

#FreePhamDoanTrang: RSF and an international coalition call for the release of the Vietnamese journalist as she spends her 47th birthday behind bars



ORGANISATION:  RSF_en

An international coalition of press freedom organisations, including Reporters Without Borders (RSF), is urging the international community to pressure the Vietnamese regime to release journalist Pham Doan Trang. A laureate of the RSF press freedom award, Pham Doan Trang's health is deteriorating in detention, where she has spent almost 5 years.

On 27 May 2025, Vietnamese journalist **Pham Doan Trang** will spend her 47th birthday in prison, the fourth time since she was sentenced in 2020. To mark the occasion, an international coalition composed of RSF, Legal Initiatives for Vietnam (LIV), the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and PEN America has released a [joint statement calling for her immediate and unconditional release](#), and that she be

guaranteed access to adequate, independent medical care as her health is deteriorating in prison.

“Through her rigorous journalistic work and extraordinary courage, Pham Doan Trang embodies the struggle for press freedom and the right to information in Vietnam. The repression she’s enduring is unacceptable and demands urgent action. The international community must pressure the Vietnamese regime to release the journalist and demand that, at the very least, she receive adequate and independent medical care.

Aleksandra Bielakowska

RSF Asia-Pacific Bureau Advocacy Manager

Pham Doan Trang is the co-founder of the independent news sites *Luat Khoa* and *The Vietnamese* and was awarded the RSF Prize for Press Freedom in 2019. She was arrested at her home in 2020, shortly after publishing an investigative report on a deadly police raid in a village near Hanoi. After being held incommunicado for over a year — and denied access to legal counsel and medical treatment — she was sentenced to nine years in prison for allegedly disseminating "anti-state propaganda".

“Trang is not only a gifted journalist and a courageous fighter for democracy — she is, above all, a kind and honest soul. It takes immense strength to hold on to kindness and honesty in a world that often punishes both. Sometimes, it takes surviving prison to prove just how unshakable those values are.

Trịnh Hữu Long

Friend and former colleague of Pham Doan Trang

Vietnamese journalist Pham Doan Trang will spend her 47th birthday ...



Since her arrest, Pham Doan Trang [has been almost entirely cut off from her family](#). In October 2022, she was transferred to a prison in southern Vietnam, nearly 1,000 kilometres from her family home, making it extremely difficult for her 81-year-old mother to visit. She continues to suffer from the long-term effects of COVID-19, which she contracted in prison, as well as other serious health issues.

In Vietnam, detained journalists are routinely subjected to degrading treatment and denied access to medical care. On 2 August 2022, political blogger **Do Cong Duong** [died in prison](#) at the age of 58 following mistreatment in detention.

In addition to engaging with governments and international institutions, RSF is also calling on the public to take action [by signing a petition demanding Pham Doan Trang's immediate release](#).

Vietnam ranks 173rd out of 180 countries and territories in the [2025 RSF World Press Freedom Index](#) and is among the world's biggest jailers of journalists.

[Découvrir le pays](#)

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 **Joint Statement Pham Doan Trang 27-05-2025.pdf**