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Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Media Release

For Immediate Release

September 26th, 2012

Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai urges Vietnam to let bloggers express their opinion

We are deeply disappointed by the decision of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Court to convict and sentence to lengthy prisons terms Mr. Nguyen Van Hai [Nu-wen Vahn Hai] (also known as Dieu Cay), Ms. Ta Phong Tan [Taah Fohn Than], and Mr. Phan Thanh Hai [Fan Thahn Hai] for peacefully exercising their democratic rights. All three are prominent bloggers and are members of the Free Journalists Club.

Canada urges the Vietnamese authorities to respect all of its international obligations, including freedom of expression, and to release these three bloggers and the many others imprisoned for peacefully expressing their opinion.

Yesterday at the UN I made an announcement of \$500,000 to the Lifeline Initiative to assist NGO activities that promote freedom of expression among others, as this is one the objectives of our foreign policy.

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