

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
to the United Nations Office,
the World Trade Organization
and Other International Organizations at Geneva



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA
REPUBLIQUE SOCIALISTE DU VIET NAM
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies,
de l'Organisation Mondiale du Commerce
et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève

30, Chemin des Corbillettes, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Genève
Tel: (41 22) 799 14 00 Fax: (41 22) 798 07 24 E-mail: geneva@mofa.gov.vn

Ref: 179/HR.VNM.2018

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the communication Ref. UA VNM 8/2018 dated 26 July 2018 from the Special Procedures, has the honour to hereby transmit the reply of Viet Nam.

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 29 October 2018



Special Procedures Branch
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
GENEVA

REPLY OF VIET NAM TO THE COMMUNICATION
Ref. AL VNM 8/2018 dated 26 July 2018

Viet Nam rejects the allegations mentioned in the communication from the Special Procedures regarding the prison conditions of Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh. Viet Nam reaffirms that all inmates are treated equally under and in accordance with the law; their rights are fully ensured and there is no discrimination or exception of any kind.

1. About the fact that Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh refused to eat prison food

Vietnam's competent authorities reiterated that Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh had received the treatment she was entitled to under Vietnamese legislation, including daily meals. Since 24 April 2018, she had refused the meals supplied by the Detention Center. The Center had Quynh's health checked, while a Center's official came talk to Quynh about her refusal and to explain the regulations and policies regarding prison conditions and treatment. She told the official that she decided to reduce the amount of rice in her diet even before she had been incarcerated due to her rheumatic disease and high blood pressure; that was why she did not have meals provided by the Center, using the food supplied by her family instead and sometimes buying other kinds of food from canteen. She did not have or file any complaint about this.

2. Prison conditions and health condition of Nguyen Ngoc NH Quynh

Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh had served her sentence at Detention Center No. 5 since 08 February 2018. She had been checked by health professionals as often as required by law. Her health had been in stable, normal condition.

Quynh's right to receive family visits had been fully ensured in accordance with laws and regulations. She met her family six times in total, i.e. once a month, received and used daily supplies from her family, including food and money; she contacted her family 07 times via telephone, receiving letters 06 times and postal parcels 06 times.

The treatment of an individual prisoner, including health care and other services is prescribed by the law, ensured in practice and reflected in the records of the detention center. The facilities of Detention Center No. 5, including Quynh's cell, are built to the standards provided for by the Ministry of Public Security. The cell is equipped with a television, a fan, electricity, water and other facilities as required by law to meet basic needs of inmates. Quynh had been arranged to do

rehabilitation work together with her cellmates at the center. No sign of inmates threatening or bullying Quynh was found or reported. On 24 July 2018, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Second Secretary, Embassy of the United States to Ha Noi visited Quynh. She is in the best position to tell that Quynh's physical and mental health were in stable condition.

Under a recent decision by competent authorities of Viet Nam, Quynh's sentence has been temporarily suspended; she together with her mother and her two children left Viet Nam on 17 October 2018 to live in the United States.