

# Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/vietnam-another-blogger-arrested-for-02-12-2014,47322.html>

Asia - Asia

Blogger held

## Another blogger arrested for “abusing democratic freedoms”

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Reporters Without Borders condemns the Vietnamese public security ministry’s arrest of Hong Le Tho, a Vietnamese blogger of Japanese origin, in Ho Chi Minh City for posting “bad content and incorrect information that reduce trust in state agencies.”



**Hong Le Tho** was arrested on 29 November for posting an article critical of the ruling Communist Party on his blog “[Nguoi Lot Gach](#)” (“brick-layer”), which dealt mainly with political issues. The authorities seized his laptop, his mobile phone and USB flash drive, and closed the blog shortly after his arrest ([see cached version](#)).

Aged 65, he is facing a possible three-year jail sentence under article 258 of the criminal code for “abusing democratic freedoms to attack state interests and the legitimate rights and interests of organizations and/or citizens.”

“*The authorities has been waging an all-out campaign of repression for several years,*” said Benjamin Ismaïl, the head of the Reporters Without Borders Asia-Pacific desk. “*We urge them to stop gagging dissidents and to repeal criminal code article 258, which should not be used against any defender of freedom of information.*”

Bloggers such as **Nguyen Huu Vinh** (also known as **Anh Ba Sam**), **Nguyen Thi Minh Thuy** and **Dinh Nhat Uy** continue to be leading targets of a regime that does not hesitate to use article 258 as grounds for arresting and jailing dissidents.

**Pham Viet Dao** was sentenced to [15 months in prison](#). **Truong Duy Nhat** was sentenced to [two years in prison](#). **Uy** was given a suspended [15-month sentence](#) on 29 October.

In response, Vietnam’s bloggers formally created [the Vietnamese Bloggers Network](#) on 10 December 2013, with a [campaign against article 258](#) and its use to silence dissidents as their first action.

Reporters Without Borders is also combatting the growing crackdown on Vietnamese bloggers and has posted [a petition online](#) demanding the release of all the detained bloggers.

Vietnam is ranked 174th out of 180 countries in the 2014 Reporters Without Borders [press freedom index](#).