



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE,  
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

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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 has the honor to hereby transmit the reply of Viet Nam to the latter's Joint Communication AL VNM 7/2025 (dated 01 October 2025) concerning allegation of the death in custody of Mr. Vuong Van Tha.

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./.



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**Reply of Viet Nam to the Joint Communication concerning  
allegation of the death in custody of Mr. Vuong Van Tha (Viet Nam)**

*Ref. AL VNM 7/2025 (dated 01 October 2025)*

1. The Government of Viet Nam takes note of the allegations raised and appreciates the opportunity to provide information and clarification. Viet Nam remains committed to constructive dialogue and cooperation with Special Procedures, in accordance with its international human rights obligations. Viet Nam affirms its determination and consistent policy to respect, protect and promote human rights in general, and to safeguard the rights of persons deprived of liberty in particular. The State of Viet Nam strictly prohibits all acts related to torture, which is concretized in numerous legal instruments, including the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Law on Custody and Temporary Detention, the Law on the Execution of Criminal Judgments, and other relevant legislation. All acts of torture are subject to strict punishment in accordance with the law (reference is made to statistics on cases related to torture as reported by Viet Nam in its Second National Report on the implementation of the Convention against Torture, submitted to the Committee).

2. Viet Nam consistently demonstrates responsibility in implementing the international human rights treaties to which it is a party. Since acceding to the Convention against Torture (CAT) in 2015, Viet Nam has made sustained efforts to implement comprehensive legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention, which have been positively recognized by the international community. These efforts include the promulgation of multiple legal instruments with substantial amendments to criminal policy to strengthen the prevention and punishment of acts of torture; the adoption of governmental action plans to implement CAT and the recommendations of the Committee; the strengthening and expansion of monitoring and oversight mechanisms over law enforcement agencies; enhanced dissemination and awareness-raising of CAT and the right to be free from torture through various channels; intensified specialized training for State officials, particularly criminal investigators and detention management personnel; and active cooperation with international partners such as UNDP, the Netherlands and Belgium to exchange experiences on torture prevention and CAT implementation. Viet Nam has submitted its Second National Report on CAT implementation and is actively preparing for its forthcoming dialogue with the Committee.

3. Articles 6 and 7 of the 2019 Law on the Execution of Criminal Judgments stipulate that the National Assembly, People's Councils, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and its member organizations supervise the activities of agencies, organizations and persons with authority, as well as other related entities and individuals, in the execution of criminal judgments in accordance with the law. The People's Procuracy supervises compliance with the law by agencies, persons with authority, and other related entities and individuals in the execution of criminal judgments.

4. The Law on the Execution of Criminal Judgments devotes one chapter, comprising 17 articles, to the settlement of complaints and denunciations in the execution of criminal judgments. Article 176 provides that persons and commercial legal entities serving criminal sentences, as well as other related agencies, organizations and individuals, have the right to lodge complaints against decisions or acts of competent authorities or officials responsible for the execution of criminal judgments when there are grounds to believe that such decisions or acts are unlawful and infringe upon their lawful rights and interests. Article 190 stipulates that sentenced persons and all citizens have the right to denounce to competent authorities any unlawful acts committed by persons with authority in the execution of criminal judgments that cause or threaten to cause harm to State interests or the lawful rights and interests of agencies, organizations or individuals.

5. The allegations contained in the communication concerning inmate Vuong Van Tha are entirely unfounded and incorrect. The competent authorities of Viet Nam ensured the full enjoyment of all lawful rights of inmate Vuong Van Tha during the execution of his sentence and handled the incident of his death strictly in accordance with legal procedures, in conformity with Vietnamese law and international standards.

6. Vuong Van Tha, born in 1969, resided in An Phu District, An Giang Province. During his residence in the locality, Vuong Van Tha repeatedly used sound amplification equipment to disseminate false information, fabricate allegations and defame the authorities by claiming religious repression; uploaded videos and images containing false information on social media, infringing upon the honor and reputation of organizations and individuals; incited and mobilized individuals to participate in the organization "Provisional National Government of Viet Nam" (which was designated as a terrorist organization by the Ministry of Public Security on 30 January 2018); and incited public disorder, including readiness to throw petrol bombs and vandalize State offices when obstructed. Despite repeated warnings and educational measures by the authorities, Vuong Van Tha continued to commit

increasingly radical violations of the law. His actions seriously infringed upon Viet Nam's national security. On 23 January 2018, the People's Court of An Giang Province conducted a first-instance trial and sentenced Vuong Van Tha to 12 years' imprisonment for an offence under Article 88 of the Penal Code (as amended in 2009). The investigation and trial complied with Vietnamese criminal law, were fair and transparent, and were publicly reported in the media.

7. Vuong Van Tha began serving his sentence at An Phuoc Prison on 4 January 2018. Upon admission, he underwent a general medical examination, was informed of his rights and obligations as an inmate, the internal regulations of the detention facility, detention conditions and regimes, criteria for sentence reduction, and was assigned to labor and educational activities in the detention area in the same manner as other inmates. Throughout his detention, An Phuoc Prison fully implemented policies on daily living conditions, education, food, clothing, accommodation and medical care in accordance with the law.

On 8 October 2018, Vuong Van Tha submitted a request to adopt a vegetarian diet, which was approved by An Phuoc Prison. His meals were converted from the standard ration to a vegetarian diet by allowing him to register purchases at the prison canteen, while his daily rice ration continued to be fully provided. In addition, other inmates were permitted to share vegetarian food with him. Allegations that he was forced to consume leftover food from other inmates are therefore incorrect.

During his incarceration, family members visited Vuong Van Tha a total of seven times, including two visits during which he received gifts, one occasion on which he received money but declined to meet his family; one instance in which his family sent a parcel and one instance in which a letter was sent, both of which he declined to receive. All incidents were duly recorded in official minutes. Allegations that the prison prohibited family visits or refused or returned parcels sent by relatives are unfounded.

8. On the morning of 3 September 2025, during routine daily inspection, prison officers found inmate Vuong Van Tha lying in his cell and unresponsive. He was immediately transferred for emergency treatment to Binh Phuoc General Hospital (Dong Nai Province). Despite intensive medical efforts, the hospital confirmed that Vuong Van Tha had passed away. In accordance with procedures prescribed by the Law on the Execution of Criminal Judgments, the prison notified the relevant competent authorities (the Office of the Investigation Police Agency of Dong Nai Provincial Police, the People's Procuracy of Dong Nai Province, and forensic experts from the Dong Nai Provincial Medical Center) to coordinate handling of the

case. The prison also promptly informed and requested the presence of family representatives at Binh Phuoc General Hospital to coordinate forensic procedures and determination of the cause of death.

9. [REDACTED] arrived at Binh Phuoc General Hospital to complete procedures and directly witnessed the autopsy. He expressed the family's wish not to conduct an autopsy and requested to take the body back to their hometown for burial. The competent authorities explained that an autopsy was a mandatory legal procedure to determine the cause of death. Following this explanation, [REDACTED] consented to the autopsy and to the burial of Vuong Van Tha at An Phuoc Prison cemetery. The autopsy concluded that the cause of death was pulmonary edema with cardiac blood clots, possibly due to myocardial infarction or pulmonary edema of pathological origin; there were no signs of external force, no injuries, and no bone fractures. On the basis of the autopsy findings confirming death due to illness with no indication of criminal conduct, An Phuoc Prison completed the burial on the morning of 4 September 2025 in accordance with the law, in the presence of [REDACTED]. The prison also handed over personal belongings and an amount of [REDACTED] converted from food rations and family deposits to [REDACTED]. He expressed his appreciation, stating: "On behalf of the family, I thank An Phuoc Prison for burying my father at the prison cemetery," and raised no further complaints./.