



Statement on the Forthcoming Release of Dang Dinh Bach

15 June 2026

This month, on 24 June 2026, Vietnamese environmental lawyer Dang Dinh Bach is due to be released from prison, having served his five-year sentence in full. As that day draws near, we look forward with hope to his safe release and the reunion that awaits him, with his wife, Tran Phuong Thao, and with the young son he has not yet had the chance to know.

Bach was taken from his family in June 2021, when his son was just two weeks old. He was imprisoned on charges of ‘tax evasion’ in a case that has prompted widespread concern and protest from the international community. His long-anticipated release carries with it the promise of a father returning home and a family made whole again.

Vietnam today finds itself at a turning point, with new leadership and a forward-looking agenda. In a time of global uncertainty, Bach's forthcoming release signifies a step toward environmental progress, humanitarian values, and the ambitious climate and sustainable development commitments that Vietnam has set before the world. This moment therefore carries the prospect of renewal—for a family reunited, and for Vietnam's path toward a just and sustainable future.

Dang Dinh Bach has devoted more than two decades to protecting Vietnam's communities, its environment, and its people. His work helped shape the country's Environmental Protection Law, contributed to Vietnam's landmark net-zero commitments, and helped lay the groundwork for Vietnam's US\$15.5 billion Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) and pathway toward a just energy transition.

That work is not finished. The challenges of climate change, environmental protection, and sustainable development are long-term and demanding endeavours, made more so in a time of global upheaval and change. They are best served by people of Bach's expertise, integrity, and dedication working alongside government, not behind bars. His voice, his legal mind, and his commitment to communities and the environment offer important contributions to Vietnam's continued progress.

We welcome Bach's freedom and return to his family. We look forward to the restoration of his health, and, in time and at his own pace, resumption of the work that has defined his life. We welcome Bach home.

The Vietnam Climate Defenders Coalition is a group of over 30 international and regional environmental, climate justice, and human rights organizations concerned about threats to civic space and environmental defenders in Vietnam in the context of the energy transition.