

## AFFIDAVIT

I, François Pouliot, of the City of Québec, in the province of Québec (CANADA),  
MAKE OATH AND SAY:

1. I am a Canadian reporter currently working for *Le Journal de Montréal*, a leading daily newspaper in the City of Montreal, in the Province of Québec, Canada. I am a financial reporter, writing about business news, economics and finance.
2. I am also a Canadian lawyer, a member of the Bar of the Province of Quebec.
3. In 1996, as an investigative reporter for *Le Soleil*, an important daily newspaper in Quebec City, I became interested in the story of Mr. Trần Triều Quân.
4. At that time, he was in prison in Vietnam as a result of the failure of a complicated commercial transaction.

Mr. Trần had acted as an intermediary for a deal between a Vietnamese state company and a U.S. company whose suppliers took the money but did not supply the goods. Rather than assuming their obligations, the principals of the U.S. company simply vanished. They later became the subject of an Interpol investigation.

The only person involved in the transaction who didn't disappear was Mr. Trần.

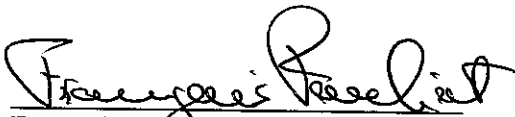
5. After many months of research and investigation, I came to the conclusion that Mr. Trần had been unjustly convicted. In my opinion, the Vietnamese Government had convicted him because they needed a scapegoat and he was there in Vietnam trying to help, while the real culprits had disappeared. Also, the Vietnamese believed that he would pay to obtain his freedom, and this would allow them to recover indirectly part of the one million dollars lost in the transaction.
6. In July 1996, I attended Mr. Trần's appeal hearing in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), Vietnam.
7. Arriving the day before the trial, I had the opportunity to meet with his lawyers, and I was surprised to discover that they had not been given all the available information about the case. I was able to give them supplementary information based on my own investigation.
8. As a lawyer, I was absolutely shocked by the appeal court trial and amazed that Mr. Trần could have been convicted in the first place, given the lack of evidence against him. In fact, there was clear evidence in his favour.
9. It is true that the transaction was a complicated one, involving a number of parties and transiting merchandise through a number of countries. Also, there seem to have been problems with communication of information about the case.

For instance, during my investigation I had been able to locate a key figure in the fraud in the United States. Nevertheless, the Vietnamese judges concluded that person might never have existed. (I knew he did exist because I had talked to him.).

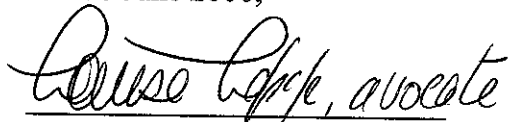
Also, I was in touch with Interpol in Vienna, and they complained that the Ministry of the Interior in Vietnam had never responded to their requests for assistance for their investigation of the commercial fraud.

10. As a lawyer, I was astonished to realize that the Vietnamese Court did not recognize the Rules of Natural Justice and basic human rights.
11. A few months after the appeal hearing, an expert in International Law from Laval University, Professor Jean-Maurice Arbour, studied the case and came to the conclusion that Mr. Trần had been unjustly convicted. Mr Arbour released an opinion urging the Canadian Government to push for his release and seek monetary compensation on behalf of him and his family.
12. The Canadian public were shocked that a fellow citizen had been sentenced to life in prison in Vietnam for a failed commercial transaction. The Canadian Prime Minister at that time, the Honourable Jean Chrétien stated that he would personally take charge of the Trần Triều Quân file and that he would do everything possible to have him released.

13. The Mayor of Quebec City, Mr. Jean-Paul L'Allier, and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Quebec, His Excellency Maurice Couture, decided to sponsor a petition asking the Vietnamese Government to free Mr. Trân. More than 125,000 people in the Quebec City area signed that petition.
14. In a very unusual move, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada (the highest court in Canada), the Right Honourable Chief Justice Antonio Lamer publicly announced that he would discuss the situation with his Vietnamese counterparts in an attempt to obtain Mr. Trân's release from prison.
15. In May 1997, after many months of tough negotiations between the two governments, Mr. Trân was finally freed and allowed to return to Canada. He had spent more than three years in Vietnamese prisons.
16. I had never met Mr. Trân when I started my investigation. I first met him in Ho Chi Minh City in the courtroom. I have since had the opportunity to get to know him very well, and I can state unequivocally that he is one of the most honest people I have ever met. It would be an enormous failure of justice if this case were to be used to discredit him.
17. I am available to respond to any supplementary requests the court may have.

  
François Pouliot, 30 June 2006

SWORN BEFORE ME at the City of Québec, in the Province of Québec (CANADA)  
this 30 June 2006,

  
Louise Lepage, Lawyer