



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

No. 97/VNM.26

*Geneva, 04 May 2026*

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 8/2025 (dated 29 December 2025) concerning concerning various individuals such as Ms. Can Thi Theu, Mr. Trinh Ba Tu, Mr. Trinh Ba Phuong, Mr. Trinh Ba Khiem, Ms. Trinh Thi Thao, Ms. Do Thi Thu.

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./.



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

Chemin des Corbillettes 30, 1218 Le Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel: (+41 22) 799 14 00 Fax: (+41 22) 798 07 24  
E-mail: [geneva@mofa.gov.vn](mailto:geneva@mofa.gov.vn); [vnmission.geneva@gmail.com](mailto:vnmission.geneva@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://vnmission-geneva.mofa.gov.vn>

**Reply of Viet Nam to the Joint Communication concerning  
concerning various individuals such as Ms. Can Thi Theu, Mr. Trinh Ba  
Tu, Mr. Trinh Ba Phuong, Mr. Trinh Ba Khiem, Ms. Trinh Thi Thao, Ms. Do  
Thi Thu in Viet Nam**

*Ref. AL VNM 8/2025 (dated 29 December 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. Regarding the content of the Joint Communication, Viet Nam categorically rejects the false allegations contained in the communication. The investigation, prosecution and adjudication of the cases concerning Ms. Cấn Thị Thêu, Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương and Mr. Trịnh Bá Tư were conducted in strict compliance with Viet Nam’s criminal procedure laws, under the supervision and approval of the competent authorities, and in full conformity with the international human rights treaties to which Viet Nam is a party.

2. With regard to the cases of Ms. Cấn Thị Thêu, Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương and Mr. Trịnh Bá Tư, Viet Nam provided information in response to a communication from the United Nations Special Procedures in December 2020. In that response, Viet Nam affirmed that Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương, Mr. Trịnh Bá Tư and Ms. Cấn Thị Thêu were not arrested for exercising their right to freedom of expression. They were arrested for intentionally posting on social media platforms numerous articles and video clips containing fabricated and false information aimed at undermining the prestige, reputation and honour of agencies, organizations and authorities; slandering and insulting the honour and dignity of individuals; and disseminating distorted information with a view to defaming the people’s administration. Their acts constituted the offence of “making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing information, materials or items for the purpose of opposing the State of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam” under Article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code.

3. Viet Nam consistently respects, protects and facilitates the full exercise of the people’s right to mastery, freedom of expression, access to information, and the right to provide comments and criticism on the policies, laws and regulations of the State. However, these rights are not absolute and may be subject to restrictions prescribed by law where necessary for reasons of national defence, national security, social order and safety, social morality and public health, as provided in Article 14 of the

Constitution of Viet Nam. This is fully consistent with the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Viet Nam resolutely addresses acts that abuse democratic freedoms to intentionally disseminate false information, defame, slander, incite hatred, sow division in society, among ethnic groups or religions, or infringe upon the lawful rights and interests of the State, organizations and other individuals.

4. The provisions under Chapter XIII of the Penal Code, including Article 117, are necessary to safeguard national security and the national interests of the Vietnamese people for the following reasons:

(i) All States provide for and strictly punish acts that infringe upon national security, independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. In Viet Nam, democratic freedoms may only be restricted for the purposes of safeguarding national security, public order, social morality and public health. Such restrictions are clearly provided for in Viet Nam's legal system and are fully consistent with the spirit of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

(ii) The Penal Code of Viet Nam was developed on the basis of careful consideration of, and reference to, international law and Viet Nam's obligations as a State party, while taking into account the country's cultural and social context, economic conditions, moral foundations and the coherence of its legal system. The Code was subject to broad public consultation, received the support and agreement of the overwhelming majority of the people, and was adopted by the National Assembly. This demonstrates that such restrictions are necessary, democratically grounded, consistent with the will of the people, and reflective of the consensus of society as a whole.

(iii) Article 117 establishes a clear distinction between the lawful exercise of freedoms and unlawful conduct by specifically defining the acts that constitute criminal offences, including making, storing, disseminating or propagandizing false, distorted, fabricated or defamatory information against the administration. It does not prevent the exercise of freedom of expression, the expression of dissenting views, freedom of assembly or other human rights. These legal provisions apply to acts that abuse democratic freedoms in order to intentionally disseminate false information, distort or manipulate facts, and infringe upon the prestige, honour, rights and lawful interests of organizations, individuals and State agencies, with the ultimate aim of opposing the State of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Any person who abuses freedom of expression or other democratic freedoms to commit unlawful acts must be held accountable before the law.

5. The allegation of “prolonged pre-trial detention” does not accurately reflect the objective situation in Viet Nam. Criminal proceedings in Viet Nam comprise of three stages: investigation, prosecution and trial, involving three corresponding bodies, namely the Security Investigation Agency or Police Investigation Agency, the People’s Procuracy and the People’s Court. The duration of each procedural stage is clearly prescribed by law. This is a specific feature of Viet Nam’s judicial system, designed to ensure the independent participation of different competent bodies, close oversight of judicial activities, and the minimization of abuse of power, miscarriages of justice or impunity. The Court, as the highest competent authority in Viet Nam’s judicial system, has the power to alter or revoke preventive measures, return case files for supplementary investigation, suspend proceedings and take other decisions on specific legal grounds.

Viet Nam always guarantees the right of access to legal counsel for concerned persons, including persons held in urgent circumstances, arrested persons, persons in temporary detention, suspects and defendants, during the investigation process in accordance with the law. The 2015 Criminal Procedure Code, as amended and supplemented in 2021, devotes an entire chapter comprising 13 articles, from Article 72 to Article 84, to “Defence, and protection of the lawful rights and interests of victims and other parties”, thereby ensuring access to legal counsel during the investigation process through detailed provisions. Article 76 of the Criminal Procedure Code provides for the appointment of defence counsel. Where the accused, their representative or their relatives do not engage defence counsel, the competent procedural authority is required to appoint defence counsel for them.

6. Article 74 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Viet Nam provides that defence counsel may participate in proceedings from the time charges are brought against the accused. In cases where confidentiality of the investigation must be maintained for offences involving national security, the Chief Procurator of the competent People’s Procuracy has the authority to decide that defence counsel may participate in proceedings from the conclusion of the investigation. This provision is necessary in view of the particularly serious nature of national security cases, in order to ensure the proper collection of evidence and prevent the risk of disclosure of information relating to national security, which could seriously affect the handling of the case. Such decisions are approved by the People’s Procuracy, which, as noted above, is the judicial body vested by the State of Viet Nam with the authority to supervise judicial activities.

7. Upon conclusion of the investigation, the competent procedural authorities are responsible for arranging the time and place for defence counsel to read, take

notes on and copy documents in the case file. Investigating authorities consistently facilitate the exercise of defence rights by lawyers in order to ensure that the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of cases are conducted objectively and in accordance with the law. The right of access to legal counsel of Ms. Cấn Thị Thêu, Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương and Mr. Trịnh Bá Tư was guaranteed by the competent authorities in compliance with the above-mentioned provisions. Their lawyers participated in the proceedings from the conclusion of the investigation stage, namely 10 April 2023. The competent authorities did not impose any limitation or restriction on the duration or frequency of meetings between Ms. Cấn Thị Thêu, Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương, Mr. Trịnh Bá Tư and their defence counsel. Accordingly, their right to defence and the fairness of the trial were fully guaranteed throughout the proceedings and adjudication.

**8.** Article 25 of the Criminal Procedure Code clearly provides that court hearings shall be conducted publicly and that everyone has the right to attend, except in certain cases where closed hearings are permitted by law. Article 286 clearly provides for the service and delivery of the first-instance court's decision to bring a case to trial to the defendant, defence counsel and other related persons no later than 10 days before the opening of the first-instance or appellate hearing. The allegations of “non-public trial, interference with defence activities, and lack of timely notice of the appellate hearing” are therefore unfounded.

**9.** Given the complex and serious nature of the cases involving national security, and in order to ensure the proper handling of the cases, the Security Investigation Agency requested the detention facility not to allow Ms. Cấn Thị Thêu, Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương and Mr. Trịnh Bá Tư to meet with family members during the investigation stage. Following the conclusion of the investigation, the competent authorities fully guaranteed their right to family visits in accordance with the Law on the Execution of Temporary Detention and Custody.

**10.** The detention conditions and treatment regime for prisoners in Viet Nam are implemented in accordance with the Law on Execution of Criminal Judgments. These provisions reflect the lenient and humanitarian policy of the Party and the State of Viet Nam in the education and rehabilitation of offenders, and are compatible with international human rights law in general and the rights of prisoners in particular, including the 1955 Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the 1990 Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Regulations governing detention regimes are developed in a public and democratic manner, in accordance with the procedures for the formulation and

promulgation of legal normative documents, including their full dissemination to persons deprived of liberty. Viet Nam has also proactively provided information on this matter. Numerous delegations from foreign partners have visited detention facilities in Viet Nam. Viet Nam also hosted the 2023 Asia-Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators.

**11.** Prisons in Viet Nam consistently ensure the full implementation of regimes and policies for prisoners in accordance with the law, emphasizing humanitarian values, rehabilitation, reformation and respect for the rule of law. Outside working and study hours, prisoners may participate in cultural, artistic, sports, recreational and entertainment activities, watch television, listen to the radio, and read books and newspapers.

Regulations on family visits, sending and receiving letters, receiving money and gifts, and making telephone calls with relatives are properly implemented. Prisoners are classified according to their sentence-serving performance; those who show progress in rehabilitation are rewarded, while those who violate prison regulations are subject to disciplinary measures in accordance with the law. Sentence reductions, conditional early release and amnesties are considered for eligible prisoners. Specifically:

- **Education and vocational training:** Prisoners are provided with legal education, civic education, cultural education and vocational training. Illiterate prisoners are provided with literacy education. Study time is scheduled for one day per week, excluding Sundays, public holidays and traditional holidays. Prisoners may receive vocational training suited to their health and the specific conditions of each prison.

- **Labour:** Prisoners may work in accordance with their age, health, gender, physical and mental condition, and the requirements of management, education and social reintegration. Working time shall not exceed eight hours per day and five days per week. The proceeds of prisoners' labour are used to supplement food rations, establish community reintegration support funds, establish reward funds and provide remuneration to prisoners.

- **Food, clothing and accommodation:** Prisoners are guaranteed statutory rations of rice, vegetables, meat, fish, sugar, salt and other necessities. They may also use money and gifts sent by their families to purchase additional food. Clothing and personal items are provided in accordance with regulations.

- **Sports, cultural and artistic activities:** Prisoners may engage in physical exercise, sports, cultural and artistic activities, read books and newspapers, listen to the radio, watch television, use lawfully published religious scriptures, and express their beliefs and religion.

- **Family visits and gifts from relatives:** Prisoners are entitled to one family visit per month, each lasting no more than one hour. Prisoners with good sentence-serving performance may have visits extended up to three hours and may meet their spouse in a private room. Prisoners who are rewarded or have rendered meritorious service may receive one additional family visit per month. Prisoners may receive letters, money, objects, food and medicine from relatives up to twice per month; send two letters per month; and make one telephone call per month, not exceeding 10 minutes each time.

- **Medical care:** Detention facilities ensure that prisoners receive full medical care in accordance with regulations, including periodic general health examinations or examinations upon request by prisoners. Where a prisoner's medical condition exceeds the treatment capacity of the prison medical unit, the prisoner will be transferred to a higher-level medical facility in accordance with the 2019 Law on Execution of Criminal Judgments. Where a prisoner suffers from mental illness or loses the capacity to perceive or control his or her acts, the execution of the sentence may be suspended for the application of compulsory medical treatment.

- **Release, sentence reduction and amnesty:** The consideration of sentence reduction, conditional early release and amnesty is one of the particularly humanitarian policies of the State of Viet Nam. It is applied with a view to encouraging prisoners to actively work, rehabilitate themselves and comply with prison regulations, thereby facilitating their early reintegration into the community and enabling them to become useful members of society. This is a practical policy aimed at promoting rehabilitation in the treatment of offenders and enhancing the effectiveness of crime prevention. The conditions and timing for consideration of release, sentence reduction and amnesty are clearly prescribed, disseminated to all prisoners and publicly announced through the mass media.

Prisons have also proactively coordinated with competent agencies and units to organize vocational training and skills improvement for prisoners before the completion of their prison terms. Ten per cent of the proceeds from prisoners' labour and vocational training is allocated to training, retraining and skills enhancement for prisoners.

12. Viet Nam rejects the speculative and unfounded allegation that it uses repeated prison transfers as a measure to isolate prisoners from their families. The management and allocation of places of imprisonment in Viet Nam are carried out in accordance with the following principles:

- The geographical distribution of prisons in each region, the actual detention capacity of each prison, and reasonable escort distances, in order to facilitate family visits. Viet Nam currently has 54 prisons distributed across 47 provinces and centrally governed cities. Accordingly, where a province does not have a prison, prisoners from that province may be transferred to neighbouring or more distant provinces.

- Planning for places of imprisonment based on specific categories of prisoners, including male prisoners, female prisoners, pregnant female prisoners or female prisoners accompanied by young children, prisoners under 18 years of age, foreign prisoners, and prisoners who are transgender or whose gender has not been clearly identified.

- The actual detention situation of prisons at each point in time, in order to ensure effective management, detention, implementation of statutory regimes and policies, and prison security and safety.

- The offence and sentence imposed on each prisoner, especially in the case of particularly dangerous prisoners, prisoners convicted of especially serious crimes, prisoners involved in the same organized case of a complex nature, or members of the same group where there are grounds to determine that placing them in the same prison may enable continued collusion within the prison.

On the basis of these requirements, the Ministry of Public Security of Viet Nam annually reviews cases in which prisoners or their relatives submit requests for transfer to a prison closer to the family's place of residence, and considers such requests in light of detention management requirements and conditions.

The arrangement of detention zones and cells within a detention facility is likewise carried out in accordance with the law and without discrimination. Prisoners are allocated to two detention zones: (1) a zone for prisoners serving sentences of more than 15 years, life imprisonment, or those deemed dangerous recidivists; and (2) a zone for prisoners serving sentences of 15 years or less, including prisoners initially sentenced to more than 15 years whose remaining sentence has been reduced to less than 15 years.

Within detention zones, separate areas are arranged for: (1) prisoners under 18 years of age; (2) female prisoners; (3) foreign prisoners; (4) prisoners suffering from Group A infectious diseases; (5) prisoners showing signs of mental illness or loss of awareness or behavioural control; (6) prisoners with children under 36 months of age; (7) prisoners who frequently violate prison regulations; and (8) prisoners who are homosexual, transgender or of undetermined gender.

**13.** Vietnamese law recognizes and protects the rights to health, honour and human dignity, as clearly provided in Article 20(1) of the 2013 Constitution of Viet Nam and further elaborated in many other legal instruments, including the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Law on Execution of Criminal Judgments, and the Law on the Execution of Temporary Detention and Custody. Detention is carried out in a humane manner, without torture, coercion, corporal punishment or any other form of treatment infringing upon the lawful rights and interests of persons deprived of liberty. All violations are subject to sanction, including those committed by police officers. Viet Nam is resolute in combating and eliminating all forms of coerced confession, corporal punishment and acts infringing upon the life and health of persons in custody or detention.

Viet Nam's ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment is clear evidence of its efforts and commitment to the international community. In this spirit, the Ministry of Public Security of Viet Nam has promulgated a series of legal normative documents and implemented various practical measures strictly prohibiting investigators and investigative officers from using coercion, leading questions or corporal punishment in any form. It has also promoted awareness among police officers regarding the protection of citizens' rights and the rights of persons deprived of liberty. Any act of torture during detention is strictly punished under the offence of "use of corporal punishment" pursuant to Article 373 of the Penal Code.

In addition, there are oversight and supervision mechanisms over temporary detention and custody, investigation, prosecution, adjudication and the execution of criminal judgments, involving multiple bodies, including the National Assembly, the People's Procuracy, People's Councils and the Viet Nam Fatherland Front. Complaint and denunciation mechanisms are also available to enable prisoners and persons in custody or detention to protect their lawful rights and interests during criminal proceedings and the execution of criminal judgments.

During the period from 2018 to 30 September 2024, 10 criminal cases involving 23 defendants charged with the offence of use of corporal punishment were

adjudicated, resulting in various sentences, the highest of which was nine years' imprisonment, together with remedial measures and compensation for victims, as reflected in Annexes 7 and 9 of Viet Nam's national report on the implementation of the Convention against Torture. Thirteen complaints and denunciations concerning acts related to torture were also received and addressed, as reflected in Annex 8 of Viet Nam's national report on the implementation of the Convention against Torture.

**14.** All Vietnamese citizens are guaranteed by law the right to live and conduct their activities in a safe environment. Any act of harassment or infringement upon the lawful freedoms of citizens is strictly prohibited by law. This principle is reflected in the 2013 Constitution of Viet Nam and related legal instruments. Accordingly, acts infringing upon the lawful freedoms of others, depending on their nature and severity, are subject to legal liability, ranging from administrative sanctions to criminal prosecution. The Penal Code of Viet Nam devotes an entire chapter, Chapter XV, comprising 11 articles, to offences infringing upon human freedom and the freedoms and democratic rights of citizens.

In addition to legal measures, Viet Nam actively disseminates information through the mass media and raises public awareness regarding human rights, citizens' rights, respect for the lawful rights and interests of others, the exercise of the rights to lodge complaints and denunciations, and the prohibition of the abuse of official position or authority to infringe upon the freedoms and democratic rights of citizens.

**15.** Regarding the case of Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương, on 8 April 2025, the Security Investigation Agency of the Quảng Nam Provincial Police issued a decision to prosecute him for conduct constituting an offence under Article 117 of the 2015 Penal Code. On 27 September 2025, the People's Court of Da Nang City opened the trial and sentenced Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương to 11 years' imprisonment and five years of probation. On 27 December 2025, the appellate bench of the Supreme People's Court in Da Nang conducted the appellate hearing, rejected Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương's appeal and upheld the first-instance judgment.

During the service of his prison sentence at An Điền Prison, Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương continued to engage in unlawful conduct, inciting other prisoners on multiple occasions to gather and disturb security and order in the detention area. His conduct and that of the other prisoners resulted in disciplinary decisions issued by An Điền Prison. However, Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương failed to comply and continued drafting materials containing false, fabricated, distorted, defamatory and slanderous

content against the State and other organizations and individuals. The prosecution, investigation and trial of Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương were conducted in accordance with Vietnamese law and ensured fairness and transparency.

During the execution of his sentence, the detention facility has guaranteed Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương's rights in accordance with the law, including family visits, communication with relatives and medical care. His current health condition is good and he is living normally.

16. With respect to the compulsory [REDACTED] of Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương, during the investigation into the case, he did not cooperate with the competent authorities and displayed a number of signs suggestive of [REDACTED]. Pursuant to the provisions of criminal procedure law, and in view of the need to ensure objectivity in the investigation and clarification of the case, the People's Procuracy of Ha Noi requested the collection of relevant materials and decided to solicit a [REDACTED] of Mr. Trịnh Bá Phương.

17. Regarding the case of Ms. Cấn Thị Thêu, during the execution of her sentence, she has been regularly examined by medical staff, had her health monitored, and received medication in accordance with regulations. From March 2022 to the present, prisoner Cấn Thị Thêu has received 41 family visits, sent 45 letters, received 41 letters, and received books and newspapers on two occasions. Her detention area is clean, well ventilated, and equipped with a television and electric fan in accordance with regulations.

On 28 July 2025, prisoner Cấn Thị Thêu showed signs of [REDACTED], and the prison transferred her to Ngọc Lặc Regional General Hospital in Thanh Hóa Province for examination and treatment. The hospital diagnosed her with [REDACTED]. She remained under treatment until 31 July 2025, when her condition stabilized and the hospital discharged her for continued monitoring and treatment.

During the treatment process, the prison notified her family member, Mr. Trịnh Bá Khiêm, husband of prisoner Cấn Thị Thêu, in order to coordinate care for her at the hospital.

Her current health condition is stable. She fully participates in daily activities and study sessions and has raised no further concerns or complaints.

18. As for Mr. Trịnh Bá Tư, he was transferred to Prison No. 6 to serve his sentence on 3 March 2022. Upon arrival, he underwent a general medical

examination in accordance with the law. The medical report clearly indicated that prisoner Trịnh Bá Tư was in normal health, fit to serve his sentence, and that no bruises were detected on his body at the time of admission. He also made no complaint regarding his health condition and signed the medical record.

In addition, the prison organized regular health check-ups, X-rays and [REDACTED] screening on four occasions at Nghệ An Lung Hospital. Whenever prisoner Tư fell ill, he was examined by prison medical staff and provided with medication in accordance with regulations. He also received medication sent by his family, which was distributed for his daily use. His current health condition is normal and he remains fit to serve his sentence.

Upon admission, Mr. Trịnh Bá Tư was informed by prison staff of the regulations, internal rules, and his rights and obligations as a prisoner. Nevertheless, he repeatedly violated prison regulations and was twice subjected to disciplinary measures in 2022 in accordance with the Law on Execution of Criminal Judgments.

On 27 October 2025, prisoner Trịnh Bá Tư refused to accept the prison food ration on the grounds that the rice was moldy and foul-smelling. Immediately upon receiving this complaint, the prison established an independent inspection team to inspect the storage facilities and kitchens of the prison sub-units. At the same time, the People's Procuracy of Nghệ An Province also dispatched an inspection team and interviewed a number of other prisoners in the detention area. The findings of both independent inspection teams confirmed that there was no moldy or foul-smelling rice and that the food regime was being implemented in accordance with regulations. The prison then met with prisoner Tư and explained the inspection results to him. On 3 November 2025, he resumed receiving the food ration.

Under the plan to upgrade detention conditions, Prison No. 6 carried out repairs to detention cells during October and November 2025. During this period, prisoners were temporarily housed in the infirmary area. The cell assigned to Mr. Trịnh Bá Tư in that area met regulatory requirements regarding floor space, lighting and equipment, including a television, electric fan, water supply and other detention conditions. On 28 November 2025, the unit completed the cell repairs and transferred the prisoners back to the detention area, including Mr. Trịnh Bá Tư. There was therefore no instance of prisoner Trịnh Bá Tư being placed in solitary confinement as alleged.

Throughout his detention, the facility has fully guaranteed the detention conditions, treatment regime and rights of prisoner Trịnh Bá Tư in accordance with

the law. He has communicated with family members by telephone 43 times, received 42 in-person visits, and received letters and gifts on a regular monthly basis.

**19.** Regarding the case of Ms. Đỗ Thị Thu, pursuant to Article 37 of the Law on Exit and Entry and the relevant Circular of the Ministry of Public Security regulating temporary exit suspension and denial of entry for reasons of security, public order and social safety, the competent authorities issued a decision on temporary exit suspension in respect of Ms. Đỗ Thị Thu. The issuance of this decision complied with legal requirements, was based on sufficient grounds and fell within the competence of the relevant authorities.

**20.** Viet Nam rejects the false allegations relating to Mr. Trịnh Bá Khiêm and Ms. Trịnh Thị Thảo./.