

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 24, 2009

The Honorable Susan Rice  
Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations  
140 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Madame Ambassador:

As Members of the United States House of Representatives and Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, we write to urge the United States Mission to the United Nations to participate actively in the Human Rights Council's review of Vietnam during the current session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The UPR process offers a unique opportunity to assess publicly the human rights records of UN Member States. On May 8, 2009, Vietnam will come before the UPR for the first time. As you know, any Member State can pose questions of the Government of Vietnam during the review.

We believe it is imperative that the UPR include a full accounting of human rights conditions in Vietnam, including the multitude of abuses detailed in the State Department's 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices. Toward that end, the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam has worked with the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and various non-governmental organizations to develop the enclosed list of suggested questions for the review of Vietnam. These questions cover a wide range of critical issues and abuses, including the Vietnamese government's continuing crackdown on democracy activists, journalists and other dissidents, its restrictions on religious freedom, its pervasive censorship of the internet, and widespread arbitrary detention and deprivation of due process.

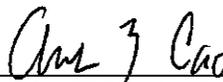
We respectfully request that the United States Mission consider submitting the enclosed questions during the UPR session for Vietnam. Given that the UPR considers the human rights record of each country only once every four years, it is crucial that this opportunity not be missed.

Sincerely,

  
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ZOE LOFGREN  
Member of Congress

  
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CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress

  
LORETTA SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress

  
ANH "JOSEPH" CAO  
Member of Congress

cc: Acting Assistant Secretary of State Karen Stewart, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights,  
and Labor  
Acting Assistant Secretary of State Glyn Davies, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific  
Affairs