His Excellency
The President of the
Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Mr. Luong Cuong
Elsenstrasse 3
12435 Berlin-Treptow
Fax: 030-5363-0200

Your Excellency;

Please permit me to reach out to you on behalf of the Vietnamese Christian, Mr. Y Krec Bya. He has been held in custody since April 8, 2023. On March 28, 2024, he was sentenced by a court in the locality of Dak Lak to 13 years in prison, and following the prison term to a five-year suspended sentence. The Christian had been arbitrarily arrested by the authorities several times before. He received his first eight-year prison sentence in 2004.

This time, he is accused of “undermining solidarity policy”. The authorities had tried to force members of the Evangelical Church of Christ, of which Bya is a member, to stop holding further prayer meetings and to distance themselves from their church. In the case of Bya, these attempts have failed, and he continued to exercise his right to freely practice his religion.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees the right to religious freedom in Article 18. Therefore, dear Mr. President, I ask you to do everything in your power to advocate the unconditional release of Mr. Y Krec Byas.

With the utmost respect, I remain faithfully,

Yours