

May 20, 2016

Public Statement

On April 30 of this year, 54 intellectuals and personalities residing inside and outside Vietnam sent a letter to the highest leaders of the Government of Vietnam, proposing needed and practical solutions, according to international law, for the disputes between Vietnam and China in the East Sea [South China Sea]. At the bottom of the list of signees, my home address was listed for the purpose of receiving a reply.

In recent days, many developments and signals have shown that the authorities in China are continuing with their schemes of taking over completely the East Sea. In the meantime the proposed solutions stated in our letter have seemingly been ignored as we have not received any response even though more than two weeks have passed.

Consequently, we see a need to make that letter public to fellow citizens in the entire country and Vietnamese living abroad as well as to friends the world over so that they could voice their support. We hope that they would use all the appropriate means at their disposal (such as voicing concerns directly in meetings between voters and candidates to the National Assembly or writing articles in and letters to the press) to urge the leaders of the Vietnamese Government to come up with policies and measures that are appropriate to the demands of the current situation, the hopes of the people of Vietnam, and the expectations of many countries in the world for protecting the national sovereignty, peace, security, and safety of sea and air transport in the East Sea, an area of utmost importance to the international community.

In representing all those who signed the April 30 letter to the leaders of the Vietnamese government, I am:

Nguyễn Trọng Vĩnh
Ambassador from Vietnam to China from 1974-1987