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Ottawa November 22, 2015

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada

80 Wellington Street,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Memorial to the Victims of Communism in Canada

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

The Vietnamese Canadian Federation (VCF) with 11 chapters across Canada represents the interests of about 300,000 Canadians of Vietnamese heritage.

As always, the VCF and the Vietnamese community is grateful for the generosity of the Canadian government and people for welcoming 60,000 boat people to this great land in the early 1980s, and for helping them rebuild their shattered lives.

During the last few decades, the VCF has maintained constructive relationships with other ethnic communities in support of Canada's Multiculturalism policy and in building a strong and united Canada.

With this letter, the VCF wishes to express its full support for the Memorial to Victims of Communism which is to be built in Ottawa.

As victims of the Communists, we are fully aware of the crimes committed by the Communist regime in Vietnam during the last 7 decades. It was the Vietnamese Communists that have:

- eliminated all opposition parties in order to gain political power in 1945
- divided Vietnam into, forcing North and South Vietnam more than 1 million refugees to seek freedom in South Vietnam in 1954
- murdered thousands of landlords and farm-owners during the Land Reform movement and oppressed intellectuals in 1956
- committed genocide during the TET offensive in 1968
- forced hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians and government officials into re-education camps and the New Economic Zone after capturing South Vietnam in 1975

Following the so called “liberation of South Vietnam” in April 1975, due to the Hanoi Communist dictatorship and its blatant human rights violations, nearly 2 million Vietnamese risked their lives and fled the country in search for freedom and human dignity. About 50% of these freedom seekers have either perished on the high seas or died in deserted jungles. To this date, Hanoi continues to oppress many prominent dissidents whose crime was only to demand for democracy, human rights and territorial sovereignty for Vietnam.

For these reasons above, together with victims of the Communist regime from the Polish, Korean, Ukrainian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Cuban, Serbian, Czech, Croatian, Chinese, and Estonian communities in Canada, the VCF wishes to fully endorse the Memorial to Victims Communism. For the VCF, the Memorial to the Victims of Communism is not only a tribute to liberty, but it also affirms that Canada remains a global leader in recognizing, advocating for and protecting people and groups who are the victims of human rights violations.

Thus, we encourage you, Mr. Prime Minister, to support this timely and important Memorial.

Thank you and sincere regards,



Dr. Tri Hoang
President
The Vietnamese Canadian Federation

CC:

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