

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Nguyen Xuan Phuc  
Prime Minister  
Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
No. 01 Hoang Hoa Tham, Ba Dinh District, Ha Noi

Dear Prime Minister,

The COVID-19 pandemic is wreaking havoc the world over. We, the undersigned members of different religions and ethnicities, understand and recognize your concern and responsibility as Prime Minister when you decreed the 15-day society-wide self-quarantine. This period may need to be extended.

The pandemic does not spare anyone. Therefore, combating it requires the involvement of everyone and all sectors in society. Any form of monopoly or discrimination would diminish the efficacy of the fight against the spreading pandemic.

With that in mind, we respectfully offer the following inputs for your consideration so as to maximize the efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. Quickly resolve the situation of Hmong, Montagnard and many clergy members who have not been issued household registration or citizenship ID; urgently communicate to government authorities at the provincial, district and local levels a policy of absolute non-discrimination regarding access to medical services and social benefits.
2. Release prisoners, particularly the ones posing no risk to society such as those who defended human rights, those who exercised their freedom of expression or those who advocated environmental protection. Your decree on society-wide self-quarantine cannot be implemented in a prison's crowded environment. Many governments have already released prisoners to decrease the risk of infection.
3. Welcome and encourage the contributions of all social sectors, including religious organizations and communities that are not or not yet legally recognized. Facing the pandemic, mobilizing the totality of resources in society is urgent and critical. Even if a group or a community of citizens is excluded or marginalized, the total capacity of society would diminish, and the risk factor would increase.

We also call on religious communities, regardless of their legal status, to join with the rest of civil society and with the government in the campaign to fight the pandemic with their best intention and according to their own capacity.

Jointly signed by,

**List No. 2**  
**7 May, 2020**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Occupation/Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
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