

Dear Mr. President:

We are very grateful for your having warmly welcomed our Beloved Teacher Venerable THICH NHAT HANH in May 2007 at your palace. The photo of you shaking hands with our Teacher, published in all the media around the world, inspired millions of us. However, I have learned that since that meeting, as a result of one or two of the suggestions that our Teacher offered to you, the 400 monastic disciples of Thich Nhat Hanh have been continuously harassed. Since August 2008, the monastery is being subjected to severe, government-authorized, violent attack, and since June 27, 2009 these monks and nuns have been deprived of electricity and water. All of this is aimed at forcing these 400 young Vietnamese monastics to abandon the only home they have known since shaving their heads. On August 13, 2009, Mr. Le Dung, spokesperson for the Foreign Affairs Department of the Vietnam Government declared that the 400 monastics had to leave their home by Sept. 2, 2009. At any moment the monks and nuns could be forced onto buses and transported to unknown destinations. Is it now the intention of the Government of Vietnam to suppress the presence of these sincere wholehearted practitioners of Buddhism as monastics?

Please help to restore our trust in you, your government, and the Vietnamese nation which has offered to our world its great cultural and spiritual heritage and enriched our life enormously, thanks to our beloved Teacher.

My name is:

My address:

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(Signature)

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