



MOST REV VINCENT LONG OFMConv

BISHOP OF PARRAMATTA

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The Honourable Peter Dutton MP,  
Home Affairs Minister,  
POBox6022  
Parliament House Canberra ACT2600.

Dear Minister,

I write to request your urgent intervention on humanitarian grounds, into the case of Huyen Tran, a Vietnamese Asylum Seeker who is facing deportation and indefinite separation from her baby, Isabella.

As you may know, many Catholics are still persecuted in Vietnam, and Huyen fled this persecution in 2011. Because she arrived by boat, she has never had an opportunity to make a statutory claim for refugee protection.

In January this year Border Force loaded her onto a chartered flight to Vietnam, but she was 8 months pregnant and so was taken off the plane just before it departed.

Huyen is now in MITA detention centre with her 6 month old daughter, and there are no legal barriers to her deportation. Her husband Paul, Isabella's father, must submit to drug tests, metal detectors, and elaborate application forms to visit them after work each day. Psychiatric reports reveal Huyen is suffering from significant depression, and Isabella is suffering from attachment related anxiety, and their conditions are exacerbated by detention. Appropriate medical attention is not available in detention.

Isabella has inherited her father's 457 visa status (he is Mauritius Chinese), and if she is deported Huyen would be indefinitely separated from her daughter and husband.

Catholic asylum seekers who were returned to Vietnam from Indonesia last year were harassed, arrested, and threatened with imprisonment. Many continue to be treated harshly by the Vietnamese communist government.

This year, the UNHCR condemned Australia for separating a Sri Lankan refugee family, where the father was deported leaving the mother and 11 month old baby in Sydney.

The UNHCR has urged the Government of Australia to uphold the fundamental principle of family unity, and allow family members to be together.

I urge the Minister to release Huyen and Isabella into the community, and allow for their permanent protection here in Australia.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Vincent Long', written in a cursive style.

Bishop Vincent Long OFMConv  
Bishop of Parramatta