

I am writing to express my grave concern on Tran Thi Nga, a human rights defender, who recently told her husband in a hurried phone call on 17 August 2018 that she had been brutally beaten up and has received a death threats by another inmate. After a previous call with her family, it appears that the attacks have been orchestrated by prison authorities to punish her. Detained for more than 18 months, Tran Thi Nga is a prisoner of conscience and must be immediately and unconditionally released.

I should ask you to release Trần Thị Nga immediately and unconditionally, as she is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for peacefully exercising her rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. I should also call on you to ensure that pending her release, she is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and all allegations are effectively investigated impartially and independently and those responsible are brought to account. Finally, you should be asked to end prison transfers as a punitive measure and ensure that Trần Thị Nga has regular access to her family and lawyer of her choice, as well as to the adequate medical care she may require.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,