

Vietnam

CPAC vehemently opposes the views of many of the political prisoners featured in the Freedom of Speech Ratings. Political prisoners are featured in the Freedom of Speech Ratings for the purpose of revealing the state of legal Freedom of Speech protection in their countries. Political prisoners are selected based on the objective facts of their cases; each selected prisoner is the person who received the harshest sentence in that country for speech that would have been protected by the US First Amendment. CPAC stands for the right to Freedom of Speech for everyone, even people whose views we vehemently oppose.

Pham Doan Trang - Activist Pham Doan Trang criticized Vietnam's human rights record at the United Nations. The next year she was imprisoned by the Vietnamese government. Watchdog groups believe that her imprisonment is retaliation for her statements to the UN. Vietnam has broad cybersecurity laws which are used to persecute critics of the government. Even when dissenters flee to neighboring countries such as Thailand, the government of Vietnam pursues them for deportation. Trang was convicted of "conducting propaganda against the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam". She is serving a **nine year prison sentence**.

The score scale is:

0% - Death penalty for presenting forbidden ideas

10% - Imprisoned for presenting forbidden ideas, NO independent media allowed

20% - Imprisoned for presenting forbidden ideas, independent media IS allowed

30% - Imprisoned for jokes, poems, or insults

40% - Imprisoned for the tone but not the content of ideas (e.g. blasphemy, koran burning)

70% - Speech punished by non-state actors (e.g. drug cartels, terrorist groups)

90% - No one is imprisoned for speech, but no Constitutional guarantee

100% - No one is imprisoned for speech, a Constitutional guarantee of Freedom of Speech

+10% bonus if the prison sentence was less than one year

Imprisonment for presenting forbidden ideas is rated at 20% if the country allows independent media and 10% if the country does not allow independent media. Vietnam does not allow independent media. **Vietnam's Freedom of Speech Rating is 10%.**

World Map Here:

https://public.tableau.com/views/FreedomofSpeechRatings/CPACFreeSpeechRatings?:language=en-US&:sid=&:redirect=auth&:display_count=n&:origin=viz_share_link

Sources:

<https://pen.org/vietnams-silenced-writers-the-vietnamese-government-falls-short-on-human-rights/>

Did We Miss Something? Not every case of imprisonment for speech gets widespread media attention. If you are aware of a case in which a person was imprisoned for speech and received a *harsher* sentence than the political prisoner who we feature in the scorecard, please send the details of the case to slaird@conservative.org. To meet our methodological criteria, the person must be 1) imprisoned or sentenced to prison for speech that would have been protected under the US first amendment, 2) a citizen of the country in which they are imprisoned, 3) received a sentence of imprisonment for at least one month OR were imprisoned without being sentenced for at least 3 months 4) not imprisoned for any actual crime during the same period for which they were sentenced for a speech crime.

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