

## **Nguyen Van Hai (Dieu Cay)**

Writing under the pen name Dieu Cay (peasant's water pipe), Nguyen Van Hai is one of Vietnam's pioneering citizen journalists. Through his Yahoo360 blog, Dieu Cay exposed government corruption, called for freedom of expression and was among the first Vietnamese to criticize China's annexation of the Paracel and Spratly Islands. He was arrested while calling for a boycott of the Beijing Olympic Torch Relay and was originally convicted for tax evasion. In September 2012, Nguyen Van Hai was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment. He was released to exile in October 2014. In May Dieu Cay, along with other former imprisoned journalists, met with President Obama during World Press Freedom Day events.