

I have not been to a Vietnamese American event in Orange County or California where the yellow flag was not displayed. This is because we have the freedom to do so. I understand there are many who do not have the same freedoms. These are important concerns that I know are also important to my constituents. In the past, I have raised concerns on human rights and religious freedoms in Vietnam on behalf of my constituents.

In conjunction with 37 of my fellow members, we sent a letter in November 2003 requesting that your government immediately release and put an end to the persecution and false imprisonment of the UBCV and its leaders. The exercise of the freedom of religion is a basic human right that must be respected by a government if the government is to be respected by the free people of the world. We were hopeful that your government would have taken immediate action to respect the right of independent churches to practice their faith and demonstrate your sincere commitment to improving your human rights record. I have attached a copy of that letter.

My strong support for the SCR 72 is based on my duty to represent my constituents. SCR 72 will recognize the desire of Vietnamese Americans to choose the flag they want flown to represent the contributions of Vietnamese Americans in the state of California. SCR 72 is a measure being considered by the California Legislature whose primary responsibility to act on behalf of the people of California including Americans of Vietnamese heritage.

Sincerely,

Lou Correa  
California State Assemblymember  
69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District