

Universal Periodic Review 2014 – Viet Nam

Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Mr. President,

The Netherlands warmly welcomes the delegation of Vietnam. Good economic growth contributes to the increased enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in Vietnam. To better protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of its people, we encourage further compliance of national legislation with international standards.

The Netherlands is concerned about the lack of progress in reforming the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedures Code, as well the use of expanded legal provisions and powers against human rights defenders and those using the Internet to voice their opinion.

We encourage Vietnam's commitment to gender equality and non-discrimination, which is needed to tackle the persisting high rates of discrimination of and violence against women.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends Viet Nam:

1. to allow bloggers, journalists, other internet users and NGOs to promote and protect human rights, specifically by ensuring that laws on the Internet comply with the freedom of expression and information;
2. to combat discrimination of women through anti-trafficking legislation; ensuring women's entitlement to land in the Land Law; and by curbing domestic violence and violations of reproductive rights.

I thank you, Mr. President.