



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

STATEMENT

UPR of Vietnam, February 2014

Norway welcomes the delegation from Vietnam. Norway recognizes progress Vietnam has made towards the standards of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR).

Freedom of expression is essential in an open and fair society, and will be of critical importance as Vietnam transitions towards a knowledge-based economy. Norway recommends that Vietnam, in its implementation of the Constitution article 69, ensures compliance of its obligations under the ICCPR.

Norway acknowledges the overall progress made over the last decade to enable a more vibrant and open civil society. Norway recommends that Vietnam gives individuals, groups and organs of society the legitimacy and recognition to promote human rights and to express their opinions or dissent publicly.

Media has a crucial role to play in supporting Vietnam's continued stable socio-economic development. Norway recommends that Vietnam ensures that its legal framework allows for free and independent operation of national and international media in accordance with its international human rights obligations under the ICCPR.

Many dissidents have been convicted over the last couple of years charged under provisions of the Penal Code for what we consider to be peaceful activities. Norway recommends that Vietnam ensures that the 1999 Penal Code and 2003 Criminal Procedures Code, and their implementation are consistent with its international human rights obligations.

Thank you.

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