

## CITY OF GARDEN GROVE



Bruce A. Broadwater  
*Mayor*  
Dina Nguyen  
*Mayor Pro Tem*  
Steven R. Jones  
*Council Member*  
Christopher V. Phan  
*Council Member*  
Kris Beard  
*Council Member*

June 10, 2014

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our concerns over the grave situation in Southeast Asia.

As representatives of one of the largest Vietnamese American communities in the United States, it is our responsibility to listen to our constituents and to voice their concerns to our national leadership. In no uncertain terms, our Vietnamese American community is extremely angry over China's aggression towards Vietnam's territorial waters and the Vietnamese government's abuse of its own people.

The blatant act by China of moving its drillship into Vietnam's territorial waters and sinking fishing boats in this region violates international law and is grossly inhumane. It is imperative that the United States take firm and decisive action to thwart China's aggression into undisputed territories of Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries. The United State's inaction at this critical juncture will further weaken our global standing, destabilize the region, and only lead to irreversible harm from China in the future. The United States must take action to deter China from such unlawful aggression.

Further, the United States must demand that the Vietnamese government afford its people freedom and democracy and not violate human rights. Many in our Vietnamese American community were victims of the brutal communist government that took over Vietnam in 1975. Their brutality caused many to sacrifice everything and risk death on the high seas in order to find freedom. To this day, Vietnam is **still** one of the worst violators of human rights and religious freedom in the world. Countless victims are tortured, abused, denied due process, and jailed indefinitely simply for voicing their opinions. Most recently, a 67 year-old woman in Vietnam sacrificed her life by putting herself on fire to protest against religious oppression. No one should have to burn herself to death in order to send a message to her government. It is a cry

of despair and a cry for help, and we cannot simply turn a blind eye on this fact. The Vietnamese communist government must be held accountable for all of its actions.

At our city level, we are not able to effect the international change that our constituents desire. However, we are reaching out to you on their behalf. We respectfully ask that you listen to our concerns, and we request that our nation take an active role in correcting injustice and protecting freedom and democracy for all who cannot defend themselves by imposing:

1. *trade and economic sanctions against China and Vietnam. This will send a clear message to China regarding its territorial trespasses and invasions and to Vietnam concerning its continuous violation of core human rights.*
2. *that no arms embargo is lifted for the sale of weaponry to Vietnam until Vietnam is truly a democratic country. This will limit the resources the Vietnam communist party has to inflict dictatorship and violence on its own citizens. Consistent with our nation's history of foreign policy, the United States must not assist any communist government to remain in power.*

Very Respectfully,

Bruce Broadwater	Dina Nguyen	Steve Jones	Chris Phan	Kris Beard
Mayor	Mayor Pro Tem	Council Member	Council Member	Council Member

Cc: The Honorable Harry Reid, United States Senate Majority Leader  
The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable John Kerry, United States Secretary of State

**Approved for Agenda Listing**



**Matthew Fertal**  
**City Manager**