

02/07/01

hitadman,
OK

Draft

Resolution according to Article 50
on the freedom of religions in Vietnam

35-488/01

submitted by NASSAUER, POSSELT and MAIJ-WEGGEN

on behalf of the EPP-ED Group

The European Parliament

- A) with reference to its resolution of 19.01.1995, 15.05.1997, 16.03.1998 and 16.11.2000,
- B) concerned about the increase of tensions between the Government and the religious communities in Vietnam as well as the frequency of the national measurements of persecution against leading religious personalities following the 9th Party-congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam from 19. - 22.04.2001.
- C) In care about the state of health of the imprisoned 83-years-old patriarch of the United Buddhist Church Thich Huyen Quang,
1. demands of the Vietnamese government again and emphatically to free the Patriarch of the United Buddhist Church,
 2. insists on immediate free access to medical aid for the seriously ill Thich Huyen Quang,
 3. demands the release of the imprisoned salesian priest Theodeus Van Ly Nguyen, who apparently stays in a hospital due to his hunger strike
 4. renews the criticism inspite of the fact that freedom of faith and religion is granted according to article 70 of the Vietnamese constitution the free practice of religion is still hindered and state acceptance to religious communities as for example the United Buddhist Church and some protestant churches is still refused,
 5. supports an open discussion of the EU-Ambassadors in Vietnam with high representatives of the Vietnamese government on general questions and concrete individual cases of violating the religious freedom in Vietnam,
 6. instructs its President to submit this resolution to the Council and Commission as well as to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.