

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 8, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to express our deep concerns about human rights in Vietnam ahead of your upcoming visit to the country. Efforts to promote closer ties between the U.S. and Vietnam have coincided with a significant increase in human rights abuses by the Vietnamese state against its own citizens. We strongly urge you to use this visit to address these human rights abuses, and at a minimum, secure the release of prisoners of conscience and extract a guarantee that there will be no further arrests as our relationship with the country is upgraded to a Strategic Partnership.¹

As you know, Vietnam has an abysmal record on human rights, and the crackdown on activism and dissent has continued to intensify in recent years. In this regard, they seem to follow the example of the Chinese Communist Party, with which the Vietnamese Communist Party retains significant party-to-party ties.

Under the crackdown on civil society, scores of dissenters and human rights activists have been imprisoned on vaguely-worded national security or defamation charges. Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award winner Pham Doan Trang, for example, is currently serving a nine-year prison sentence for "spreading propaganda against the state." The leading human rights organization monitoring the country estimates that Vietnam now has close to 200 prisoners of conscience.² This figure, however, masks the number of people who have been persecuted into silence or forced into exile. A list of confirmed prisoners of conscience is enclosed—we urge you to use this document in your engagements with Vietnamese officials calling for the release of these prisoners.

Many of the prisoners of conscience in Vietnam have been dealt overly harsh sentences after trials that lack any semblance of due process, and some have been imprisoned more than once. One such example is Nguyen Bac Truyen, a Hoa Hao Buddhist, and religious freedom advocate who is currently serving an eleven-year sentence for "carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration." Truyen founded the Vietnamese Political and Religious Prisoners Friendship Association, which aims to assist other prisoners of conscience and their families. He was first arrested on November 17, 2006, and sentenced to 3 years and 6 months in prison under Article 88 (1999 Code) on charges of "conducting propaganda" against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. He was released in May 2010. After his second arrest in 2017,

¹ Donald Judd (2023, August 9). Biden says he plans to travel to Vietnam 'shortly'. CNN <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/08/08/politics/biden-travel-vietnam/index.html>

² *Database of persecuted activists in Vietnam*. (2023, August 12). Project 88. <https://the88project.org/database/>

Truyen was denied access to legal counsel, visits from family, and deliveries of food and medicine, and he was eventually sentenced following a trial that only lasted one day.

Over the past two years, Vietnam's one-party state has imprisoned key leaders of the country's climate change movement on false charges of tax evasion. Hoang Thi Minh Hong, arrested on June 1, is the fifth climate activist charged with tax evasion.³ Hong is an Obama Foundation Scholar who, along with her colleagues, successfully advocated for the government to commit to a policy of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. A human rights investigation published in April documents clear evidence that these prosecutions are politically driven and designed to criminalize policy activism.⁴ The failure to sanction Vietnam for this lawless behavior has had a chilling effect. State authorities are, in effect, taxing US aid and using the threat of criminal prosecution for "tax evasion" as a cudgel to suppress the emergence of an independent civil society, while restricting basic rights to freedom of association and speech.

The arrests of climate change activists are reminiscent of the government's suppression of protesters and bloggers who spoke out after the 2016 Formosa oil spill, the worst environmental disaster in the country's history. Several bloggers and activists were arrested in response to a series of demonstrations taking place throughout the country in 2016, including former Radio Free Asia journalist Nguyen Van Hoa who is serving a seven year prison sentence for his reporting and activism regarding the incident.

Recently, the government's repression has taken on a transnational dimension. In April 2023, on the same day that U.S. Secretary of State Blinken hailed the strength of the U.S.-Vietnam relationship, Vietnamese agents abducted a prominent blogger off the streets of Bangkok and forcibly returned him to Vietnam.⁵ Regrettably, the muted response from the White House and State Department to intensified repression in the country over the past few years, appears to have emboldened hardliners in the communist party. As one human rights activist recently noted, "Hanoi has learned that it can imprison the country's ... civil society leaders and face no consequences."⁶ In 2021, US Ambassador to Vietnam Marc Knapper told a nomination hearing of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations that if nominated, "I will press the Government of Vietnam to respect the freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly, and religion or belief."⁷ He added that "only when we see significant progress on human rights

³ Editorial Board. Vietnam faces many risks with climate change. Why is it jailing activists? (2023, June 15). <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/06/15/vietnam-climate-change-activist-imprisoned/>

⁴ Editorial Board (2023, April 23). Vietnam weaponized the law to punish environmental activists. Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/04/23/vietnam-environmentalists-activistists-sentenced-prison/>

⁵ Strangio, Sebastian, (2023, April 18). Vietnamese Blogger Reportedly Kidnapped in Bangkok. The Diplomat. <https://thediplomat.com/2023/04/vietnamese-blogger-reportedly-kidnapped-in-bangkok/>

(2023, April 28). Screams from abducted Vietnamese blogger heard on Thai security camera video. RFA. <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/abducted-blogger-video-04282023151719.html>

⁶ Do Nguyen Mai Khoi. Facebook. (2023, July 25). Facebook.com. Retrieved August 12, 2023, from https://www.facebook.com/forced_account_switch?next=https%3A%2F%2Fm.facebook.com%2Fstory.php%3Fstory_fbid%3Dpfbid02sa9VBfn3fh7mcNVCm5sTZxdRyVSGTtnPwH14U2Ros7nZkjXRFn6ohs63Vp3J6D5LI%26id%3D100007339352121%26mibextid%3DqC1gEa&_rdr

⁷ Brunnstrom, David. (2021, July 13). Biden's Vietnam ambassador nominee vows to press Hanoi on rights, trade. <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/bidens-vietnam-ambassador-nominee-vows-press-hanoi-rights-trade-2021-07-13/>

can our partnership reach its fullest potential.” We urge you to strongly weigh the lack of progress on human rights as you consider upgrading our relationship with Vietnam.

We urge you to pursue the following commitments, in your negotiations with Vietnamese state and party leaders:

- **Unconditional release of prisoners of conscience;**
- **Guarantee of a moratorium on arrests of human rights activists; and**
- **Amnesty for all prisoners of conscience before any arms sales are made to Vietnam.**⁸

The upcoming visit to Vietnam presents an opportunity to push for meaningful improvements in the situation for human rights within Vietnam. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to continuing to engage on this with your Administration.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Congressional
Vietnam Caucus



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Congressional
Vietnam Caucus



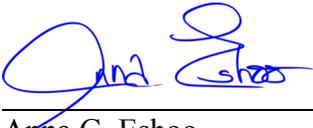
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Congressional
Vietnam Caucus



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Congressional
Vietnam Caucus

Knapper, Mark. (2021, July 13). Statement of Marc E. Knapper Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Socialist Republic of Vietnam Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/071321_Knapper_Testimony.pdf

⁸ Francesco Guarascio. (2022, December 14). Exclusive: U.S. defence companies in talks to sell Vietnam helicopters, drones. Reuters.
<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/us-defence-companies-talks-sell-vietnam-helicopters-drones-sources-2022-12-15/>



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary Anthony Blinken

Enc: List of Prisoners of Conscience in Vietnam

LIST OF PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE ARRESTED AND DETAINED IN VIETNAM

**NAME, BIRTH DATE, BACKGROUND, ARREST DATE, SENTENCE DATE, Penal
Code Art*, PRISON TIME, HOUSE ARREST, PRISON CAMP**

1. Trần Ngọc Sơn 1965 Facebooker 5/20/2021 Pretrial detention 331 Vinh Phuc Police Dept
2. Nguyễn Bảo Tiên 1986 Book distributor 5/5/2021 Pretrial detention 117 Phu Yen Police
Dept
3. Đoàn Kiên Giang 1985 Journalist 4/20/2021 Pretrial detention 331 Can Tho Police Dept
4. Nguyễn Phước Trung Bảo 1982 Journalist 4/20/2021 Pretrial detention 331 Can Tho
Police Dept
5. Nguyễn Thanh Nhã 1980 Journalist 4/20/2021 Pretrial detention 331 Can Tho Police
Dept
6. Nguyễn Hoài Nam 1973 Journalist 4/2/2021 Pretrial detention 331 HCM City Temp
detention center
7. Lê Trọng Hùng 1979 Facebooker 3/27/2021 Pretrial detention 117 Ha Noi Police Dept
8. Nguyễn Duy Hường 1987 facebooker 3/22/2021 Pretrial detention 117 Nghe An Police
Dept
9. Trần Quốc Khánh 1960 Facebooker 3/10/2021 Pretrial detention 117 Ninh Binh Police
Dept
10. Phan Bùi Bảo Thy 1971 Journalist 2/6/2021 Pretrial detention 331 Quang Tri Police Dept
11. Lê Anh Dũng 1965 Facebooker 2/5/2021 Pretrial detention 331 Quang Tri Police Dept
12. Lê Thị Bình 1976 Facebooker 12/22/2020 4/22/2021 331 2 Long Tuyền prison, Can Tho
13. Trương Châu Hữu Danh 1982 Facebooker 12/16/2020 Pretrial detention 331 Can Tho
Police Dept

14. Cao Văn Dũng 1968 Facebooker 11/21/2020 Pretrial detention 117 8 3 Quang Ngai
detention center
15. Nguyễn Văn Lâm 1970 Facebooker 11/6/2020 Pretrial detention 117 Nghe An Police
Dept
16. Nguyễn Quang Khải 1969 Facebooker 10/20/2020 Pretrial detention 337 Dong Nai
Police Dept
17. Hoàng Minh Tuấn 1980 Social activist 9/25/2020 Pretrial detention 156 Dak Lak Police
Dept
18. Phạm Đình Quý 1981 Anti-corruption activist 9/25/2020 Pretrial detention 156 Đắk Lắk
Police Dept
19. Lê Văn Hải 1966 Land rights activist 9/18/2020 3/31/2021 331 4 Quy Nhon prison, Binh
Dinh
20. Quách Duy 1982 Facebooker 9/18/2020 4/15/2021 331 4.5 Chi Hoa prison, HCM City
21. Trần Nguyên Chuân 1967 Political activist 9/1/2020 3/19/2021 109 6.6 Đắk Lắk Police
Dept
22. Trần Thị Tuyết Diệu 1988 Journalist 8/21/2020 4/23/2021 117 8 Phu Yen Police Dept
23. Nguyễn Quang Vinh 1981 Facebooker 6/27/2020 Pretrial detention 331 Nghe An Police
Dept
24. Lê Việt Hòa 1962 Facebooker 6/24/2020 3/30/2021 117 5 Unknown
25. Ngô Thị Hà Phương 1996 Facebooker 6/24/2020 3/30/2001 117 7 Khanh Hoa Prov
Detention Center
26. Nguyễn Thị Cẩm Thúy 1976 Facebooker 6/24/2020 3/30/2021 117 9 3 Khanh Hoa Prov
Detention Center

27. Nguyễn Thị Tâm 1972 Land rights activist 6/24/2020 Pretrial detention 117 Ha Noi
Police Dept
28. Vũ Tiến Chi 1966 Facebooker 6/24/2020 3/30/2021 117 10 3 Lam Dong Police Dept
29. Phan Thị Thanh Hồng 1969 Facebooker 6/21/2020 Pretrial detention 318 HCM City
Temp detention center
30. Huỳnh Anh Khoa 1982 Facebooker 6/13/2020 12/11/2020 331 1y 5m HCM City Temp
detention Center
31. Nguyễn Đăng Thương 1957 Facebooker 6/13/2020 12/21/2020 331 1.5 HCM City Temp
detention center
32. Trần Trọng Khải Facebooker 6/13/2020 12/21/2020 331 1 Unknown
33. Lê Hữu Minh Tuấn 1989 Journalist 6/12/2020 1/5/2021 117 11 3 Chi Hoa prison, Ho Chi
Minh city
34. Lê Ngọc Thành 1972 Political activist 4/25/2020 Pretrial detention 109 An Giang Police
Dept.
35. Đinh Thị Thu Thủy 1982 facebooker 4/18/2020 1/20/2021 117 7 Hau Giang Police Dept.
36. Lương Thị Thu Hiền 1968 Political activist 4/8/2020 Pretrial detention 109 Dong Nai
Police Dept.
37. Nguyễn Thị Kim Phượng 1967 Political activist 4/2/2020 Pretrial detention 109 An Giang
Police Dept
38. Chung Hoàng Chương 1977 Civil rights facebooker 1/11/2020 4/27/2020 331 1.5 Ninh
Kieu District Police, Can Tho
39. Đinh Văn Phú 1973 Civil rights facebooker 1/9/2020 Pretrial detention 117 N/A Dak
Nong Police Dept

40. Bùi Viết Hiếu 1943 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 123 16 Nghệ An Prison
41. 49 Lê Đình Chúc 1980 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 123 Death Detention center #2, Hanoi
42. Lê Đình Công 1964 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 123 Death Detention center #2, Hanoi
43. Lê Đình Doanh 1988 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 123 Life Yên Hạ prison, tỉnh Sơn La
44. Nguyễn Quốc Tiến 1980 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 123 13 Yên Bái Police Dept
45. Nguyễn Văn Tuyên 1974 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 123 12 Detention center# 2 Hanoi
46. Bùi Thị Đục 1957 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 3 Suspended sentence
47. Bùi Thị Nối 1958 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 6 Bac Giang Prison
48. Bùi Văn Niên 1980 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 3 Suspended sentences
49. Bùi Văn Tiến 1979 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 5 Detention center #2, Hanoi
50. Bùi Văn Tuấn 1991 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 3 Detention center #2, Hanoi
51. Bùi Viết Tiến 2000 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 1.5 Suspended sentence
52. Đào Thị Kim 1983 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 2 Suspended sentences
53. Lê Đình Hiến 1988 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 1.5 Suspended sentence
54. Lê Đình Quân 1976 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 5 Unknown
55. Lê Đình Quang 1984 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 5 Unknown
56. Lê Đình Uy 1993 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 5 Unknown
57. Lê Thị Loan 1966 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 2.5 Suspended sentence
58. Mai Thị Phần 1963 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 2.5 Suspended sentence

59. Nguyễn Thị Bét 1961 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 3 Suspended sentences
60. Nguyễn Thị Dung 1963 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 15 m Suspended sentence
61. Nguyễn Thị Lua 1956 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 3 Suspended sentences
62. Nguyễn Văn Duệ 1962 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 3 Detention center #2, Hanoi
63. Nguyễn Văn Quân 1980 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 5 Detention center #2, Hanoi
64. Nguyễn Văn Trung 1988 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 1.5 Suspended sentence
65. Nguyễn Xuân Điều 1952 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 3 Suspended sentences
66. Trần Thị La 1078 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 3 Suspended sentences
67. Trần Thị Phượng 1984 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 15 m Suspended sentence
68. Trịnh Văn Hải 1988 Land petitioner 1/9/2020 9/14/2020 330 3 Detention center #2, Hanoi
69. Nguyễn Văn Nhanh 1992 Facebooker 2020 1/7/2021 155 1 Unknown
70. Nguyễn Hữu Mỹ 1973 Facebooker 2020 Pretrial detention 331 Quang Ngai Police Dept
71. Trần Văn Tứ 1992 Facebooker 2020 Pretrial detention 331 Quang Ngai Police Dept
72. Nguyen Bac Truyen – (Businessman) On April 5, 2018, sentenced 11 years’ imprisonment and 3 years of house arrest for "carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the People’s Administration", Article 79. Current Detention: Gia Trung Prison, Gia Lai Province. Previously, in 2006, Truyen was sentenced to 3 years in prison for violation of “Article 88”.

73. Tran Huynh Duy Thuc – (Businessman) Arrested May 24, 2009. Sentenced to 16 years in prison under Article 79 (1999 Code). Expected Release is May 24, 2025. Last Known Prison: Prison No. 6, Nghe An province
74. Pham Doan Trang (Female) (Writer) - Arrested October 6, 2020. Sentenced to 9 years in prison under Article 88 (1999 Code). Expected Release is October 6, 2029. Detention: An Phuoc detention center, Binh Duong province
75. Huynh Thuc Vy (Female) (Writer) – Arrested August 9, 2018. Sentenced to 2 years 9 months in prison under Article 276 (1999 Code). Last Known Prison: Gia Trung prison, Gia Lai province
76. Nguyen Lan Thang – (Blogger) Arrested July 5, 2022. Sentenced to 6 years in prison and 2 years' probation under Art. 117 (2015 Code). Expected Release is July 5, 2028. Detention: Prison No. 5, Thanh Hoa province
77. Truong Duy Nhat (Reporter) - Arrested January 28, 2019. Sentenced to 10 years in prison under Art. 356 (2015 Code). Expected Release is January 28, 2029. Detention: Prison No. 3, Nghe An province
78. Pham Chi Dung (Writer) - Arrested November 21, 2019. Sentenced to 15 years in prison under Art. 117 (2015 Code). Expected Release is November 21, 2034. Detention: Xuan Loc prison, Dong Nai province
79. Pham Van Troi (Activist) - Arrested July 30, 2017. Sentenced to 7 years in prison under Art. 79 (1999 Code). Expected Release is July 30, 2024. Detention: Ba Sao prison, Nam Ha province

80. Truong Minh Duc (Activist) - Arrested July 30, 2017. Sentenced to 12 years in prison under Art. 79 (1999 Code). Expected Release is July 30, 2029. Detention: Prison No. 6, Nghe An province
81. Nguyen Tuong Thuy (Writer) - Arrested May 23, 2020. Sentenced to 11 years in prison under Art. 117 (2015 Code). Expected Release is May 23, 2031. Detention: An Phuoc detention center, Binh Duong province
82. Nguyễn Thuy Hanh (Female) (Activist) - Arrested April 7, 2021. Charged under Art. 117 (2015 Code). Detention: Central Mental Hospital, Hanoi
83. Nguyen Nang Tinh (Teacher) - Arrested May 29, 2019. Sentenced to 11 years in prison under Art. 117 (2015 Code). Expected Release is May 29, 2030. Detention: Prison No. 5, Thanh Hoa province
84. Nguyen Van Tuc (Farmer) - Arrested September 1, 2017. Sentenced to 13 years in prison under Art. 79 (1999 Code). Expected Release is September 1, 2030. Detention: Prison No. 6, Nghe An province
85. Tran Anh Kim (Activist) - Arrested September 21, 2015. Sentenced to 13 years in prison under Art. 79 (1999 Code). Expected Release is September 21, 2028. Detention: Prison No 5, Thanh Hoa province
86. Luu Van Vinh (Activist) - Arrested November 6, 2016. Sentenced to 15 years in prison under Art. 331 (2015 Code), Art. 79 (1999 Code). Expected Release is November 6, 2031. Detention: Gia Trung prison, Gia Lai province
87. Tran Duc Thach (Writter/Poet) - Arrested April 23, 2020. Sentenced to 12 years in prison under Art. 109 (2015 Code). Expected Release is April 23, 2032. Detention: Prison No. 5, Thanh Hoa province

88. Can Thi Theu (Female) (Farmer) - Arrested June 24, 2020. Sentenced to 8 years in prison and 3 years' probation under Art. 117 (2015 Code) together with her two sons, Trinh Ba Tu and Trinh Ba Phuong. Expected Release is June 24, 2028. Detention: Prison No. 5, Thanh Hoa province
89. Trinh Ba Tu (Son of Can Thi Theu) - Arrested June 24, 2020. Sentenced to 8 years in prison and 3 years' probation under Art. 117 (2015 Code). Expected Release is June 24, 2028. Detention: Prison No. 6, Nghe An province
90. Trinh Ba Phuong (Son of Can Thi Theu) - Arrested June 24, 2020. Sentenced to 10 years in prison and 5 years' probation under Art. 117 (2015 Code). Expected Release is June 24, 2030. Detention: Hanoi Police Detention Center No. 1, Hanoi
91. Nguyen Viet Dung (Activist) - Arrested September 27, 2017. Sentenced to 6 years in prison under Art. 88 (1999 Code). Expected Release is September 27, 2023. Detention: Nam Ha prison, Ha Nam province
92. Le Dinh Luong (Activist) - Arrested July 24, 2017. Sentenced to 20 years in prison under Art. 79 (1999 Code). Expected Release is July 24, 2037. Detention: Nam Ha prison, Ha Nam province
93. Bui Tuan Lam (Activist) - Arrested September 7, 2022. Sentenced to 5 years 6 months in prison under Art. 117 (2015 Code). Expected Release is March 7, 2028. Detention: Unknown, Da Nang province
94. Pham Thanh (Writer)- Arrested May 21, 2020. Sentenced to 5 years 6 months in prison under Art. 117 (2015 Code). Expected Release is November 21, 2025. Detention: Hoa Lo Prison

95. Tran Van Bang (Activist) - Arrested March 1, 2022. Sentenced to 8 years in prison and 3 years' probation under Art. 117 (2015 Code). Expected Release is March 1, 2030.
Detention: Chi Hoa prison, Ho Chi Minh city
96. Le Thanh Tung (Activist) - Arrested December 15, 2015. Sentenced to 12 years in prison under Art. 79 (1999 Code). Expected Release is December 15, 2027. Detention: Ba Sao prison, Nam Ha province
97. Vuong Van Tha (Activist)- Arrested May 18, 2017. Sentenced to 12 years in prison under Art. 88 (1999 Code). Expected Release is May 18, 2029. Detention: An Phuoc detention center, Binh Duong province
98. Vu Quang Thuan (Activist) - Arrested March 2, 2017. Sentenced to 8 years in prison under Art. 88 (1999 Code). Expected Release is March 2, 2025. Detention: Ba Sao prison, Nam Ha province
99. Nguyen Van Duc Do (Activist) - Arrested November 6, 2016. Sentenced to 11 years in prison under Art. 117 (2015 Code), Art. 79 (1999 Code). Expected Release is November 6, 2027. Detention: Xuan Loc prison, Dong Nai province
100. Le Van Dung (Activist) - Arrested June 30, 2021. Sentenced to 5 years in prison and 5 years' probation under Art. 117 (2015 Code), Art. 88 (1999 Code). Expected Release is June 30, 2026. Detention: Nam Ha prison, Ha Nam province

***The 2015 Penal Code provisions used to convict human rights activists**

(In parentheses is from the 1999 Penal Code)

Art. 109. Carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration.

Art. 117 (88). Conducting propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Art. 123. Murder

Art. 156. Slander

Art. 318. Causing public disorder

Art. 330. Resisting persons in the performance of their official duties

Art. 331. Abusing democratic freedoms to infringe upon the interests of the State, the legitimate rights and interests of organizations and/or citizens.