked for rice porridge, but the camp's officer did not respond to my mother's legitimate request. Not only that, my mother was being held with people who were there for a number of reasons including drugs re-habilitation, with HIV infection or with mental illnesses. Due to fears of infection, my mother offered to switch rooms but again her requests were not met.

On 29/12/2011, I made a second visit to see my mother, but was not allowed to see her on the grounds that we did not apply for a visitation book. I was informed by the re-education institution's officer in charge that my mother was not well and had continued her hunger strike because they did not meet her requests for giving her rice porridge. Since I was unable to see her I do not know how much her health and well-being had deteriorated.

When I last visited my mother on 07/01/2012, she displayed symptoms of skin disease and ulcers, also with the freezing climate of the Tam Dao mountains my mother often suffered with rheumatic pain, chilblains and kidney problems. The re-education institution's doctors

gave my mother some medicine and injections but did not give any advice about the kind of medicines, origin, side-effects etc when my mother asked them. So my mother felt uneasy about taking the drugs.

Dear Sir/Madam, giving rice immediately to a person after a prolonged hunger strike, as well as being held with drug addicts, HIV infected patients or with mental health issues can seriously affect the health and well-being of an individual risk. I am extremely worried and confused about her health status, in just over a month, she was on hunger strike two times, in which 15 days she was in the first time. Not only that, my mother has a history of low blood pressure and suffers from hypotension. If my mother is not released immediately I fear there may be serious risk and danger to her life.

If the purpose of her detention is to educate or re-habilitate my mother then clearly the authorities in their inhumane acts are completely mis-guided.

My mother's lawyer is taking all legal steps to secure her release against illegal detention however it is likely that this process will be considerable and lengthy and the authorities unlikely to be cooperative. Artists, intellectuals, professors, friends and supporters have all provided their support including writing a letter to the President Truong Tan Sang, requesting her release. I kindly urge you take urgent action seeking out my mother's status and well-being by contacting the Thanh Ha re-educational establishment.

We hope that by your intervention and the humanitarian role the Red Cross plays in society will force the authorities to re-consider their actions and that they will release my mother as soon as possible and without further deterioration to her health and well-being.

On the occasion of New Year, I would like to wish your health, happiness and success to all members of the Association.

Thank you,

Yours Sincerely



Nhan Bui