

Universal Periodic Review 18

UPR of Vietnam

5 February 2014

Intervention by Ireland

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Vietnam and thanks it for its presentation.

Ireland takes note of the positive steps taken by Vietnam since its previous review, including the removal of the death penalty for a number of crimes.

Ireland is gravely concerned at reports of harassment and imprisonment of human rights defenders, including journalists, bloggers, and representatives of religious minorities expressing dissenting views. We note the lack of an independent media as well as reports of increasing surveillance by State-owned internet providers.

Ireland **recommends** that Vietnam facilitate the development of a safe and enabling environment for all civil society actors to freely associate and express their views by ensuring that national legislative provisions are not invoked to stifle legitimate and peaceful dissent

Ireland **recommends** that Vietnam revise ‘Decree 72’ and ‘Decree 174’ relating to the management, provision and use of the internet, to ensure their consistency with international human rights obligations, and in particular with Articles 19, 21 and 22 of the ICCPR.