…………………………………………., 2022

H.E. Pham Minh Chinh

Prime Minister
Hoang Hoa Tham Street Nr. 1
Ba Dinh

Ha Noi
VIET NAM

Dear Prime Minister,

As a member/supporter of ACAT-Switzerland, the Action by Christians for the abolition of torture, I am seriously concerned about reports that death sentences continue to be passed and enforced in Vietnam.

For example, I have learned about the case of Ms. **Lo Thi Hoa**. In April 2021, the Hanoi People’s Court sentenced her to death for "illegal transportation of drugs". She had already been sentenced to 18 months in prison in another case for "drug trafficking".

According to the trial verdict, on the morning of July 26, 2020, the Hanoi police Y 2-141 squad, assisted by a unit from Kim Lien, inspected a vehicle in which Ms. Hoa was travelling. They discovered nearly one kilo of heroin and methamphetamines hidden in a bag and in the clothes of this lady. The act of smuggling was undoubtedly dictated by the dramatic socio-economic situation of Ms. Hoa, belonging to the Hmong ethnicity. Vulnerable, Mrs. Hoa may have been an easy prey for criminal networks.

Furthermore, I wish to draw your attention to the fate of the brothers **Le Dinh Cong** and **Le Dinh Chuc**, sons of **Le Dinh Kinh**, himself murdered in Dong Tam in January 2020. In March 2021, the Hanoi High Court upheld the death sentences against them on appeal. I also refer to the censorship to which lawyers and human rights defenders have been subjected throughout the trial. Due to the irregularities in the court proceedings, I ask you for the immediate release the two brothers.

The death penalty is cruel and inhumane. In the case of Lo Thi Hoa, as in that of the Le Dinh brothers, it is a totally disproportionate and inappropriate measure.

**According to art. 6 (4) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Vietnam is a state party, I ask you to revoke and commute these death sentences.**

Furthermore, I ask you to:

* agree to a moratorium on the death penalty with the aim of abolishing it completely;
* ensure that all detainees are treated humanely, in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

I thank you for the attention you will give to this concern.

Yours respectfully

Copy: H.E. Ms. Le Linh Lan, Ambassador of Viet Nam, Embassy of Viet Nam, Schlösslistrasse 26, 3008 Bern, Switzerland