



MARIE-LUISE DÖTT

MITGLIED DES DEUTSCHEN BUNDESTAGES

Platz der Republik 1 – 11011 Berlin

Tel: +49 30 227 737 00

Fax: +49 30 227 768 88

Email: marie-luise.doett@bundestag.de



## A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

**The Vietnamese human rights lawyer NGUYEN VAN DAI has been detained in Hanoi, Viet Nam, since 16 December 2015. He stands accused of “propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam”. If convicted, he faces between three and 20 years in prison. Dai has been detained incommunicado since his arrest. I have agreed to act as the parliamentary sponsor for Nguyen Van Dai and am working closely with the human rights organisation “VETO! Human Rights Defenders’ Network” to press for his release.**

I met Nguyen Van Dai while visiting Viet Nam with a delegation last year. As a young man, Dai was in East Germany as a contract worker at the time of the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification. These events profoundly influenced his political thinking, and led him, after his return to his home country, to study law and campaign for the democratisation of Viet Nam. He runs seminars on the subject of human rights and the rule of law, for example. Dai was already imprisoned from 2007 to 2011 for this educational work, with the Vietnamese leadership accusing him of “propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam”. A subsequent period of house arrest officially ended in March 2015. He was also expelled by the Vietnamese Lawyers’ Association and barred from practice. On 16 December 2015, he was once again arrested on the charge of “propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam”; this came just one day after the EU’s annual human rights dialogue with Viet Nam, as Dai was on his way to a meeting with EU representatives. Since his arrest, he has had no contact with either his family or a lawyer. Nguyen Van Dai has been detained incommunicado for nine months.

This is a completely unacceptable situation, all facets of which violate the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Viet Nam is a signatory. I would also point out that Viet Nam is a member of the UN Human Rights Council, and has thus made a special commitment in this regard – which it is not honouring. The human rights situation in Viet Nam is catastrophic!

Over the past few weeks, I have asked many parliamentarians for their support in relation to Dai’s case. They have signed a joint letter to the Vietnamese government, in which we call for freedom for Nguyen Van Dai. Please lend us your voice too!

Marie-Luise Dött

Liste der Erstunterzeichner:

Michael Brand, Member of the German Bundestag, Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid of the German Bundestag, Germany

Elmar Brok, Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of the Committee Foreign Affairs in the European Parliament, Germany

Dr. Karamba Diaby, Member of the German Bundestag, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid of the German Bundestag, Germany

Dr. Bernd Fabritius, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Dr. Ute Finckh-Krämer, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Karl-Heinz Florenz, Member of the European Parliament, Germany  
Michael Frieser, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Michael Gahler, Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of the Pan-African Parliament and Coordinator for Security and Defence in the European Parliament, Germany  
Angelika Glöckner, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Frank Heinrich, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Gabriela Heinrich, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Prof. Dr. Egon Jüttner, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Volker Kauder, Member of the German Bundestag, Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag, Germany  
Tom Koenigs, Member of the German Bundestag, Spokesman for Human Rights of the Alliance 90/The Greens Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag, Germany  
Kordula Kovac, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Dr. Philipp Lengsfeld, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Dr. Hans-Peter Liese, Member of the European Parliament, Coordinator for the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety in the European Parliament, Germany  
Andreas Mattfeld, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Omid Nouripour, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Sylvia Pantel, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Martin Patzelt, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Dr. Markus Pieper, Member of the European Parliament, Deputy Chairman of the Working Group Economy and Environment of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, Germany  
Herbert Reul, Member of the European Parliament, Germany  
Ursula Schulte, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Kordula Schulz-Asche, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Frank Schwabe, Member of the German Bundestag, Spokesman for Human Rights of the SPD Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag, Germany  
Dr. Renate Sommer, Member of the European Parliament, Germany  
Erika Steinbach, Member of the German Bundestag, Spokeswoman for Human Rights of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag, Germany  
Johannes Steiniger, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany  
Axel Voss, Member of the European Parliament, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Legal Affairs of the European Parliament and spokesman on Legal Affairs of the EPP group in the European Parliament, Germany  
Joachim Zeller, Member of the European Parliament, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Regional Development in the European Parliament, Germany  
Heinrich Zertik, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany