

# OPEN LETTER FROM VIETNAMESE CIVIL SOCIETIES TO PRESIDENT BIDEN

*Vietnamese organizations sent an open letter to President Biden on his upcoming trip to Vietnam.*

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, August 28, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- On August 25, 2023, 37 Vietnamese organizations signed [an open letter](#) to President Biden regarding his upcoming trip to Vietnam. The open letter has four recommendations.



... the signatories ask that President Biden addresses Vietnam's human rights situation, especially the plight of those detained for their religious, human rights and democracy advocacy."

*Letter signatories*

"First, the organizations believe that a successful US-Vietnam partnership requires accountability and mutual benefits. There are widespread reports of serious violations of human rights by the Vietnamese authorities. The letter emphasizes that an agreement to assist Vietnam's efforts in semiconductor and artificial intelligence is a mistake. It alleges that AI, in the hands of an unchecked totalitarian system, is a tool for control and

censorship. According to the open letter, any export of semiconductor technology to Vietnam is possibly destined to China to evade the ban on Chinese chip procurement.

Second, the letter recommends that the United States publicizes and enforces the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act in its dealings with the Vietnamese authorities. This legislation, a bipartisan bill passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law in December 2012, permanently authorizes the President to impose visa- and property-blocking sanctions based on violations of human rights.

Third, the organizations caution the United States against implicitly recognizing Vietnam's elections as free and fair. According to the signatories, elections in this communist country are not meeting international standards. The issue of free and fair elections is a matter of great importance to the Vietnamese people, [in Vietnam](#) and [the US](#). A recent publication of a Free and Fair Election Scorecard gave Vietnam a low score of 27 out of 100 possible points, based on criteria by the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Vietnam, a one-party state, is consistently categorized as "not free" and "authoritarian" by many international organizations and governments. The Vietnamese organizations recommend that the US promotes verifiable free and fair elections in Vietnam as a partner in its free and open Indo-Pacific initiative.

Fourth, the signatories ask that President Biden addresses Vietnam's human rights situation, especially the plight of those detained for their religious, human rights and democracy advocacy. Specifically, they recommend that the US voices its support for freedom of expression and independent labor unions in Vietnam, as conditions for diplomatic upgrade of bilateral relationship."

The 37 signatory organizations are representatives of religious, community, political and civil societies. They include the following:

Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam (AFJV)  
Alliance for Democracy in Vietnam  
Alliance for Vietnam's Democracy  
Assembly for Democracy in VietNam  
Antelope Valley Vietnamese Association  
Bloc 8406 International  
Buddhist Church of America  
Dai Viet Nationalist Party  
Federation Of Vietnamese American Communities of U.S.A  
Florida Việt Báo Newspaper  
Free Vietnam Global Network  
Interfaith Council of Vietnam, Overseas Office  
Institut d'histoire de Cao Dai  
Minh Van Foundation  
National Organization of Vietnamese American Leaders (NOVAL)  
One Bread  
Republic of Vietnam Next Generations  
Thang Nghia Society  
The Greater Philadelphia Vietnamese American Community  
The Greater Philadelphia Vietnamese Community Association  
The Vietnamese Association of Jacksonville, Florida  
United Council of Vietnamese Homeland and Overseas  
United Vietnamese American Community of Pennsylvania  
Vietnamese American Community of Central Virginia  
Vietnamese American Science & Technology Society  
Vietnamese Community of Florida  
Vietnamese Community of Oregon  
Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley, CA  
Viet 2000 Foundation  
Vietnamese American Community of the USA  
Vietnamese Americans for Human Rights  
Vietnam Helsinki HR Committee  
Vietnam Human Rights Day May 11 Organization  
Vietnam Human Rights Network

Vietnam Democracy Center  
Vietnamese Environmental Protection Society  
Vietnamese Nationalist Party

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