

Let us know you agree to cookies

We use cookies to give you the best online experience. Please let us know if you agree to all of these cookies.

Yes, I agree

No, take me to settings

BBC



Home

News

More ▼

Search

Home | War in Ukraine | Coronavirus | Climate | UK | World | Business | Politics | Tech |

More

Science | Health

Asia | China | India

Pham Doan Trang: Vietnam arrests leading pro-democracy blogger

🕒 7 October 2020



PHAM DOAN TRANG

Pham Doan Trang faces years in jail if convicted

Vietnam has arrested a prominent dissident writer and blogger just hours after holding talks with the United States on human rights.

Pham Doan Trang was detained in Ho Chi Minh city late on Tuesday and accused of carrying out anti-state activities.

Ms Trang has been detained before and is an advocate for democracy, press freedom and the rule of law in Vietnam.

Vietnam's one-party communist state frequently jails its critics. There was no immediate comment from the US.

Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have demanded her immediate release.

Ms Trang has been charged with "making, storing, disseminating or propagandising information, materials and products that aim to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam", state media report.

Such charges carrying jail terms of up to 20 years.

"There will be more arrests of dissidents and human rights activists before the Communist Party's 13th Congress early next year," fellow dissident Pham Thanh Nghien told BBC Vietnamese. "It turns out Doan Trang is first in line."

- **Mother Mushroom heads to US exile**
- **Trump Asia tour focuses on trade, not human rights**
- **The communist reporter scrubbed from the history books**
- **US teacher riles Vietnam with Giap 'insult'**

Another activist who spoke to BBC Vietnamese said: "Looking at the range and depth of Doan Trang's activities in the past years, it is totally predictable that she would be detained. Trang was prepared mentally to go to prison."





| One of Vietnam's most famous bloggers, "Mother Mushroom"

Earlier this year, Ms Trang stopped working for an independent book publisher, citing police harassment, heightened state abuse and the abduction of colleagues.

With the growing importance of social media, the internet has become a vital platform for dissidents in a country which tightly controls its press.

The 24th annual US-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue was held for three hours on 6 October and "addressed a wide range of human rights issues", the US state department said on its website.

"The promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms remains a critical pillar of US foreign policy and is key to further building upon the US-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership," it added.

More on this story



Vietnam's Mother Mushroom freed to US

18 October 2018



Vietnam holds activist singer after tour

27 March 2018



Germany jails Vietnamese man over kidnap

25 July 2018



Six prominent Vietnamese activists jailed

5 April 2018



US teacher riles Vietnam with Giap