Vietnam: Environment

SPEECH

Thursday, 5 May 2016
Mr HAYES (Fowler—Chief Opposition Whip) (13:30): Since last month, dead fish have been washing up on
the shores of Vietnam, from the Ha Tinh province down to the Hue province, and it is now spreading down to
Da Nang city. The evidence suggests that this is the result of a toxic waste discharge from the Formosa Ha Tinh
Steel Corporation, a Taiwanese company operating in the Vung Ang industrial zone. The result of this is that
local fishermen have now lost a lot of their work and their livelihoods have been compromised, for which there
is no compensation.

Tuan Anh Nguyen, who is a member of the Vietnamese Overseas Initiative for Conscience Empowerment,
VOICE, and was also an intern in my office earlier this year, has been working with the local community,
assisting them by providing temporary relief and aid. Tuan has also been working to report on this dire situation
through blog sites and social media. I am advised that, over the past two weeks, Tuan has been monitored by
the authorities and has been ordered to remain in the vicinity of his local church. There remains a real concern
that if he leaves he will, once again, be detained.

I understand that many protestors who are seeking to raise awareness of this environmental disaster have already
been detained. Once again, there appears to be a situation where the authorities are targeting those who advocate
the truth rather than those who have caused real harm to the environment and the community.