

12/05/03

B5 - 256/03

Motion for a resolution pursuant to Rule 50  
tabled by SJOSTÉDT, MORGANTINI, ERIKSSON on behalf of the ~~EPP-ED~~ Group

**on freedom of expression and religion in Vietnam**

GUE

The European Parliament

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Vietnam,
- having regard to the EC-Vietnam Framework Cooperation Agreement of July 1995,
- having regard to the EC-Vietnam Strategy Paper 2002-2006,
- having regard to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of 1966,

A. whereas Vietnam as party to the ICCPR must implement freedoms of speech, association, religious belief and worship,

B. concerned about the restriction of the movements of the Patriarch of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV), Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, and of Venerable Thich Quang Do, the UBCV's second-ranking leader

C. concerned about the continuing arrests, harassment and detentions of indigenous Montagnard Christians by the Government of Vietnam,

D. concerned about the imprisonment of Father Nguyen Van Ly since May 2001 and other religious prisoners and detainees for having expressed their religious faith peacefully,

1. Calls on the Vietnamese government to release all prisoners of conscience, especially the Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, the Venerable Thich Quang Do and Father Nguyen Van Ly, and for them to be granted freedom of movement;
2. Welcomes the recent meeting between the Vietnamese Prime Minister, Phan Van Khai, and the head of the unofficial Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam; encourages the vietnames government to continue in this dialogue;
2. Calls on the Vietnamese government to stop the continuing arrests, harassment and detentions of indigenous Montagnard Christians;
3. Calls on the Vietnamese government to stop the continuing arrests, harassment and imprisonment of peaceful dissidents and journalists;
4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

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