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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

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May 10, 2011

The Organizing Committee for the  
Seventeenth Annual Commemoration of  
Vietnam Human Rights Day  
4217 Evergreen Lane  
Annadale, VA 22003

Dear Organizing Committee:

I wish to extend a warm welcome to you and all participants in the Seventeenth Commemoration of Vietnam Human Rights Day. Your commitment to promoting the right to basic freedoms in Vietnam – including for democracy advocates, government critics and members of unsanctioned religious groups - shines as an example for all those striving to advance human rights struggles around the world.

It is unfortunate that the Vietnamese government continues to engage in the persecution, imprisonment and mistreatment of certain political and religious prisoners. As Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I will maintain my strong support for legislative and diplomatic efforts that will help to catalyze real change within Vietnam.

Now, more than ever, the Vietnamese people are relying on champions like each of you to ensure that the country's economic progress coincides with irreversible human rights reforms. My staff and I look forward to working with Dr. Quan Nguyen and other leaders within the vibrant Vietnamese-American community towards one day realizing the important words expressed in the joint resolution that is commemorated today.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Lugar  
United States Senator