



U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

Press Statement

**Richard Boucher, Spokesman**

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## **Vietnam: Prisoner Amnesty**

On January 31, 2005, the Government of Vietnam announced an amnesty for 8,325 prisoners. This includes five prominent activists for human rights and religious freedom: Nguyen Van Ly (also known as Father Ly), Nguyen Dan Que (Dr. Que), Huynh Van Ba (also known as Thich Thanh Tu or Thich Thien Minh), Mr. Truong Van Duc and Mr. Nguyen Dinh Huy.

The United States welcomes the planned release of these prisoners of conscience and urges the Government of Vietnam to permit these and other individuals to express their political views freely and to practice religion peacefully in an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect.

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