

VNT: During this meeting, LNA has clearly demonstrated that he wants mediation and is willing to accept responsibility (without discussing the accuracy of the statement).

The meeting ends at 11:30 a.m.

Secretary

Đặng Bảy (signed)

Đỗ Bạch Mai (signed)

Lương Ngọc An (signed)

Tạ Kim Liên (signed)

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE VIETNAM WRITERS' ASSOCIATION

Translated by Trần Hạnh

Letter from the Executive Committee of the Vietnam Writers' Association to Ms. Dạ Thảo Phương (Phan Thị Thanh Thúy)

This letter was sent via email to Dạ Thảo Phương on April 10, 2022, and was not signed by any individual. The online newspaper *InfoNet* published it on April 12, 2022, <https://infonet.vietnamnet.vn/gioi-tre/nong-tren-mang/hoi-nha-van-viet-nam-gui-thu-cho-nha-tho-da-thao-phuong-sau-khi-nhan-don-chi-phuong-to-cao-ptbt-luong-ngoc-an-cuong-dam-hon-20-nam-truoc-408637.html>.

Hà Nội, April 10, 2022

Dear Ms. Dạ Thảo Phương (Phan Thị Thanh Thúy),

On the 6th of April 2022, the executive committee of the Vietnam Writers' Association received your open letter sent via email, that “denounced an act of rape” by Mr. Lương Ngọc An, currently a standing member of the executive committee of the Vietnam Writers' Association, and the deputy editor in chief of *Văn Nghệ* newspaper.

After thoroughly scrutinizing the content and the nature of your open letter, as well as having listened to the direct report from the leaders of *Văn Nghệ* newspaper, and communicating with Mr. Lương Ngọc An about the incident, which had already been handled according to a previous record, the executive committee of the Vietnam Writers' Association would like to respond as follows:

- 1 The incident you presented occurred in the year 2000 and had been handled by *Văn Nghệ* newspaper according to the evidence within the administrative jurisdiction of the agency. At that moment, the individuals involved (you and Mr. Lương Ngọc An) had made no written request to the concerned agencies that the case be dealt with according to the law. As such, the incident was resolved administratively and internally within *Văn Nghệ* newspaper.
- 2 At present, after twenty-two years, you sent an open letter to a large and diverse number of recipients, including the executive committee of the Vietnam Writers' Association to revisit the incident with the goal that "this truth will be heard and met with useful action." The executive committee of the Vietnam Writers' Association sincerely takes heed of your words and expresses our sympathy. However, from a legal perspective, the executive committee of the Vietnam Writers' Association realizes that there is no satisfactory basis nor authority to administratively deal once again with an incident that occurred at *Văn Nghệ* newspaper in 2000. In order to bring light to the incident, after a twenty-two-year time gap, you should send your letters and requests to the relevant agencies that have legal authority to handle the matter according to the legal process.

Should our cooperation be requested, the executive committee of the Vietnam Writers' Association is willing to fully cooperate in a responsible way with law enforcement agencies to protect the honor, reputation, and legal interests of the concerned individuals.

Respectfully,

The Executive Committee of the Vietnam Writers' Association