

We can never
be sure of
**what tomorrow
will bring**
**, but we do know
for certain...**

“I have received both batches of your letters. There were about a hundred messages in the first batch, and roughly two dozen in the second. Reading them brought tears to my eyes. It is heartening that the younger generation can discern right from wrong. The fact that some people understand me gives me peace, and I can face my end serenely. Your relentless persistence will make the dictators feel even more powerless. Your letters have inspired me to stay alive, to witness such hope. The solidarity you’ve shown compels me to take care of myself. Among the last batch of letters, there were a few I was eagerly awaiting. Reading them gives me hope, and I yearn to leave this place soon. I thank you all for your moral support and concern.”

Statement by **Anchan Preelert**,
from a memo of an attorney visit

Anchan Preekert, a convicted prisoner under Section 112 of the Criminal Code (lèse-majesté), received the longest sentence ever given for such a case when she was already in her 60s. We affectionately refer to her as Auntie Anchan, and she is correct that we must never forget her. Amnesty Thailand has never turned a blind eye to injustice. We believe that an ordinary person can bring about change, and continue to challenge the powers that be and various forms of abuse. On the eve of the 30th anniversary of Amnesty Thailand's establishment, many people wear shirts with the slogan "freedom, freedom, freedom", and our manufacturing team struggles to meet the demand. There is a long waiting list of people wanting to participate in our human rights games, and we are working to make more slots available. Our Human Rights Courses are offered throughout the country. Hundreds of campaigns we are engaged in, both on the street and online, are active and persevering. The letters we've written to request meetings with the authorities have either granted us those meetings or resulted in postponements. Our team, comprised of members, activists, volunteers, supporters, and board members, has been working tirelessly to be part of the effort enabling this change.

From humble beginnings with a few desks and chairs, our office is now bustling with people. We have expanded our workspace to accommodate our human rights work. In 2022-2023, We are one of the countries that received recognition from Amnesty human right global movement to launch the Protect the Protest campaign, defending protestors and human rights movements. We have collaborated with civil society and various civic groups to oppose the Bill aiming to hinder the implementation of non-profit organizations.

We have once again met with relatives of those who disappeared during the May 1992 massacre. But over the past two decades, the Thai government has failed to start an inquiry into the disappearances from the 1992 event. During 2021-2022, Amnesty Thailand's coordinator has approached relatives of the disappeared, and 11 out of 23 families expressed their desire for us to follow up on the cases.

Many changes continue to occur. Incidents where people's rights are violated, where they are tortured or disappeared, still happen. The families of these victims continue to grieve. The Ratsadon Campaigns must continue, even though some activists have been released. Amnesty Thailand will continue to walk side by side with our supporters. We can never predict what tomorrow will bring, but we know for sure that ordinary people can make changes in human rights.

Thank you, everyone, for being such an inspiring force, keeping our fight for the changes in human rights alive.

Amnesty Thailand Team

Your voice always matters. The following articles have been written to showcase Amnesty's work in the past year. We would love to hear your feedback about which areas of our work should be expanded or improved, and any other ideas you might have. Please write to us at director@amnesty.or.th.

We have some small tokens of appreciation for anyone who writes to us. You could be one of the lucky ones to receive an Amnesty Australia T-shirt or other gifts from Amnesty Thailand that will bring a smile to your face.

Facts and Figures

Details

2022

Campaigns Project

19 projects 76 events

Letter sent to the state official

23

Statement Press Release

15

Social Media follower

111,600 (2022-now)

Urgent Actions, Petition

37,476

Letter sent to detained Activists

2500++

Records of public assemblies by MobData

753

HRE classes

34 class

Participants in HRE classes

2,255

Member

1072

Donators

185

Sales and Income

1,241,712

#FREERATSADON

Hunted down by an unjust judicial process

The youth-led movement that has emerged in various regions of Thailand since 2020 has given rise to demands for rights and freedoms and criticism of structural problems in various aspects. It has also resulted in relentless forms of harassment, intimidation, arrest, and detention.

A large number of activists and people have paraded to police stations and courts and have been unjustly sent to jail, simply for demanding their rights. Upon arrest and detention, they have had to fight for their right to bail.

2022 was another year when authorities used “the judicial process” to retaliate against the movements. The detention of the two activists, **Netiphon Sanehsangkhom** and **Nutthanit “Bai Por” Duangmusit** since 3 May, the Court has repeatedly denied their bail applications. This led the two of them to stage a hunger strike from 2 June to protest their detention. Meanwhile, **Tantawan “Tawan” Tuatulanon** and **Orawan “Bam” Phupong**, although provisionally released, was confined to her house as a condition of her bail. They received a bail after 36-day hunger strike following the revocation of their previous bail on April 20.

The situations attest to how the Thai government continues to carry out arbitrary detentions against the four activists who have peacefully exercised their human rights. The criminalization of these three individuals could result in them being imprisoned for decades. Additionally, they are being denied their right to bail. The state also imposes excessive bail conditions on a number of other individuals.



“Urgent Action” is part of solution

One of the most important methods adopted by Amnesty International in the past 50 years is called “**Urgent Action**”. It demands justice for victims of human rights violations who are in dire need of help around the world, including prisoners of conscience, aggrieved human rights defenders, victims of enforced disappearance, death row prisoners, refugees vulnerable to deportation, etc.

In the case of arbitrary detention of activists in Thailand in 2022, Amnesty International launched a campaign for our members, activists, and supporters, as well as people interested in human rights, to sign our Urgent Action. This action calls on **Minister of Justice Somsak Thepsuthin** to release and guarantee right to bail of hunger-striking activists, to drop any charges or prosecutions against activists who peacefully exercise their rights, and to guarantee access to medical treatment while they await release. We also call on the authorities to comply with their international human rights obligations, which require Thailand to respect, protect, and fulfill the right to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly.

In August 2022, Amnesty submitted a letter to the Minister of Justice, along with a list of 4,701 people who had signed up to support our Urgent Action. During the submission, Justice’s Rights and Liberties Protection Department (RLPD), under the Ministry of Justice, explained that imposing charges, prosecuting, and applying for bail do not infringe upon the right to freedom of expression. However, efforts have been made to corroborate evidence based on investigations to confirm whether the individuals involved have actually committed a crime. Nevertheless, anyone can appeal the cases or seek a royal pardon as well as apply for temporary release, although these decisions are ultimately at the discretion of the Court of Justice.

In addition to the signature campaign to submit a petition letter to the Minister of Justice, the Urgent Action “Free Ratsadon” campaign also invited the public to write letters to the activist detained in prison.





Thousands of letters reaching our friends behind bars

The Urgent Action #FreeRatsadon has started since late June 2022 as activists across the regions helped to take action and called for signatures in public spaces. Both online and offline activities were launched and the incarcerated activists have received altogether 2,099 letter, 2,057 of which through the online campaign since 1 July 2022 and 42 from the offline campaign.

These thousands of letters which have reached our friends in prison have reminded the activists that Amnesty International Thailand continues to stand side by side with them. The activists prosecuted for exercising their right to freedom of public assembly and peaceful protests have written at least five letters to Amnesty including from Phonpot Chaengkrachang, “Tar” Kathathon, “Sam” Phonchai Yuanyi, “Ma” Nutchanon, etc.

The Free Ratsadon activity has opened up a space for activists to have an exchange on how they exercise their right to freedom of expression and peaceful public assembly. It has also given a chance for young artists to participate in the campaigns through collaborating with a drawing artist like thisismjtp, etc.

Letters helping to ease up loneliness

Being detained in the prison, the activists are cut out from the world outside. Within the high fences, they have to live their lives amidst strict regulation and rules and dehumanization permeated in all stages from their first entry to their daily life.



“May the supreme powers bless and protect Amnesty, its staff and all members who are engaged with human rights work. May everyone attain good physical and mental health. May you have the energy to keep fighting injustices in Thailand. Thank you for serving public interest and standing up against the injustices. And thank you for keeping sending me letters to show your solidarity with us and to give me company.”

Anchan Praelert

Former Thai government official convicted and sentenced the longest jail term on lese-majeste law



Time passes by so emptily and silently. It is when “moral support” is most important. Thousands of small letters that have been sent to our friends inside help to rekindle the connections between the people inside and outside to remind them that “they are not forgotten”

“Trivial words from many people can become quite powerful. They make me smile. They make me sleep well. On one hand, it reminds us that people outside have yet forgotten us, on the other, it reminds us that we are not all alone...”

said **Sophon “Get” Surariddhidhamrong** activist who used to be detained shared his feeling of receiving the letters through the “Free Ratsadon” campaign.

Get believes in the power of writing. He used to participate in the Write For Rights campaign. According to Get, **“I know how important moral support is for our fight. I was thinking about the Write For Rights campaign then and I was one of the participants who wrote letters to our friends. As I received the letters myself, they gave me positive power more than what I had anticipated.”**

Get recounts how in the first three days while detained in prison, Get could not sleep well with the impact from attitude adjustment in the prison. He was so scared that he pinched himself with his fingernails. He expressed to his lawyer to help bring him out of jail as he could not bare it. His lawyer, after all, told him to be patient since the Court did not grant him bail. But the power sent through the words in the letters from people outside helped to rekindle his hope keeping him robust and strong since then.

“I want to reiterate to all that, please help write a letter. Even just a few sentences, they can mean so much for people who are detained in jail. Sometimes, we had to weather through sheer pressure inside, and the letters helped to boost my moral. It reminded me that even though those people have tried to stop me by sending me to jail, it cannot stop me. The letters remind me that people outside still fight for me, and they can only imprison my body, but they cannot hold in captivity my ideology and my spirit” said Sophon “Get” Surariddhidhamrong.

Tantawan “Tawan” Tuatulanon, another activist who staged a hunger strike while detained in prison, still recalls the time of immense grievances and how she received a letter while receiving medical treatment in the prison. The letter was handed to her by a warden, and she still vividly remembers its content as it helps to shore herself up making her strong and ready to fight again.

“Reading the letter helps boost my morale immensely. The letter was written by a younger friend from the province. In the letter, the writer wrote me a poem to give me moral support. He even drew a colorful picture of sunflower for me. Reading this really helps me to bring myself up. After my release, I wrote back a thank you letter expressing how the letter has helped me to feel much better”.

An indicator of the success of the Urgent Action #FreeRatsadon campaign could be the number of letters and the name list submitted to the Minister of Justice. But such moral support is invaluable to the prisoners of conscience who lived behind bars after receiving such letters. Moreover, the Urgent Action is a way to indirectly send a message to the authorities;

“We shall not tolerate any human rights violation.”

No	Urgent Action issued by Amnesty during 2022 - early 2023	Case update
1	Urgent Action: Ongoing repression of peaceful protesters	All granted bail, although their prosecutions remain and continuously defend themselves in trial.
2	Urgent Action: Release hunger-striking activists	All granted bail, although their prosecutions remain and continuously defend themselves in trial.
3	Urgent Action: Release activists and drop charges	All granted bail, although their prosecutions remain and continuously defend themselves in trial.
4	Urgent Action: Three child protesters targeted in Thailand	None has been detained pending trial and all got granted bail.



“Flowers Shouldn’t Be Prevented from Blooming”

The Right of Children to Peaceful Assembly

2022 might not be the year with numerous large-scale demonstrations led by children, unlike the notable “peak” two years prior. However, according to Mob Data Thailand, last year saw more than 700 public gatherings each month, irrespective of their size, advocating for various rights.

Whether the gatherings were large, medium, or small, the fundamental driving forces that ignited and maintained these actions were invariably tied to the human rights that uphold the freedom of protest and freedom of expression.

The freedom to peaceful protest is protected under international law, including two key international treaties - the International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Thailand, as a state party to these treaties, has a legal obligation to guarantee the right of every individual, including children, to peaceful public assembly.”

Nonetheless, in the past few years, a large number of children who have staged assemblies to demand their rights and address other issues have faced legal charges. These charges are primarily related to national security, specifically Sections 112 and 116, as well as the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situation, B.E. 2548 (2005) (The Emergency Decree). Consequently, a chilling effect has been created, stifling the exercise of rights among children.

Amnesty International Thailand has been documenting and working on the exercise of the right to freedom of peaceful protest and expression among children. We have also been exploring collaborations with various parties to address the impact on children who are facing persecutions.



Prosecutions, Harassment, and Violence: The Price to Pay

Since the large-scale political protest began in 2020 until August 2022, as reported by Mob Data Thailand, there have been nearly 3,000 protests. The significant number of public assemblies is accompanied by a corresponding increase in prosecutions filed against individuals exercising their right to freedom of expression and protest, including children. According to Thai Lawyers for Human Rights (TLHR), between 18 July 2020, and 31 December 2022, at least 1,888 individuals have been charged in 1,165 cases for participating in public assemblies or expressing their political opinions. Among them, 210 cases were filed against 283 children under the age of 18. Furthermore, at least 241 children have been charged in 157 cases for violating the Emergency Decree. Despite the lifting of the Emergency Decree since September 2022, the prosecutions still persist. Additionally, Section 112 of the Penal Code (lèse-majesté) has been utilized against at least 17 children in 20 cases, and a minimum of three individuals face charges under Section 116 of the Penal Code (sedition).

Apart from prosecutions, at least 484 activists were subjected to harassment and surveillance. Among them, 56 are children



activists, including 17 individuals in 2020, 39 in 2021, and 39 from January to August 2022. The youngest case of such harassment was only 13 years old.

In the past three years, in addition to political issues, public assemblies and the expression of opinions by children have centered around the issues affecting them and their communities. For instance, the “Bad Students” group criticizes the education system, Thalu Gaz focuses on inequality, and various other groups advocate for the rights of women, indigenous people, LGBTI+ individuals, and indigenous minority.

However, some children did not anticipate the repercussions they would face when expressing themselves, including experiencing domestic violence and violence at school, strained family relationships, educational problems, financial difficulties, and being subjected to harassment, intimidation, and surveillance by authorities or individuals holding different views.



Anna, a 17-year-old from the “Bad Students” group, recalls that since she took the microphone as a protest leader in 2020 and due to the escalating political intensity, her family relationships have deteriorated. Her parents have invoked parental rights to protect her but in the process, her basic rights have been violated. For instance, she was threatened that if she didn’t cease her activism, she would be forced to drop out of school, have her mobile phone signal cut off, and her internet connection terminated, thereby limiting her ability to contact anyone.

“It was a turning point that helped me better understand how people’s political rights are suppressed,” said Anna.

Similarly, **Petch**, a 19-year-old youth who has been interested in politics since the 2014 military coup and participated in a public assembly for the first time at Kasetsart University in 2020, has faced intense opposition within his own family, leading to significant family conflicts.

Some children have even suffered physical abuse from their parents, while others have seen their allowances instantly cut off when they left home to live with friends.

Legal charges have also had consequences on the education of children. For example, some have dropped out of school and opted to pursue their education through the General Educational Development Test due to concerns about attending court hearings, going to the police station, meeting with public prosecutors, and so on. This has also affected their applications for university education through quota systems or portfolio systems, as they are still preoccupied with their criminal legal cases.

Public officials have resorted to tactics of intimidation, harassment, and surveillance against children who participated in public assemblies, including visiting their families or teachers at school. According to Thai Lawyers for Human Rights (TLHR), from January 2021 to November 2022, at least 59 child pro-democracy protesters have been subjected to “harassment” tactics, such as being threatened with legal action if they continue participating in public assemblies. Some children have been closely monitored and observed days before significant events or visits by prominent government officials or members of the royal family.



Moreover, acts of harassment have been perpetrated by individuals holding different political views, including through social media campaigns resembling “witch hunts.” These experiences have taken a significant physical and mental toll on the children who have peacefully exercised their right to assemble, to the extent that some have chosen to isolate themselves from the movement due to severe mental trauma.

The Rights of the Child in the Judicial Process

Amnesty International Thailand highly concern regarding the criminalization of children over the past three years. To address this issue, a **forum** was organized on September 20, 2022, **to review the exercise of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly by children in Thailand**. Collaborating with the Thai Lawyers for Human Rights (TLHR), the event brought together concerned authorities, academics, and youth activists who shared information, exchanged experiences, and explored potential solutions.

The discussions were held in smaller groups, covering four main topics: the situation of harassment and freedom of children in Thailand, trial observations in children's cases, delays in the judicial process related to the case of **Warit Somnoi**, and the rights of the child in the judicial process.

children participants expressed concerns about various stages of the judicial process. They highlighted issues during the background investigation by juvenile observation agencies and counseling centers, where the process was seen as invasive to the child's privacy. Some of the questions made the respondents feel ashamed, such as questions about gender or irrelevant queries like, "Have you ever engaged in same-sex sexual relations?" Officials at the counseling centers also seemed to "educate" the children who had participated in public assemblies that what, creating a sense of frustration among the children.

The procedures in the Juvenile and Family Court tend to stigmatize children. The courtroom atmosphere is often tense, with judges and public prosecutors sighing, scolding, or chastising the children on how they should behave. This atmosphere makes the children feel as if they have done something wrong. The process erodes their sense of justice and ultimately undermines their trust in the court.

Regarding the observation of trials in children's cases, it is worth noting that the Central Juvenile and Family Court has imposed restrictions on observing by third party. Citing regulations of the Juvenile and Family Court, the Court has prohibited individuals not directly involved in the case from entering the courtroom, arguing that trials involving children should be conducted in secrecy. In certain instances, the court may claim that the case is related to national security or use the Covid-19 pandemic as a reason to postpone the examination of children and deny access to trial observers. In some cases, the child defendants or their parents have submitted written requests to the Court, asking for the allowance of individuals to attend the hearing. This request aims to ensure that children feel comfortable and to serve their best interests during the judicial process. It is also intended to protect their right to be heard.



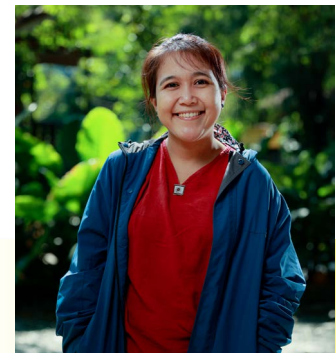
"Each campaign impacts me positively including the Write for Rights. In my third imprisonment, I spent 17 days inside. But other people have to languish there more than three months or six months. I truly believe that the Write for Rights campaign was very key in helping me to be released sooner than other activists."

Panusaya Sithijirawattanakul
United Front of Thammasat
and Demonstration



During the forum, recommendations were developed and proposed to the relevant state sectors and agencies. In summary, it was recommended that the laws be reviewed and revised to ensure their compliance with international standards, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and our international obligations regarding the right to freedom of expression and public assembly. Furthermore, it was suggested that the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations be repealed, and that the Public Assembly Act B.E. 2558 and the operational manual be revised to align with international treaties, particularly General Comment No. 37 of the United Nations Council on Human Rights, as well as with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560. By implementing these recommendations, transparency, fairness, and prompt procedures can be ensured during investigations. This includes keeping relatives and lawyers of the grievance parties informed throughout the process, as well as protecting the right to access and seek remedies for the injured parties and their families.

Personnel involved in the judicial process should duly respect the right to participation of children and uphold their freedom of opinion and freedom of public assembly to prevent any discrimination against them. Trials should be conducted transparently and fairly, with due consideration given to the best interests of the child. Additionally, if a child consents to it through a written letter or verbal agreement made in the inquiry room or courtroom, the trial should be open and accessible to the public.



“Amnesty’s campaign for human rights education including Write for Rights is an activity I use to invite my younger friends to join me. They live outside Bangkok. And this is a valuable chance for those living in the province including Phayao, Lamphun, to get engaged in such activity.”

Kanokwan Meeprom
Coordinator in the North of Komol Keemthong Foundaion and KNACK documentation team



The delay in bringing justice to the case of Warit Somnoi.

The public assembly that took place on 16 August 2021, was intended to peacefully march from the Victory Monument to the residence of Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-ocha. The march demanded his resignation due to his management failure in the time of Covid-19 pandemic. However, following the conclusion of the march around 17:50, the crowd control police responded with violent measures, including the use of tear gas and water cannons. This response led some participants to regroup at the Sam Liam Din Daeng Intersection.

A violent clash ensued due to the harsh crackdown on a public assembly, resulting in a tragic incident. Warit Somnoi, a 15-year-old participant from Samut Prakan, was shot near the Din Daeng Police Station, sustaining a severe neck injury and paralysis. After 72 days of intensive treatment, he passed away on October 28, 2021.



In a public statement, Amnesty International Thailand expressed its condolences over the death of Warit and demanded Thai authorities to promptly conduct an investigation into the incident, in compliance with international standards. The case in question involves the shooting of a child protester during a public assembly at Din Daeng Police Station on 16 August 2021. Amnesty International Thailand further urged the authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The investigation process in Warit's case has been slow. On 20 June 2022, Amnesty Thailand submitted an open letter to the Commissioner General of the Royal Thai Police, with a copy to Din Daeng Police Station, expressing concern about the delay in the judicial process. This was significant as June 21 was the deadline for the inquiry officials at the Din Daeng Police Station to submit their investigation report to the Department of Special Litigation 4. Following this, the police scheduled a meeting with the parties affected by the incident to discuss the progress of the case.



16 August 2022, marked the first anniversary of Warit Somnoi's death. The case was prosecuted with the Criminal Court as the Black Case no. 01727/2022. The Human Rights Lawyers Alliance noted that the case had initially been reported to Din Daeng Police Station on 21 August 2021. The police at Din Daeng Police Station announced that they had submitted their investigation report to the public prosecutor on 20 December 2021, taking over five months for the investigation. The case continued to drag on from January to June 2022, another six months, which signified a delay in the investigation process. This delay has raised questions and skepticism among the injured parties and the public regarding the transparency of the judicial process. The role of the public prosecutor's office, which should instill hope in the injured parties about the judicial process, is also being questioned.

“The old legal adage, ‘Justice delayed is justice denied,’ remains relevant even today. We will continue to monitor the progress of the judicial process in Warit's case.”

Urgent Action: three child protesters subjected to harassment and prosecutions

“Petch,” “Sand,” and “Chan,” three child activists living in different locations, all share the same predicament. Despite their geographical differences, they have all been subjected to harassment and legal action following their peaceful protests. These children were simply expressing their opinions on issues they found important.

In November 2022, Thanakorn ‘Petch’ Phiraban was convicted in two cases for offenses under Section 112 of the Penal Code due to speeches he gave at two peaceful protests in Bangkok in September and December 2021. Petch was the first child to be convicted of a lèse-majesté offense, and as a result, was punished to attend ‘training’ at a vocational and youth training center. In a separate case, the Court sentenced Petch with an order of suspension. Currently, Petch is still facing another charge under Section 112 of the Penal Code, as well as a charge under the Emergency Decree in two cases.



Sand, a 17-year-old activist, was prosecuted in a criminal case following her participation in a peaceful assembly in Bangkok in 2021. Her demands included a new government and the release of student activists being held in custody. One of the charges against her was a violation of the Emergency Decree, which had supposedly been imposed to control the Covid-19 pandemic and has been lifted.

Chan Tonnaphet, an indigenous Karen community rights activist, has come under investigation for allegedly violating the Emergency Decree. This followed her public expression of concern about her community's land access during a public assembly in Bangkok in 2022.



“(Amnesty’s) working approach is flexible and gives a space for partner organizations to dare to design their activities. As the activities are co-designed by us, it is different from partner organizations receiving instructions from above. It makes me feel they do listen to us, vice versa. We have reached our common agreement and are pleased to continue working together.”

**Thaksin “Tonkla”
Bamrunghai**

Youth Health Promotion Network and coordinating with KNACK Team

Urgent Action is one important methods adopted by Amnesty International to demand justice for victims of human rights violations who are in dire need of assistance around the world. These individuals include prisoners of conscience, aggrieved human rights defenders, victims of enforced disappearances, death row prisoners, refugees vulnerable to deportation, and others.

Amnesty believes in the power of ordinary people, each of whom can help by writing letters, sending emails or faxes, or making calls to government officials and other concerned parties to exert pressure for change. Individuals can assist by writing letters online to the Prime Minister, expressing the following demands:

- Drop all criminal proceedings, overturn convictions, and cease the harassment and intimidation of children who are simply exercising their human rights;
- Respect, protect, and fulfill children’s rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression; and
- Amend or repeal legislation that is incompatible with international standards relating to the exercise of these rights.

There’s Always Spring

On 26 October 2022, Amnesty International Thailand and the Internet Law Reform Dialogue (iLaw) launched a pocketbook titled ‘There’s Always Spring.’ This book is filled with information and photos documenting the movement and the exercise of freedom of public assembly by youth since 2020.





The book is a product of the efforts of **‘public assembly volunteer observers’** working under Mob Data Thailand. This website, serving as an open database on public assemblies in Thailand, has been officially operational since 7 August 2020. Its mission is to monitor and document the details of public assemblies in light of international human rights standards. The project is also a collaboration with partner organizations focused on the freedom of public assembly. This allows the public to contribute to the development of a civic sector database on public assemblies.

For over two years, Mob Data Thailand has been documenting public assemblies to promote the right to freedom of expression and public assembly in Thailand, in line with international standards. The documentation also highlights the evolution and growth of emerging pro-democracy movements.

A part of the introduction to ‘There’s Always Spring’ alludes to the stories behind the production of this booklet, noting that:

“During the height of public assemblies in the middle of 2020, our public assembly volunteer observers conveyed that good photos can help raise public awareness about these events. This insight led us to increasingly use photos as a tool for communication. Many volunteer photographers assisted us by capturing many memorable moments.”

Out of the tens of thousands of photos curated, some may have been glimpsed by the public. However, many photos have not been widely publicized. Alongside these images, we also provide information about the public assemblies over the past three years.

This book can be viewed as a memoir that asserts:
‘You cannot keep Spring from coming’.

Through the evolution of Amnesty's work on children's rights to public assembly and freedom of expression, we have witnessed significant change since we first began addressing this issue around late 2020. What started as a loosely and informally organized group has evolved into a network known as 'Child in Mob' in 2021.

The voices and demands of children have been heard internationally, ultimately shaping the recommendations for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Thailand in 2021. During the third UPR of Thailand, held from March 23-24, 2022, at the Human Rights Council (HRC) meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, the Thai government accepted 218 of 278 recommendations (noting 60 others). Of these, 39 of the 44 recommendations accepted by Thailand concern children issue. The five recommendations that Thailand declined address the rights of the child to public assembly and expression. They also include recommendations to review the enforcement of criminal laws considered too harsh for children, to assess the use of lèse-majesté laws against children, and to halt the prosecution of children.

In 2022, public agencies have begun to actively engage with Amnesty and children representatives, providing opportunities for us to present our recommendations. We have been invited to attend meetings and consultations for potential collaboration. We hope that in the future, the state will continue to explore ways to further promote the rights of children to public assembly and expression, in line with the universal rights of the child.



CHILD IN MOB



The longevity of torture and the indelible memories of disappearances.

30 years of “May 92”, faded, but not forgotten

The memory of **Sangwian Phothong**, a blind and bedridden 90-year-old woman, still vividly holds the image of her youngest son, Somgpong, who was last seen during the political uprising in May 1992. Even though 30 years have passed, whenever she longs for her son, she asks her daughter to play a cassette tape of Scorpions, his favorite band, to ease her mind and feel closer to him.

If there was still a cassette tape, my mother (Sangwian) would love to listen to it. Whenever I miss my son, I ask them to play Scorpions’ songs. Our neighbors make fun of me, saying ‘Wow, grandma, you enjoy Western music?’ Sometimes, tears stream down my face as I listen to the music. It would be wonderful if we were all still here,” said **Sangwan Nakchart**, Sangwian’s daughter, who takes care of her mother and shares her brother’s stories.

Sangwian and Sangwan are among the relatives of those who disappeared after the May 1992 events. They share their memories of their loved ones in the documentary film ‘Lost, and Life Goes On,’ produced by Amnesty International Thailand. The film was screened during an exhibition held to commemorate the 30th anniversary of **‘May 92: Faded, but not Forgotten.’** The exhibition aimed to raise public awareness about enforced disappearances and took place for one week, from 21 May to 27 May 2022, at Palette Art Space, BTS Thong Lor.

Prior to the exhibition's launch, a roundtable discussion titled **'May 92: We Will Bring Them Home'** was conducted on 18 April 2022, with online participants in a Twitter space. The event included the screening of a short documentary and an art exhibition, which aimed to convey stories from the relatives of those affected by the May 1992 events. Additionally, objects related to the event, such as old newspapers, books, bullet casings, and photos, were displayed. These objects were borrowed from various sources to enrich the exhibition. To facilitate discussion and interaction, a session on enforced disappearance took place on 27 May, following the screening of a short film titled 'Found from Stories'.



The exhibition garnered attention from over 300 viewers, all of whom expressed interest in human rights, enforced disappearance, and past political events. Many of them were young people who had learned about these issues and recognized the significance of the campaign for the enactment of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act.

The families and relatives had the opportunity to exchange their experiences once again, gaining attention from individuals who listened to their stories and had the chance to network with academics, filmmakers, and artists. They also had the opportunity to maintain coordination with the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance (WGEID), keeping themselves updated and contributing to future policy campaigns.

In addition to disseminating information and raising public awareness about torture and enforced disappearance, Amnesty International Thailand recognizes the importance of campaigning for the enactment of the law.

Looking back to the previous campaign

Looking back to the previous campaign, it is evident from the database compiled by the Information Center for Human Rights and Peace and the Campaign Committee for Human Rights that there have been 75 cases of enforced disappearance in Thailand from 1991 to 2020, involving a total of 101 victims.

Among the victims, some disappeared in pairs or groups, and in certain cases, their identities remain unverified. Prominent cases include individuals such as Somchai Neelapaijit, a human rights lawyer; Polajee "Billy" Rakjongcharoen, an ethnic Karen and Bang Kloi community leader; and Wanchalearm Satsaksit, a Thai political exile living in Cambodia.

Enforced disappearance, also known as "abduction," serves as a method to instill fear and create an atmosphere of insecurity within society. This cruel tactic is predominantly carried out by public officials, targeting political opponents, human rights defenders, family members of victims, witnesses, lawyers, and other vulnerable groups, including children and people with disabilities.



For every enforced disappearance that occurs, it results in the violation of numerous human rights, including:

- The right to freedom and safety
- The right to be free from torture and cruel treatment or punishment
- The right to be free from inhumane detention
- The right to fair trial
- The right to personal status
- The right to family life

However, despite more than two decades having passed, the Thai government has failed to conduct investigations into the cases of the disappeared during the May 1992 event. In 2021, Amnesty Thailand’s Coordinator reached out to the surviving family members of the disappeared. Among the 23 relatives contacted, 11 expressed their continued desire to pursue justice for their missing loved ones. Amnesty Thailand recognizes the importance of actively monitoring the progress of enacting the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act, placing significant emphasis on this process.



“When Amnesty organizes anything, it becomes very impactful. And I want them to help keep people around the world informed of what has happened in Thailand.”

Sitanun Satsaksit
Wanchalearm “Tar”
Satsaksit’s sister



Pushing through the torture-enforced disappearance bill

For a considerable period of time, both nationally and internationally efforts have been made to prevent and suppress torture and enforced disappearance. Thailand ratified the Convention against Torture (CAT) in 2007. Furthermore Thailand signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED) in 2012. However, Thailand has not yet ratified ICPPED and OPCAT.

During the third cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Thailand in 2021, Thailand accepted 39 recommendations to cease torture and enforced disappearance. Additionally, Thailand made two voluntary pledges regarding this issue, including the ratification of ICPPED and OPCAT.

The Thai government is obligated by its international commitments to enact a law in accordance with the ratified international laws. However, it took many years before the anti-torture and enforced disappearance law was finally enacted.

The initial draft of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Bill, prepared by the Ministry of Justice, was submitted for review by the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) in 2014. After passing the first reading, the Bill was set aside due to the dissolution of the NLA ahead of the 2019 election.

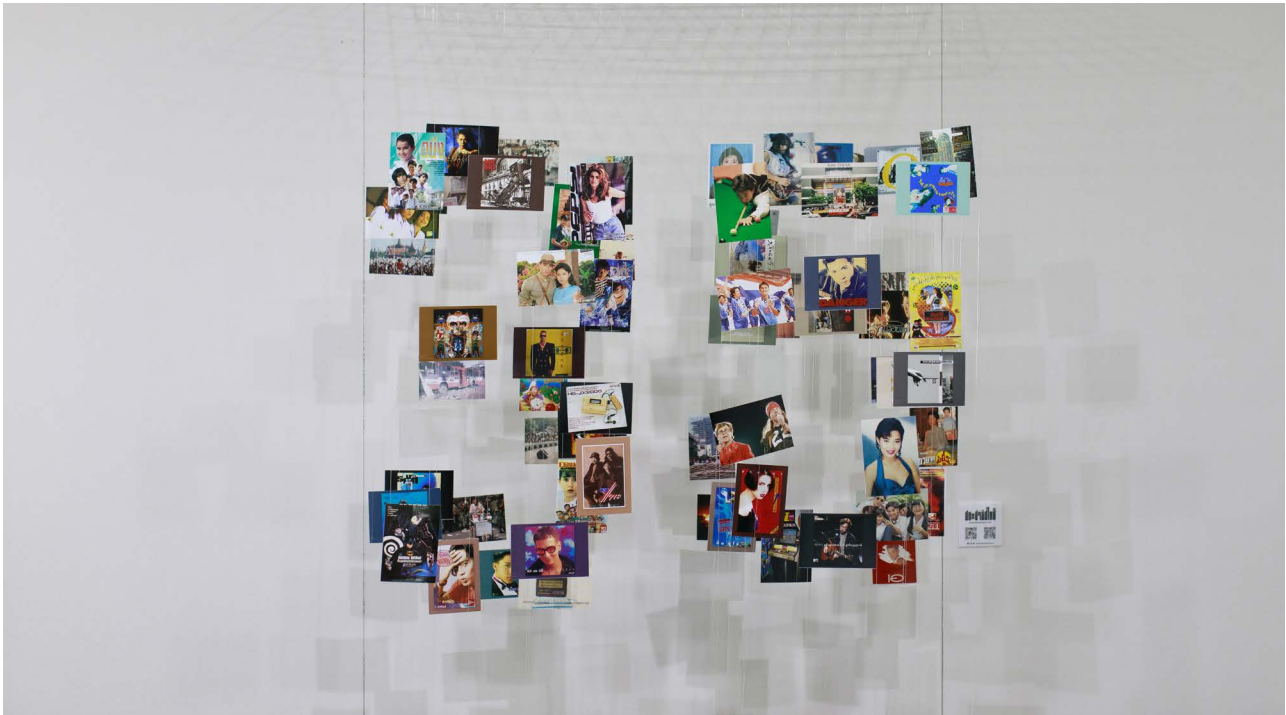
During government under Prayut's administration, the draft Bill, prepared by the Ministry of Justice, was reintroduced for reading in the House of Representatives. However, the House Speaker instructed that it be reviewed again from the beginning.

In 2020, the civil society sector applied revisions to the Bill prepared by the Ministry of Justice and submitted it as the 'Draft Law prepared by the public.' During the same year, the Democrat Party also submitted its own version of the law. Other versions were prepared by the Prachachat Party, the Committee on Legal Affairs, Justice, and Human Rights, and the Ministry of Justice.

Prior to the review of the latest version of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Bill, Amnesty International used to recommend to the government the periodic issuance of such a law. For instance, in 2017, Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) issued recommendations regarding the Bill, providing examples of how similar laws are enforced in other countries.

During the review of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Bill in 2021-2022, Amnesty International actively engaged in campaigns and activities throughout the entire period. Our representatives attended parliamentary sessions to provide recommendations and update the public on the progress of the law review. Other NGOs also participated as observers in the review process.





In parallel with our participation in the parliamentary sessions, Amnesty conducted campaigns and activities to raise public awareness about the significance of the Torture Bill. This included online discussions through platforms like Clubhouse. During these activities, members of the Vetting Committee of the Bill and victims were invited to share their opinions, fostering dialogue and amplifying diverse perspectives.

A press conference was held at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand (FCCT) to provide updates on the progress of the latest Torture Bill.

In addition to issuing recommendations on the 2021 version of the Torture Bill, Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) expressed their concerns to the President of the Senate and the Special Vetting Committee in 2022.

Since the first draft of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Bill was tabled for review in the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) in 2014, it underwent numerous debates and revisions. Finally, after eight years, on August 24, 2022, the Bill was passed by the House of Representatives with 287 votes. Subsequently, on October 25, 2022, the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act 2022 was published, marking a significant milestone in the legislative process.

Essentially, the enacted law prohibits public officials from engaging in grave human rights violations such as torture or enforced disappearance. It establishes provisions for punishment, preventive and suppression measures, remedies for victims, and other measures in accordance with the principles outlined in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED).

However, an analysis conducted by Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) has identified certain flaws in the law that need to be addressed to ensure its full compliance with international human rights laws and standards. A comprehensive analysis of the remaining flaws of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Bill B.E. is available in both Thai and English.

Follow up on its enforcement

Despite the promulgation of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act, it remains crucial to continue monitoring its enforcement. This is because, on 14 February 2023, the cabinet endorsed a draft of the Emergency Decree Amending the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act B.E. 2565, proposed by the Ministry of Justice. The purpose of this amendment is to postpone the enforcement of Sections 22-25 in the Chapter on the Prevention of Torture and Enforced Disappearance until 1st of October 2023. Currently, the Constitutional Court is reviewing the constitutionality of the Emergency Decree.

(In April 2023) The Emergency Decree was issued based on reasons such as the alleged lack of readiness in terms of budget to procure video cameras for use by the police force, the need for personnel preparation and training on how to use the devices and perform their duties in compliance with the Act. Authorities also cited a lack of clarity in the law due to the absence of standard operating procedures. This delay has created a vacuum in the enforcement of the law, which significantly impacts the rights and freedoms related to life, bodily integrity, personal security, access to a transparent judicial process, accountability of officials, and the transparency and credibility of their performance of duties.



พฤษภาคม 35 เลื่อนแต่ไม่ลืมน

“ผมไม่อยากจำ เพราะจำแล้วผมจะเครียด ผมรับไม่ได้ตอนที่ไป... ผมไม่คิดว่าเขาจะกำกับพวกเราแบบนี้

ผมได้รับการเยียวยาเหมือนที่ญาติคนอื่นได้รับ แต่ผมคิดว่ารัฐบาลทำได้ดีกว่านี้ ผมไม่เข้าใจเรื่องเงินทองอะไรหรอก แต่เราน่าจะได้รับการปฏิบัติจากภาครัฐดีกว่านี้ แล้วเราก็ควรพัฒนาไปไกลกว่านี้มาก ๆ ไม่ใช่ดอยหลังไปเรื่อย ๆ

ผมใช้เวลาหลายสิบปีกว่าจะฟื้นตัวได้

ผมหวังว่าเด็กรุ่นใหม่จะกำหนัดบ้านเมืองดีขึ้น ผมเชื่อว่าเขาทำได้”

สุพจน์ คำนวนดี

#พฤษภาคม35 เขาคือผู้ชุมนุมที่โดนระดมยิงที่กรุงเทพฯ



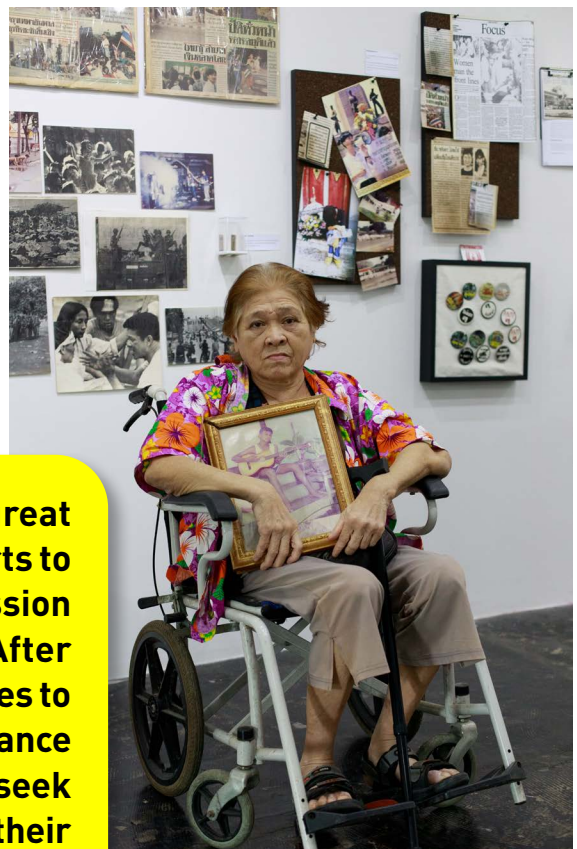
Amnesty International's recommendations for the government Torture and other cruel treatment and enforced disappearance

- Review the cabinet resolution to postpone the enforcement of Sections 22-25 of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act which are key to ensure legal and procedural safeguard to prevent an act of torture and other ill-treatment and enforced disappearance throughout the process of arrest and detention.
- Coordinate with concerned authorities to prepare the regulations or secondary laws at the Ministerial level to aid the execution of duties in compliance with the Act, monitor the performance of duties of various agencies, undertake any necessary steps to revise the law to promptly ensure its full compliance with international human rights laws and standards.
- For the enforcement, an effort must be made to notify, communicate and promote understanding in society regarding access to the mechanisms, measures and rights of the people under the law, and to cooperate with stakeholders to protect their best interest and to fulfill people's rights.
- Revise the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act to ensure its provisions fully comply with international human rights laws and standards including by adding provisions to (i.) prohibit the use of evidence obtained from an act of torture and other ill-treatment and enforced disappearance as evidence in the judicial process, (ii.) prohibit a pardon of such crime, and (iii.) revise the structure, composition and powers and duties of the Committee for the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance to ensure its effective, independent and impartial implementation.

- Carry out an investigation promptly, comprehensively, independently and effectively when an allegation is made about an act of torture and other ill-treatment and enforced disappearance. If appropriate, a legal action shall be undertaken in compliance with the international fair trial standards. For the case of enforced disappearance, the victims must be identified and their whereabouts must be determined to ensure their families and loved ones have access to truth.

- Ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.





Furthermore, Amnesty Thailand places great importance on actively monitoring the efforts to enact laws for the prevention and suppression of torture and enforced disappearance. After the laws are promulgated, Amnesty continues to monitor their enforcement to ensure compliance with international human rights standards, seek justice, provide remedies to the victims and their families, and monitor any revisions to the laws to ensure full compliance with international human rights laws and standards.



Opposing the “Draft Act on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations”

January 2022, the cabinet endorsed the Draft Act on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations B.E.... (NPO Bill).

The background of the Draft Act on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations B.E. ... began on 23 February 2021, when the cabinet provisionally endorsed the draft law on the operations of not-for-profit organizations, which was prepared by the Office of Council of State. The cabinet instructed relevant agencies to review the Draft Act on the Promotion and Development of Civil Society Organization B.E..., prepared by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS), along with feedback from concerned agencies. The aim was to draft a law on the operations of not-for-profit organizations and propose it to the cabinet at a later stage. The draft law underwent revisions, leading to a cabinet resolution on 4 January 2022, which changed the name to the “Draft Act on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations B.E...”

However, the Bill includes provisions that restrict the right to freedom of association and other human rights. It hampers the activities of organizations working to promote, protect, and uphold civil and political rights, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights in Thailand. Moreover, it affects Thailand’s status as a hub for international not-for-profit organizations in Southeast Asia.

Amnesty International Thailand and its alliance are firmly opposed to the Bill, as it imposes restrictions on the people's sector. Along with 1,867 civil society organizations, they have submitted a list of over 13,000 names of individuals who "oppose and do not want any draft law that aims to restrict freedom of association in any form."

However, as of the conclusion of the public consultation in April 2022, there has been no progress in determining whether the Bill will be withdrawn or not.

NGO: A partner or an enemy at hand

Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have been actively working in various sectors in Thailand for many years. They have operated independently, often providing supplementary services or criticizing the government's actions. However, their independence and critical role have sometimes led to efforts to control or impede their activities.

In the case of Amnesty International Thailand, in 2019, the Director General of the Department of Provincial Administration, acting as the registrar of associations in Bangkok, refused to approve the appointment of Mr. Netiwit Chotiphathaisal, a political activist and campaigner, as a member of the board of the Amnesty Association.

Amnesty International Thailand filed a case with the Central Administrative Court, accusing the Director General of acting against the law. Additionally, a case was filed against the Minister of Interior for negligence in reviewing the appeal of the Amnesty Association within the required 90-day period, as stipulated in the Civil and Commercial Code's Section 82, last paragraph, on 16 October 2019.

On 17 February 2023, the Central Administrative Court ruled to annul the Department of Provincial Administration's order, which had refused to register "Netiwit" as a member of the board of the Amnesty Association.

Overall, it took nearly four years to achieve justice in this case. The state's actions in impeding the activities of an NGO were evident, and they succeeded in their efforts. The case of "Netiwit" serves as another example of how the state has unjustly exercised its power against an NGO, which is often perceived as an adversary and may face dismantlement when the opportunity arises.



"For me, Amnesty's strength is its principle to bring people together and to connect reporters with human rights defenders."

Wasinee "Ploy" Pabuprapap
Reporter who collaborates with AI

Background of the Bill to restrict the people's sector

The attempt by the state to regulate the freedom of association for the people's sector and not-for-profit organizations can be traced back to 2015 with the issuance of the Regulation of the Office of Prime Minister on the Promotion and Development of Civil Society Organization B.E... 2558 (2015).

Between 2016 and 2020, certain civil society organizations worked with the Committee for the Promotion and Development of Civil Society Organization, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam. In February 2020, the committee agreed to have the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) propose the Draft Act on the Promotion and Development of Civil Society Organization B.E... to the cabinet.

On 23 February 2021, the cabinet provisionally approved the Draft Act on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations, as proposed by the Office of the Council of State. They instructed relevant agencies to review the Draft Act on the Promotion and Development of Civil Society Organization B.E..., prepared by the MSDHS, along with feedback from concerned agencies, in order to draft the law on the operations of not-for-profit organizations for further consideration by the cabinet.

On 13 December 2021, the Council of State (Committee 2) prepared the Draft Act on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations B.E.... This draft included provisions that were essentially copied from the Draft Act on the Promotion and Development of Civil Society Organization B.E... and were inserted into Chapter 1, which focuses on the promotion of not-for-profit organizations. This chapter establishes a committee tasked with promoting and implementing not-for-profit organizations, with powers and duties to determine policies, provide input to the cabinet, and undertake various steps to support such organizations.

Chapter 2, which deals with the operation of not-for-profit organizations, contains provisions that still aim to restrict rights, control organizations, and impose penalties. For example, it requires organizations to disclose information to the public, report funding sources from abroad, refrain from activities that may impact national security, economic security, or international security, and implement regulations similar to those for preventing money laundering and combating terrorism financing. These obligations exist even though there are other laws that can be utilized to address organizations behaving improperly.



It is important to note that this information is based on the details provided and may not reflect the most current developments regarding the draft act and its provisions.

Freedom of association and organization is a fundamental right

Following the cabinet's approval of the Draft Act on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations B.E..., also known as the "NPO Bill," in January 2022, Amnesty International Thailand identified that the Bill posed a threat to our right to freedom of association and organization in society. In response, we, along with other allied NGOs, civil society organizations, and concerned individuals, launched a campaign to oppose the Draft Act under the **Coalition Against the Draft Law to Regulate People's Sector**, which consists of 1,867 CSOs.

Amnesty and its alliance have collaborated with civil society to raise public awareness about international laws and the global trend of governments restricting the right to freedom of association. Together with various civil society groups, we have advocated and applied pressure on the state. We have also conducted an analysis of the "NPO Bill" and the law to prevent and suppress money laundering.

During a public discussion titled "Review human rights in Thailand through the Universal Periodic Review: Lessons, hopes, and expectations," Professor Emeritus Vitit Muntarbhorn, an expert in international law from Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Law, addressed the issues surrounding the "NPO Bill." He emphasized that the basic right to freedom of peaceful association and organization is a collective right. Any derogation or restriction on this right must pass the test of non-arbitrariness, necessity, and proportionality. Considering these principles, the restrictions imposed by the Bill are not well balanced and fail to fulfill the fundamental right to association for NGOs or any other groups.

Furthermore, Thailand has adopted the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which recognizes the right of human rights defenders and NGOs to receive foreign funding. The respect for this right is an integral part of the right to association, similar to how governments accept foreign funding.



Professor Emeritus Vitit Muntarhorn further argued that the issue of NGO association and organization should be separate from money laundering concerns. These two matters should not be conflated, as the existing money laundering law already provides sufficient protection. There is no need to combine them, as it would only create problems and difficulties.

Considering Sections 17-20 of the NPO Bill, it is evident that they would have a severe impact due to the broad and unreasonable requirements regarding national security, which are incompatible with human rights. Additionally, the last section imposes excessive punishments, including fines starting from 50,000 baht and upward, or fines equal to twice the amount of money received from foreign sources. These fines are not only imposed on organizations but also on individuals involved.

“Control” or “Harassment”

According to Piyanut Kotsan, Director of Amnesty International Thailand, the Bill that restricts civil society will inevitably impact the freedom of association for all groups.

It not only seeks to control civil society organizations but also aims to harass, restrict, and target any group or organization working on various issues, silencing them and preventing them from expressing themselves.

The Bill will also have implications for any project or initiative that seeks to advocate for the right to participate, associate, develop, or carry out activities. This includes efforts by women, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, children, and other groups. Eventually, everyone will bear the negative consequences.

“This is a tool used by the state to silence us. It aims to remove not-for-profit organizations that work for various beneficiaries from existence. Such laws exist not only in Thailand but also around the world. We all need to remain vigilant of state mechanisms. Not-for-profit organizations are inspired by the power of the people, which drives us to stand up and fight against the Bill,” said Piyanut.

As a result of Amnesty’s campaign against the NPO Bill, starting from around February 2022, the organization has faced harassment from individuals with differing views. For instance, Mr. Anon Saennan, former Chairperson of the Red Shirt Villages of Thailand, collected 1,200,000 names from the four regions and submitted them to Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister Seksakon Atthawong. They aimed to pressure Amnesty to relocate outside the country, claiming that Amnesty’s operations are detrimental to national security, the monarchy, and causes division in the country.



However, Kyle Ward, Deputy Secretary General of Amnesty International, issued a press statement emphasizing that the anti-Amnesty campaign occurs at a time when authorities are attempting to pass a controversial law regulating non-profit organizations in Thailand. This NPO law could have severe consequences for civil society in Thailand, and Amnesty has repeatedly called on the government to withdraw the bill and engage in further consultation. The targeting of Amnesty coincides with an increasing intolerance for human rights discourse among Thai authorities. Amnesty International's recommendations for authorities to fulfill their human rights obligations are based on internationally agreed human rights standards to which Thailand has committed to upholding.

"We will continue to work independently and impartially based on facts. In response to the anti-Amnesty campaign and related investigations, we will continue to address any questions the Thai government may have regarding our work in the country," said the Deputy Secretary General of Amnesty International.

Human security matters

Thitirat Thipsamritkul, Chairperson of the Board of Amnesty International Thailand, highlights that the issues with the NPO Bill primarily lie in its Section 20, which outlines activities that the people's sector is prohibited from associating themselves with. This provision applies to informal associations as well, making it excessively broad. The restrictions based on economic aspects and international relations reflect an approach that places the government at the center of power.

"When we address national security or the moral high ground, we need to take a broader view since human security also matters at the moment, not just the security of the state. This Section poses a problem due to its broad application, leading to legal uncertainty and giving authorities the chance to use their discretion. Such lack of clarity is also problematic for the international community and how they perceive Thailand. If Thailand fails to make its legal system credible, it could be subject to vast interpretation. Nowadays, people cannot be sure how the law will be interpreted. Although legal interpretation is normal for lawyers, we have some principles to adhere to when making such interpretation," said the Chair of Amnesty International Thailand. She further added;

Even though the NPO Bill purports to promote civil society to serve the public interest, its content fails to directly address its stated objectives. It even appears to candidly impose more restrictions on the organizations' implementation.



"I really like the Write for Rights campaign. Amnesty is so good at creating new campaigns. I do not expect any instant success. But this campaign really helps to rejuvenate people who languish in jail, That's already a success. For me, Amnesty is so creative in its approaches."

Mimi

Femfoo



Mobilized against the NPO Bill

Since January 2022, the nationwide coalition against the Bill that restricts the people's sector and civil society organizations has mobilized and conducted vigorous campaigns to vehemently oppose the Bill. They have organized public discussions and meetings, issued public statements, and submitted letters expressing their concerns and opposition to Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha and relevant authorities. However, they have not received any replies despite sending these communications at least 10 times.

As the attempt to enact the Bill continued, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security conducted a public hearing from 18 January to 25 March 2022. However, the coalition against the Bill found that the public consultation lacked legitimacy as it failed to adequately reach out to the public widely. In response, they launched a signature campaign on Change.org to oppose the Draft Act on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations B.E. ... The petition, which garnered signatures from over 13,000 individuals, included the following demands:

1. Stop the effort to draft and enact the Draft Act on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations immediately.
2. All steps concerning the legislative process of the Bill must be made systematically to ensure a public consultation which is transparent, accessible and non-discriminatory. An impact assessment must be carried out with genuine participation of people's organizations and stakeholders.
3. Ensure that the right to association and access to natural resources, and the right to carrying out activities shall be upheld in compliance with Thailand's international human rights obligations without any disproportionate intervention by the state to ensure independence and efficacy of such association.

After submitting the demands opposing the NPO Bill along with a list of names, there were no attempts to withdraw the Bill by the end of the public consultation in April 2022. Meanwhile, the public consultation on the amendment of the Anti-Money Laundering Act concluded, and the draft was being revised by the Office of the Council of State.

During the previous election campaign, Amnesty organized an online discussion titled "The Buddy: The Good Ballots." One episode focused on the topic of Freedom of Association from the perspective of political parties. The purpose was to inquire about their policies and stance regarding laws that restrict freedom of association. Most political parties expressed recognition of and support for such freedom. These discussions can serve as a social contract between the public and political parties.

Amnesty's recommendations

Annually, Amnesty International launches a report on the state of human rights world wide. In its 2022/2023 report, Amnesty International has put forward the following recommendations for the Thai government:

The Thai government must ensure that the right to freedom of association is not subjected to control and restrictions, in accordance with Article 22 of the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**. To fulfill this obligation, the Thai government must withdraw the Draft Act on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations and the Draft Act for the Amendment of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Collaboration with civil society is essential to raise public awareness about international laws and to keep the global community informed of any attempts by the state to restrict the right to freedom of association. It is crucial to enhance communication with various groups and civil society in terms of advocating with the state sector. Additionally, a thorough analysis of the laws, including the Draft Act on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations B.E. ... and the Draft Act for the amendment of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, should be conducted to provide input on both bills. This will help put pressure on the state, including the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, to compel them to withdraw the Bill. Furthermore, discussions with the United Nations should take place to address the risks associated with such a Bill. By adhering to these recommendations, the Thai government can ensure its compliance with international human rights obligations and protect the right to freedom of association.

The campaign to promote the Draft Act on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations coincided with a period when Amnesty Thailand faced a barrage of attacks and became the subject of a formal investigation by the authorities. However, it was not only Amnesty Thailand that experienced these challenges, but other rights organizations were also affected.

Amnesty Thailand collaborates with a network of civil society organizations at all levels to actively oppose the Draft Act on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations. Our efforts involve communication, coordination with alliances, organizing forums, submitting letters of petition, and engaging in discussions with representatives from various countries. These efforts have played a role in slowing down the progress of the Draft Act on the Operations of Not-for-Profit Organizations. Nevertheless, it remains uncertain whether such a law to restrict freedom of association will resurface in the future. Therefore, it is crucial for us to remain vigilant and resolute in our commitment to opposing any legislation that seeks to silence people.



“It won't bring about change instantly. I do, however, find Amnesty's campaigns, public statements, actions, sign-holding, very useful.”

Yingcheep Atchanont
iLaw



International Solidarity Campaign

The clamoring of collective voice

As an organization dedicated to advocating for the respect, protection, and fulfillment of human rights, Amnesty International Thailand recognizes the importance of campaign work in pressuring relevant sectors to uphold human rights principles.

Campaigns for the respect, protection, and fulfillment of human rights are conducted through various methods. One such method is the Solidarity Campaign, which aims to provide moral support to victims of rights violations and condemn those responsible for the abuses. The Solidarity Campaign also serves as a means to demonstrate that individuals committed to human rights, no matter how geographically distant, can stand together in solidarity.

In 2022, Amnesty International Thailand demonstrated solidarity on three human rights issues at the international level. These included commemorating the 33rd anniversary of the Tiananmen Massacre, showing solidarity with the people of Ukraine, and conducting a solidarity campaign with the people of Myanmar. Through these solidarity efforts, Amnesty International Thailand seeks to raise awareness, mobilize support, and advocate for the rights of individuals who have faced human rights violations.

The 33rd anniversary of the Tiananmen Massacre

In 1989, during the “Chuntian” (Spring) in Beijing, hundreds of thousands of Chinese students gathered at Tiananmen Square to demand solutions to various problems arising from reforms and corruption. They also called for political accountability and rights and freedoms.

Instead of addressing these demands, the Chinese government responded with a crackdown. In the early hours of June 4th, military forces armed with weapons and tanks entered the square, resulting in the death of over 300 pro-democracy students, according to state media reports. However, other sources suggest that the actual number of protesters who lost their lives during that time may be as high as 10,000.

The Chinese refer to this tragic event as the “6-4” or the Tiananmen Massacre, due to its occurrence on June 4th. Over three decades later, no official commemorations have been organized for those who lost their lives during the massacre. The younger generation in China cannot easily find information about this event as relevant keywords are blocked on the internet.

Activists, students, and academics face restrictions on openly discussing the Tiananmen Massacre and often resort to using coded messages to evade surveillance by authorities. Commemorations of the Tiananmen Massacre can only be held in locations such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, or other territories outside China’s sovereignty. However, people around the world still remember the crackdown on protesters that occurred on June 4th, 1989.

In 2022, Amnesty Thailand and students from Chulalongkorn University, who are interested in human rights in China, organized a commemoration event to remember the lives lost during the Tiananmen Massacre. Statements were read, wreaths were laid, and a candlelight vigil was held at the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, on June 2nd

Participants included students from various faculties, including Political Science and Chinese language majors. In addition to commemorating the 33rd anniversary of the Tiananmen Massacre, the event aimed to raise awareness among young people about the use of force by the state to suppress dissent and spark discussions about public assemblies in other countries as well.





Stand with Ukraine

On 24 February 2022, Russia deployed over 200,000 troops into Ukraine despite protests from various countries. President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia justified the invasion as a measure to prevent the expansion of military power by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) into Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a clear violation of the UN Charter and may constitute a crime under international law. The consequences have been devastating, with Russia engaging in arbitrary attacks on residential areas, medical institutions, social infrastructure, and other civilian structures.

As a result, many Ukrainians have lost their lives or been injured, leading to approximately four million people fleeing their country as of March 2022.

Furthermore, Russia has carried out brutal operations and violated the rights and freedoms of those who have opposed the invasion within Ukraine, further exacerbating human rights violations in the region.

Amnesty International calls on member countries of the United Nations (UN) to uphold the UN Charter, which prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. We condemn Russia's act of aggression and demand remedies and assistance for the people of Ukraine and those who have been displaced by the conflict. It is crucial to prevent the consequences of Russia's invasion from leading to further violence, rights violations, and insecurity in the world.



Amnesty International Thailand has actively campaigned in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. On March 23, 2022, we organized the Solidarity- I Stand with Ukraine event in front of the Russian Embassy. Posters and banners depicting statements and photos illustrating the violence and consequences faced by civilians due to Russia's invasion were displayed. People stood silently to express their support for the victims of human rights violations, and films and video clips showcasing the daily lives of Ukrainian civilians were screened.



“The people of Myanmar, you are not alone”

Myanmar, a neighboring country of Thailand, has been engulfed in a severe political crisis since the military coup on 1 February 2021. This has resulted in the killing of over 2,000 civilians and the arbitrary arrests of nearly 15,000 individuals, including civilians, students, activists, medical personnel, and politicians who opposed the coup.

The dire situation in Myanmar has led to more than 1.4 million people being displaced from their homes, and approximately 7.8 million children forced to drop out of school. Around 12,389 civilians are being held in custody under inhumane conditions, and at least 73 individuals have been sentenced to death. To make matters worse, in July 2022, the Myanmar military carried out the execution of four prisoners of conscience, marking the resumption of such executions after a hiatus of more than 50 years.

Furthermore, extrajudicial killings and arbitrary detentions have been used against activists and anyone who has voiced opposition to the military junta. Many individuals have been arrested without warrants and forced to confess to charges under torture, while others have become victims of enforced disappearances. Those held in custody are often denied contact with their families and legal representation, which constitutes a gross violation of human rights.

Despite the Thai government’s announcement of its intention to seek reconciliation and peace in Myanmar, there has been little progress in finding concrete solutions to address the human rights violations. Additionally, the Thai media has failed to provide comprehensive coverage of the situation in Myanmar, and only a limited number of civil society organizations have shown solidarity with the victims of human rights violations. Consequently, efforts to campaign against human rights violations in Myanmar have not been as effective as desired.

Amnesty International Thailand recognizes the importance of conducting public campaigns to exert pressure on the Thai government, ASEAN, and the Myanmar military to fulfill their international obligations and comply with the international humanitarian laws they have ratified.

The Solidarity & Action Myanmar campaign was carried out from 21 October to 16 November 2022, coinciding with the APEC meeting hosted by the Thai government. The campaign encompassed both online and offline activities.

As part of the online campaign, a petition was launched on Change.org demanding that the Thai government, as the host of the APEC meeting, address the issues of harassment and human rights violations in Myanmar following the coup. Messages were sent directly to the Prime Minister between 18 October and 14 November 2022. On 16 November, the petition with 2,129 signatures was submitted at the Government House.

Amnesty International have proposed the following demands to the Thai government;

1. The Thai government must adopt any possible method to create a safe environment to ensure access to humanitarian aid across the border.
2. Collaborate with other ASEAN members, multilateral organizations and international organizations including the UN agencies to address the crises regarding human rights and humanitarian need in Myanmar.
3. Thailand should accept to review applications of asylum seekers and ensure access to humanitarian aid as well as to refrain from refoulment or deportation of refugees from Myanmar. It should offer protection to asylum seekers and stop criminalizing them while staying in Thailand.
4. State authorities should issue Notifications, Regulations or Ministerial Regulations which apply to investors and state enterprises to ensure their business operation complies with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. An effort should be made to hold companies fully accountable and to ensure they shall not engage with the Myanmar army and their affiliated companies since they are responsible for human rights violation.

In addition, an online campaign called “Speak for the People of Myanmar” was launched to seek collaboration from Thai influencers who could use their platforms to express their support for the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and oppose human rights violations in Myanmar. These influencers were invited to share their ideas or quotes related to the campaign using hashtags such as #StandWithMyanmar, #WhatsHappeningInMyanmar, and #APEC2022.



Furthermore, the Speak for Myanmar campaign was expanded online while Amnesty International's Regional Director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific attended a meeting in Bangkok from 5 to 6 November 2022. During the meeting, the Regional Director participated in an online discussion and held a sign that read “Thai government and country partners to stop the bloody crackdown in Myanmar” along with the campaign hashtags #StandWithMyanmar, #WhatsHappeningInMyanmar, and #APEC2022.

All these efforts aim to convey the message that the people of Myanmar are not alone, and that there is a solidarity stance in support of their cause.

Write for Rights

Have you ever written a letter or done something for a stranger? Have you ever exercised your rights to defend and advocate for the rights of others? The topic we are discussing here is the Write for Rights campaign, one of the largest international human rights campaigns over the past 20 years. Amnesty International campaigns to support people around the world who have not received justice. Tens or even hundreds of thousands of letters have been written by ordinary people for others in need. The effectiveness of the campaign can be measured by the numerous activities that have taken place, totaling 17,267, as part of a global action count of 5,320,261.

Since the launch of the campaign, hundreds of cases have seen justice being served. Even in cases where success was not achieved, the fact that recipients have received letters and messages and know that people outside are campaigning for them is invaluable. It serves as a beacon of light during their darkest moments.

Furthermore, at least ten student clubs have initiated the Write for Rights campaign in their educational institutions. Students from international and Thai schools have collaborated with their friends to launch the campaign. Activists and members of Amnesty have also organized campaigns in various settings, including Club Phayao, Club Satun, Club LLB, and others. Additionally, certain activist groups, such as the Thalu Fah activists, volunteered in the Write for Rights campaign alongside James Sasithon and the Liberty Movement.

Amnesty International's focus extends beyond the changes achieved in individual cases. The power lies with ordinary people, whether they are children, students, taxi drivers, members of ethnic groups, peasants, volunteers, or businesspeople. We all have the ability to exercise our rights, express our thoughts, and use our physical and mental strength to organize activities and campaigns for victims of rights violations, regardless of their geographical location. This ripple effect is incredibly meaningful and commendable, as human rights are universal and belong to all of us.



เขียน (ที่เคย) เปลี่ยน โลก

ส่งความสำเร็จที่ผ่านมาของ
Write for Rights เขียน เปลี่ยน โลก



Amnesty International considers itself a human rights movement because we believe that individuals from any part of the world can play a role in making a difference. Human rights are universal and belong to all of us.

International solidarity is a crucial aspect of our work, as it helps us generate energy and organize international campaigns. Amnesty Thailand actively participates in various campaigns, including Write for Rights and the Tiananmen campaign.

The campaigns organized by Amnesty and our volunteers for Ukraine have garnered significant attention from Thai media. In fact, there were more media reporters present than participants at some events.

During our campaigns for Myanmar, Amnesty International Thailand collected 2,129 signatures from individuals in Thailand who signed the online petition via Change.org, urging the Thai government to “stop the bloodshed in Myanmar.” We presented these signatures to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, with a copy also delivered to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Don Pramudwinai. Our aim was to demand that the Thai government, as the host of the 2022 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting, play a significant role in consulting and putting an end to the violence in Myanmar, and to stand in solidarity with the people of Myanmar. The Prime Minister instructed Ms. Naline Mahakhan, Director of the Public Service Center, as the representative of the Thai government, to receive the letter and our demands.

Creating “multipliers” through human rights education. (Youth and Activism work)

Youth as the center of implementation

Amnesty International determines its global strategic frameworks on children and youth for 2022-2025 with the three goals;

Goal 1: Youth’s perspectives shall be front and center in our work on human rights related to the support and protection of human rights

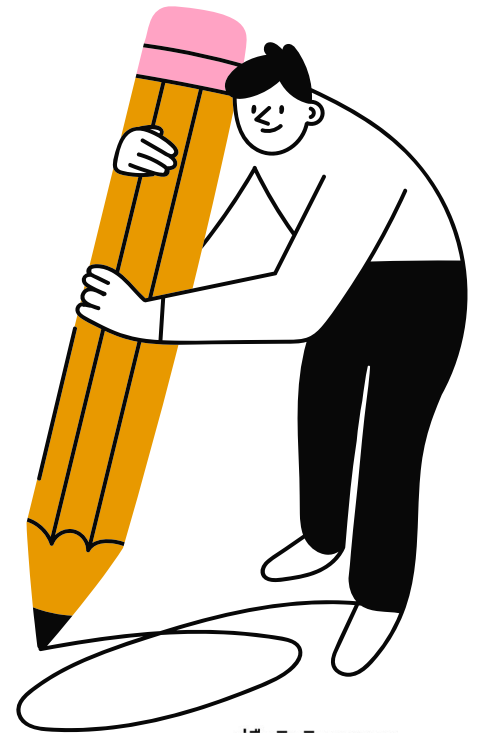
Goal 2: Enable diverse youth to be involved and play an important role in our implementation at all levels based on mutual respect and trust

Goal 3: Children and youth have picked up skills and attained agency as well as are more engaged with grassroots activism to ensure the implementation to engender impacts on human rights.

In 2022, activists in Thailand collaborated with youth and diverse activists in various activities throughout the country. These activities included creating educational tools and supporting human rights education, conducting training programs for youth and activists, providing holistic security training, organizing training sessions on children’s rights in mobilization, and supporting the organization of the Thalu Dan Bang Kloi camp to raise awareness about the rights to land and a way of life for ethnic groups.

These activities can be broadly categorized into two main areas: human rights education and training on specific issues.

Human rights education focuses on promoting skills and providing resources to empower activists, students, and youth leaders to effectively engage in human rights work. These efforts are ongoing throughout the year.



คู่มือสิทธิมนุษยชน
ฉบับนักเรียนศึกษา
สิทธิมนุษยชนศึกษา
การมีส่วนร่วมของครู



ผลิตภัณฑ์นี้เป็นต้นฉบับออกแบบขึ้น
เพื่อนำมาใช้ในการส่งเสริมสิทธิมนุษยชน
ถ้าไม่อยู่ในชีวิตประจำวันขอให้อ่าน



Human rights study

Throughout 2022, Amnesty International Thailand organized human rights education for educational institutions ranging from high schools to universities in Bangkok and various provinces. These courses attracted at least 2,000 participants across approximately 30 sessions.

The aim of the human rights education is to educate participants about human rights and the right to freedom of expression. The goal is to provide them with the skills and resources needed to mobilize for human rights. Each human rights study is designed to be contextually relevant and address issues of importance to the participants. Here are a few examples:

At D-PREP International School, a human rights study was conducted in English with 30 participants, including students from Grades 6 to 8. The content focused on topics such as Rohingya refugees, basic human rights, and Amnesty's work. The training included lectures, Q&A sessions, and group activities. One activity involved participants drawing pictures of essential items needed by child refugees to live a dignified life. They were also given an opportunity to design a fundraising activity to support children in refugee communities.

At Ubonratchathani University, Amnesty International Thailand and iLaw collaborated to organize two courses.

The first course, held on 25 August 2022, covered "Human Rights and the Constitution" as part of the Humans and Society subject. It included discussions on human rights principles, cases of human rights violations in Thailand, and specific issues like LGBTI+ rights, freedom of assembly and expression, community rights, enforced disappearance, state obligations, and the role of the Constitution in protecting and addressing human rights violations in Thailand. The course had a total of 415 students.

The second course, held on 26 August 2022, was a human rights study for students in the basic news writing course under the Mass Communication program of the Faculty of Liberal Arts. The topic was "Enforced Disappearance: The Case of Wanchalearm Satsaksit." The course simulated a press conference, allowing students to interview Amnesty and iLaw staff to gather information for writing news articles about Wanchalearm's disappearance, ongoing human rights violation cases, Amnesty's work on the Prevention and Suppression of Torture



and Enforced Disappearance Act, and the impacts on Wanchalearm's family, particularly the harassment against Sitanun Satsaksit.

By addressing locally relevant topics and immediate issues, the course content captures participants' attention and emphasizes that human rights are everyone's concern. This encourages them to consider future activities related to human rights.



Notably, at Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus, discussions on controversial issues, including LGBTQ+ rights, were approached indirectly due to expectations from teachers in the Southern Border Provinces. However, the presence of external resource persons from Amnesty encouraged participants to think critically and engage in debates, challenging various myths and providing a space for learning about human rights.

The increasing participation of various educational institutions, including Phayao University and Chiang Rai Ratchabhat University, in human rights studies is a cause for celebration. It demonstrates the growing interest and engagement in human rights education.

Human rights education training of trainer.

In the past three years, there has been a growing number of youth and activists organizing various activities on human rights. Amnesty International Thailand recognizes the importance of supporting these groups by providing capacity building, knowledge, and information on human rights education.

Amnesty recognizes that it alone is not sufficient to coordinate with youth and activists effectively. Therefore, it is crucial to conduct training on the human rights study process (Training for Trainers) to equip participants with the skills to conduct human rights studies independently. This approach aims to create "multipliers" who can replicate and expand the work on human rights education both quantitatively and qualitatively.

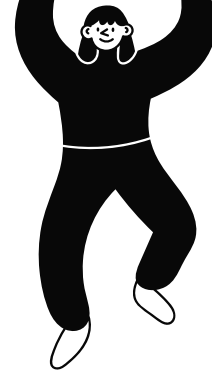
Amnesty Thailand conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) for 25 student activists, aged 17-35, from across the country. The training took place from 27 to 30 July 2022, with a focus on the right to freedom of expression, freedom of public assembly, freedom of association, and working with people from diverse backgrounds (intersectionality).



The course content covered fundamental human rights principles and values, teaching methods for human rights, change theory, understanding intersecting identities, the right to freedom of expression and public assembly, and facilitation skills. It emphasized the importance of facilitators and their qualifications, including creativity, a growth mindset, positive energy, self-care, basic learning skills, and the theory behind designing human rights study sessions. The training provided opportunities for participants to practice their facilitation skills in real settings.

Following the ToT, Amnesty's staff continues to offer counseling on the course content every month. They also support the participants with tools, equipment, information on rights, and funding assistance for their training initiatives.

Thaksin Bamrunghai, an activist from Chiang Mai who participated in the ToT, expressed that the training helped him gain a better understanding of human rights. He praised the innovative and accurate information provided by Amnesty, which enhanced his ability to communicate assertively and clearly on various issues. After the training, he received ongoing support from Amnesty, particularly in terms of media coverage and replicating his existing activities. This support has allowed him to expand his work on human rights in the region more efficiently.



15 ตุลาคม '2565
เชียงใหม่

HUMAN RIGHTS

ห้องเรียนสิทธิมนุษยชน
ห้องเรียนเล็กๆ ที่อยากชวนทุกคนมาร่วม
เรียนรู้สิทธิมนุษยชน ในมุมมองต่างๆ แลก
เปลี่ยนกันสนุกๆ ในบรรยากาศที่โอบรับ
ความแตกต่างหลากหลาย

สมัครด่วน!
จำนวนจำกัด

Human rights education is key and serves as an important foundation for engendering change. Youth and activists can play a significant role in replicating this work through training and facilitating initiatives in various regions across Thailand, all while gaining self-confidence in the process. This serves as a stepping stone for Amnesty's collaboration with activists and their engagement in human rights education.



Sowing seeds of human rights

Amnesty International, or “Amnesty” for short, is a human rights movement comprising over 13 million ordinary people worldwide. Together, they campaign to protect and promote human rights.

We believe that the collective power of ordinary people is most impactful when they work together through a democratic and independent process. Every member has the right to decide what issues they want to address and how they carry out their work.

Given the broad scope of human rights work, it is essential to prioritize specific issues each year. Amnesty cannot tackle all issues alone.

Therefore, it is important for individuals who share common ideas and interests to collaborate and mobilize for human rights. To facilitate this, we have established a Seed Fund, which allows members to form groups and submit proposals for activities aligned with their interests.

Criteria of the Seed Fund: Focusing on members with diverse issues

The Seed Fund of Amnesty International Thailand has simple and straightforward criteria to encourage our members to actively work on a wide range of human rights issues. While we prioritize certain issues, we also aim to support members who want to work on human rights issues that align with our organization’s values, even if they are not our current priorities.

The eligibility criteria for the Seed Fund are as follows:

1. The applicant **must be a member of Amnesty International for a minimum of six months.**

2. The work that applicants want to engage in through the Seed Fund should be related to human rights work being implemented by Amnesty International. While certain issues, such as LGBTI+ rights or issues that have received extensive advocacy in other countries, may not be our current priorities in Thailand, we still welcome and support members who are passionate about working on these topics.

In summary, the Seed Fund provides funding support for diverse human rights activities, placing a strong emphasis on our members. Only Amnesty members are eligible to apply for funding through this program.

In 2022, several active members have already received support through the Seed Fund to implement their work in various areas, including Bangkok and other provinces. Let’s take a closer look at the activities they are engaged in.



“Tamtang” abortion: Accessible and Safe

Amnesty International is a well-known human rights organization. However, to be honest, I didn’t know much about them. I was unsure if they focused on politics, people in jail, or the death penalty. I wasn’t particularly interested in those issues. But as a rights activist, I consider them a world-class organization,” said Sulaiphon Chonwilai, a volunteer from the Tamtang Group, who provides counseling on safe abortion. She explained her previous perception of Amnesty International.



Sulaiphon gradually became more familiar with Amnesty International after reading their newsletters, which were sent to her boyfriend, who is a member. However, she still wasn't particularly interested in the content about the death penalty and politics.

Recently, as she became more involved in advocating for abortion rights, Sulaiphon witnessed numerous injustices and felt compelled to take action for systemic change.

"I noticed that Amnesty was active on abortion issues abroad, so I started questioning why Amnesty Thailand wasn't addressing the issue. Abortion is a complex issue. I began asking Amnesty Thailand whenever I encountered them, 'Why don't you talk about abortion?'" recounted Sulaiphon, who was not yet a member and had no idea how Amnesty sets its work priorities.

In 2020, Sulaiphon became a member of Amnesty International, hoping to learn more about the organization's work and to find ways to ignite interest in addressing abortion rights.

Eventually, Sulaiphon's efforts bore fruit. The Tamtang Group submitted a proposal to seek support from Amnesty International Thailand's Seed Fund to organize the Bangkok Abortion event on September 25, 2022, at Angoon Garden, Thong Lor, Bangkok.

The event will consist of panel discussions and music performances. Various vendors will display and sell items, and an exhibition organized by around 20 organizations aims to raise public awareness in Thailand about the importance of access to safe abortion services. It also seeks to shed light on the problems and obstacles faced in accessing these services, as currently, there are no facilities in Bangkok that provide safe abortion with funding support from the state, including the National Health Insurance Office.



Podcast Know more Rights

“Know more Rights” is a podcast project created by Wichai Tadthaisong and his friends. They aim to discuss human rights issues that are gaining attention in society. The podcast provides casual and accessible explanations of relevant events through conversations between the moderators and resource persons. Listeners can access the podcast on Amnesty International Thailand’s YouTube channel.

Wichai and his friends recognize that podcasts have become a popular form of media, similar to radio programs, allowing listeners to engage with content while carrying out other activities. Research in the US has shown that more members of Generation Z are becoming podcast audiences. By focusing on human rights topics in their podcast, Wichai and his team hope to stimulate learning and awareness about these important issues.

EP 1 Safe abortion, you can do it!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoPnFt_WMsg

In the first episode of the podcast “Know more Rights,” the conversation featured three participants: Pam as the moderator, and Yaya and May as guests who volunteer for the Tamtang Group. The topic of discussion was myths surrounding abortion and the recent amendment of the Penal Code’s Sections 301-305, which decriminalizes abortion within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy with certain exemptions and requirements.

During the episode, the two persons addressed misconceptions perpetuated by the media regarding abortion. They highlighted that media often choose photos of women with visibly pregnant bellies bleeding in dark settings to accompany news reports on abortion. However, they emphasized that abortion procedures are not as scary as portrayed. Currently, there are two commonly used methods: vacuum aspiration performed by medical professionals and medication-based methods, which are not as intimidating as they may seem.



Ultimately, the right to abortion is about a woman’s right to control her own body. Women should have the autonomy to decide whether to continue or terminate a pregnancy. No institution should have the authority to dictate their choices or restrict their autonomy to their body.

EP 2 Marriage Equality

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esHW8A-haZLU>

Pam continues to moderate the session, this time with Chanan Yodhong, a historian and LGBTI+ activist who is also responsible for gender identity and diversity policies within the Pheu Thai Party. Chanan provides insights into the history of Marriage Equality, its societal evolution, and its progression in different regions as people become more aware of human dignity and equality.

In the context of Thailand, Chanan traces back to the reign of King Rama V, during which a law was adopted from Great Britain that criminalized sodomy, labeling it as abnormal and perverse. The law carried penalties of imprisonment and fines. However, this law was repealed in 1956 during the government of Field Marshal P. Pibulsongkram.

Currently, there has been a growing public support for marriage equality, with the LGBTI+ community leading the demand for this right. In this episode, the discussion also delves into the demand for “Marriage Equality” over the past 20 years and compares the “Marriage Equality Bill” with the Civil Partnership Bill.



COMMUNICATION ARTS
UBONRATCHATHANI UNIVERSITY

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL THAILAND

AN@W

“ความหลากหลายทางเพศในภาคอีสาน และการสื่อสารในสังคมไทย”

วิทยากร

โฉมตา ศรีโพธิ์ทอง
นางสาวศุภมาสวีร์โพธิ์ทอง
คณะศิลปศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยอุบลราชธานี

เสนาะ เจริญพร
อาจารย์ประจำสาขาการพัฒนาระบบ
คณะศิลปศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยอุบลราชธานี

เมาว์ธิน สีสงขลา
ครูคณิตศาสตร์โรงเรียน
เทศบาลเมืองอุบลราชธานี

กิจกรรมเบื้องต้นของ Anew, Photo Book Human Differences และ Music Video เพลง My way และเพลง ใครๆจะเข้าใจ (Whoever you are!) ของนักศึกษามัธยมศึกษาชั้นปีที่ 4 และกิจกรรมเสวนาในหัวข้อ “ความหลากหลายทางเพศในภาคอีสาน และการสื่อสารในสังคมไทย” ร่วมกับวิทยากร 3 ท่าน โฉมตา ศรีโพธิ์ทอง, เสนาะ เจริญพร และ เมาว์ธิน สีสงขลา โดยวิทยากรจะตอบคำถามจากผู้เข้าร่วมและผู้ชมออนไลน์

ณ ลานข้างโรงละคร คณะศิลปศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยอุบลราชธานี

8 มีนาคม 2565
13.00 - 17.00 น.

*รายชื่อในภาพจะทำการลงทะเบียนและตรวจ ATK ก่อนเข้างาน

Magazine: New Gen New Change

Students in regional universities also have the opportunity to receive support from the Seed Fund. One such project is the production of **(Anew)** Magazine proposed by Thaphakon Senket, a fourth-year student majoring in journalism within the Faculty of Liberal Arts at Ubon Ratchathani University. As the editor, Thaphakon and his team are committed to creating a magazine that explores the roles of young people and social change.

The name “Anew” signifies a fresh start or beginning again, incorporating the term “Now” to convey the idea of starting anew in the present moment. The magazine aims to highlight the importance of young people’s right to choose their way of life, including gender equality, bodily autonomy, self-respect, respect for others, and equal access to education.

The editorial board recognizes the diverse perspectives and evolving viewpoints within the younger generation regarding social mobilization, and they believe that raising public awareness through this magazine is crucial for fostering positive social change.

“Anew” is an A4-sized magazine with a limited print run of 100 copies. Production began in late 2021, followed by content compilation and arrangement in 2022, and the final printing for distribution in March of the same year.

The magazine is available in both print and online formats. Printed copies have been distributed to libraries at Ubon Ratchathani University, secondary schools in Ubon Ratchathani, Amnaj Charoen, Si Saket, Surin, and various cafes in Ubon Ratchathani.

Launch of photo exhibition “Focus In Life”

The campaign to abolish the death penalty is one of Amnesty International’s longstanding campaigns. On 25 May 2022, we launched the report on Death Sentences and Executions in 2021 simultaneously around the world.

On the same day, **members of Amnesty Thailand in Chiang Mai** collaborated with **Addict Art Studio** to organize a photo exhibition titled “Focus In Life.” They invited **Toshi Kazama**, a Japanese photographer who has traveled worldwide showcasing his photos as part of the campaign for the abolition of the death penalty, to give a lecture on “What to Focus in the World Now.” The aim was to raise public awareness about the death penalty as a violation of fundamental human rights, including the right to life. The death penalty is also considered an act of physical and mental torture against those affected.

Focus In Life
นำเสนอเรื่องราวจากแดนประหาร

25 พฤษภาคม 2565
17.00 น. เป็นต้นไป

พูดคุยกับ
โทชิ คาซามา
ช่างภาพชาวญี่ปุ่นผู้เดินทางไปทั่วโลก
เพื่อใช้ภาพถ่ายในการรณรงค์ยกเลิก
โทษประหารชีวิต ในหัวข้อ
“What to Focus in the World Now”

ภาพรวมรายงานสถานการณ์
โทษประหารชีวิตและการประหารชีวิต
ประจำปี 2564 โดย
**แอมเนสตี้ อินเตอร์เนชั่นแนล
ประเทศไทย**

ถ่ายทอดสดผ่านเพจ **ประชาไท** และ **Lanner**

25 พฤษภาคม -
22 กรกฎาคม 2565
นิทรรศการภาพถ่าย
“Focus In Life”

เปิดให้ชม: **จันทร์-เสาร์**
เวลา 11.00-19.00 น.
ณ **Addict Art Studio**
ถนนศรีภูมิ อ.เมือง จ.เชียงใหม่
(เปิดวันอาทิตย์)

เข้าชมฟรี
ไม่มีค่าใช้จ่าย

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL THAILAND
ADDICT

The Seed Fund provided support for this project, recognizing that organizing the photo exhibition on “Focus In Life” could serve as a small starting point to encourage dialogue and further exploration of this delicate issue.

Spiritual and Wellbeing Fest

“What we are engaging with is not an attempt to amend the law or policy. Rather, it is an attempt to change culture. It faces many challenges since we are trying to speak to the old world which still hinges on traditional beliefs about gender and sex and people who have been indoctrinated by traditional ideas. It therefore takes time to sell them new ideas. We, after all, place much hope in it that it will garner change, although it can be tiring and it might make us feel burned out. We still think it will gradually change”.

The statement was shared during our discussion with Nitchakan “Mimi” Rakwongrit, a youth activist on LGBTI+ issues and wellbeing in late 2022.

The issue is a challenge for the young activists since what they are “colliding with” or “challenging” is deeply entrenched in our culture. It is hard to change. Gender identity aside, there are issues concerning structural problems, social and economic disparities, religious beliefs, etc.

When encountering too many problems, the activists may feel burned out and despair. The coalition of activists from 14 organizations, including groups working on gender identity and human rights, realize the importance of the role of civil society and young people who can help mobilize on social and political issues. The LGBTI+ youth groups should therefore pay attention to wellbeing and inner security, or Spiritual Wellbeing, realizing the interconnection between their work and their spiritual wellbeing when engaged in the work to bring about social justice. This has prompted us to organize the **Spiritual and Wellbeing Fest**.

The activity is composed of online group discussions to promote the spiritual wellbeing of our groups and alliances. It is a chance for young activists and the LGBTI+ community to review their involvement and the impacts on various aspects of wellbeing. It also aims to raise public awareness about the indoctrinated beliefs that have affected our internal beliefs and wellbeing. At the same time, an effort is made to raise awareness of the importance of spiritual wellbeing, remedies, and how to promote the concept of spiritual wellbeing and social mobilization.

The issue of spiritual wellbeing and social mobilization is hardly mentioned or discussed among previous generations of activists. Amnesty Thailand, however, realizes the importance of reviewing our spiritual wellbeing and how to empower it to help us bring about subtle social activism. Therefore, the Spiritual and Wellbeing Fest was organized with support from the Seed Fund.

Being part of the effort to encourage, sow the seeds, and spread stories and creative output on human rights through various groups is a key commitment of Amnesty. We believe that when supporters of human rights have the space and opportunity to replicate their work on diverse issues, it can be a major step toward bringing about change in the field of human rights.

While we may not know what the future holds, the change and output mentioned serve as great inspiration for us to persist in our fight against injustice. The unwavering support of our members, volunteers, activists, and supporters is a testament to their dedication in the movement for human rights. Together, we stand strong in our pursuit of justice and human rights for all.



ผลงานโดย ปฏิกิธร จันทร์ทอง



ผลงานโดย ฉัฐพัชร์ สุวรรณยุหะ

Human Rights Media Awards 2021

On 24 February 2022, Amnesty International Thailand announced the winners and hosted a ceremony to confer **“Human Rights Media Awards 2021”** at Lunar Room, 10th floor, AVANI Riverside Bangkok

The awards are divided into outstanding media on human rights in the category of print media, online news and feature stories, broadcast news, news and feature stories via TV shows, news and feature stories via online video clips, and photos on the topic “Life amidst Covid-19 crisis through human rights lens” for youth and general public.

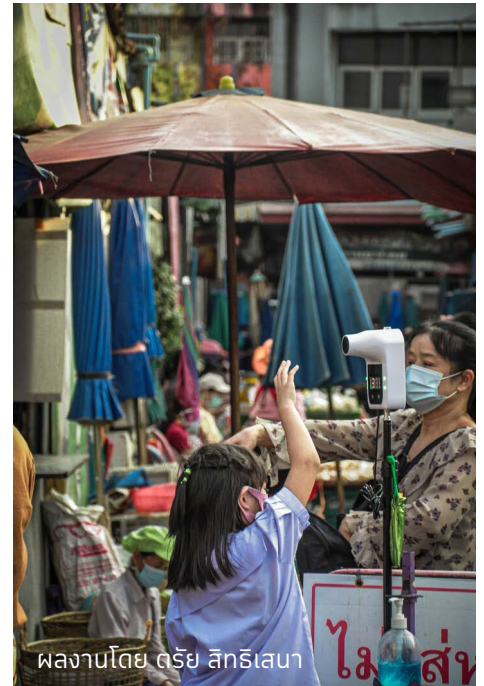
Ms. Thitirat Thipsamritkul, Chair of Amnesty International Thailand’s Board of Directors, said that media functions like “candlelight” which shines its light on human rights issues making people in society aware of human rights. They encourage us to sow the seeds of mutual respect. It is therefore important to show our solidarity to media who have been working hard to disseminate news to nurture respect, promote and protect human rights through the ceremony to offer them awards for their outstanding reports on human rights.

It should help to raise the awareness about the importance of media as the frontliners who tirelessly monitor debate on human rights. It is hoped that media will remain strong and stand up to continue promoting and protecting human rights. For Amnesty International Thailand, we call on all sectors to respect media when they perform their duties and it is important that they warrant protection against any harassment and threat.

Chair of AIT's Board of Directors further said that the selection committee of Human Rights Media Awards 2021 is composed of experts from media and human rights circles who help to shortlist and make a final call on all the entries.

Ms. Thitirat Thipsamritkul further said that during the event this year, a panel discussion was held on "Voice of Rights: From Klity Bangkloi to Chana, How important is media when people rise up to protect their community" with speakers including three young activists who have stood up to protect their hometown including Thanakit Tongfah, from Klity Village, Khairiyah Ramanya, a daughter of Chana Sea, and Pongsak Tonnampet from Bang Kloi Village.

In closing, Piyanut Kotsan, Director of Amnesty International Thailand, thanked media for being the most important person in this event and how they have tirelessly helped as a medium to reflect the fight for human rights and to create a proper understanding in the public, in the past and in the future.



ผลงานโดย ดรัย ลิกธิเสนา

โครงการ Writers that Matter

Since we believe in the power of storytelling and we believe by telling your stories, it can help the campaign to end torture and enforced disappearance! In 2022, Amnesty International Thailand has invited people to submit their entries including their short stories on human rights on the topic of "torture and enforced disappearance" and the theme "Write to Remember: We shall not forget" to be part of the campaign against torture and enforced disappearance.

Selection Committee

- Ms. Angkhana Neelapaijit, a human rights expert of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) and wife of human rights lawyer Somchai Neelapaijit, a victim of enforced disappearance
- Suchart Sawadsri (Sing Sanam Luang), author and founder of Chaw Karaked Awards
- Ro Rua Nai Mahasamut, author and S.E.A. Write awardee from "Sing To Nok Khok"
- Ms. Thitirat Thipsamritkul, Chair of AIT's Board of Directors and lecturer of Faculty of Law, Thammasat University

Mentioned in print media in 2022

Month	Circulation	Ad Value	PR Value
January	5,240,000	777,354	2,332,063
February	24,630,000	2,629,925	7,889,784
March	1,1170,000	1,584,749	4,754,247
April	4,530,000	1,489,588	4,468,765
May	3,010,000	586,953	1,760,859
June	6,640,000	625,902	1,877,709
July	4,870,000	270,362	811,089
August	8,100,000	2,164,330	6,492,990
September	13,840,000	3,216,221	9,648,663
October	3,540,000	1,391,080	4,173,240
November	18,760,000	5,549,823	16,649,475
December	5,880,000	4,040,720	1,346,906
Total	110,210,000	24,327,007	62,205,790

Mentioned in online media in 2022

Performance Summary

View your key profile performance metrics from the reporting period.

Impressions 11,655,191 ↗28.2%	Engagements 638,469 ↘9.6%	Post Link Clicks 110,158 ↗81.3%
Engagement Rate (per Impression) 5.5% ↘29.4%		

Facebook

Impressions

11,655,191

Post Link Click

110,158 (+81.3%)



Published

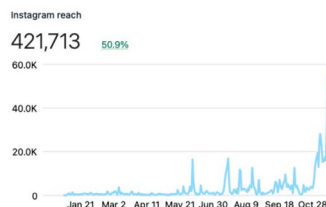
Posts

488 post

Posts with highest engagement in 2022

<p>Amnesty International Th... Thu 11/3/2022 12:21 pm +07</p> <p>วันที่ 23 ตุลาคม กองทัพอากาศไทยตีทางอากาศซึ่งรายงานว่ามีผู้เสียชีวิตหลายสิบคน รวมถึงพลเรือนในภาคเหนือลี้ภัยที่รัฐกะเหรี่ยง และนั่นไม่...</p> <p>Total Engagements 53,579</p> <p>Reactions 758</p> <p>Comments 81</p> <p>Shares 65</p> <p>Post Link Clicks 28,445</p> <p>Other Post Clicks 24,230</p>	<p>Amnesty International Th... Thu 6/30/2022 10:00 am +07</p> <p>Writers that Matter "นัก(สภ)าเขียน เปลี่ยนโลก" กลับมาอีกครั้ง! กับกิจกรรมรณรงค์ของสันนิบาตชื่อ "Write to Remember : เราจะไม่ลืม..."</p> <p>Total Engagements 5,685</p> <p>Reactions 720</p> <p>Comments 57</p> <p>Shares 572</p> <p>Post Link Clicks 1,084</p> <p>Other Post Clicks 3,252</p>	<p>Amnesty International Th... Thu 6/2/2022 10:18 am +07</p> <p>สตรีดี ช่วยเหลือของเราก็ได้เปล่า เพื่อนของเราหายไปสองวันแล้ว...สองวันแล้ว หลังจากที่เราพูดว่า "เราจะไม่ปล่อย" ...เรามีเรื่องเล่าให้ฟัง เรา...</p> <p>Total Engagements 5,192</p> <p>Reactions 1,431</p> <p>Comments 206</p> <p>Shares 434</p> <p>Post Link Clicks 276</p> <p>Other Post Clicks 2,845</p>
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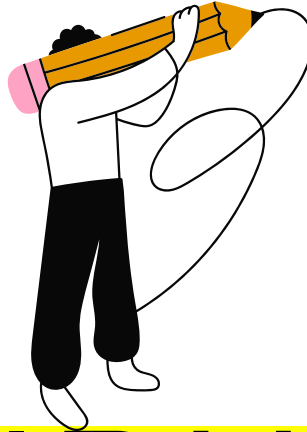
Month	PR Value
January	19,005,000
February	63,249,075
March	23,985,000
April	13,128,618
May	18,975,000
June	19,845,000
July	17,700,000
August	37,533,768
September	34,305,000
October	22,305,000
November	56,055,000
December	17,910,000
Total	343,996,461



ยอด Instagram reach **421,713**



Written by Supaphon Assadamonkol, freelance writer interested in activism of Gen Z and Gen Alfa, former reporter on social affair, human rights and environmental beats in 1990's, Coordinator and Documentation Officer of the 6 October Exhibition" Confronting the Devil and the Project to Establish the 6 October Museum



CONTRIBUTOR



Your voice matters. The following articles reflect the work undertaken by Amnesty in the previous year. We want to hear from you as to how you want us to expand our work or to improve on any issues or just to share your thoughts with us. Please write to director@amnesty.or.th

Anyone who sends in your thoughts could be one of the lucky ones to receive a T-shirt from Amnesty Australia or other token of appreciation from Amnesty Thailand which will certainly make you smile.



Portraits by Vinai Dithajohn, freelance news and documentary photographer, former photographer of European Pressphoto Agency. Through his photos, he recounts the truths in their most intensity and in-depth. He uses his aesthetic perspectives to retell stories about human beings on the issues concerning the environment, human rights and conflicts in Southeast Asia.

Friends of Amnesty



“It is critically important to learn about human rights and to help youth as a word’s citizen to understand rights better. That’s why Amnesty has to advocate for creating a human rights education classroom in which everyone is allowed to fully express themselves.”

Watcharaphon “Nook” Nakkasem

Editor of Lanner who defines himself a teenager during NCP0 era



“Amnesty’s strength lies in its campaigns which have been conducted for a long time. It has strong brand-awareness in Thailand and around the world.”

Sunai Phasuk

Senior Researcher, Human Rights Watch Asia Desk and in charge of Thailand affairs

Friends of Amnesty



“I was asked to speak in one forum organized by Amnesty (“Bangkok has no brothels”). They kindly arranged for that. And when I asked them to speak about our campaign, they never hesitate to do that.”

Sulaiphon Chonwilai

Tamtang Group’s volunteer



“Amnesty’s most valuable contribution is its support for young people. It benefits me specifically, since I work with children, youth and activists who want to exercise their human rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.”

Anuwat “Ter” Promma

Support Team of the E-san Activists

Friends of Amnesty



“Amnesty is highly active. It sends people to monitor whenever there is any situation. No other international organizations based in Thailand have such capacity”

Kanokrat Lertchoosakul

Lecturer, Faculty of Political Science,
Chulalongkorn University



“What differentiate Amnesty from others (in terms of facilitating learning process on human rights) is they have strong connections with youth groups and activist groups.”

Bencharat Sae-Chua

Lecturer, Institute of Human Rights
and Peace Studies of Mahidol University