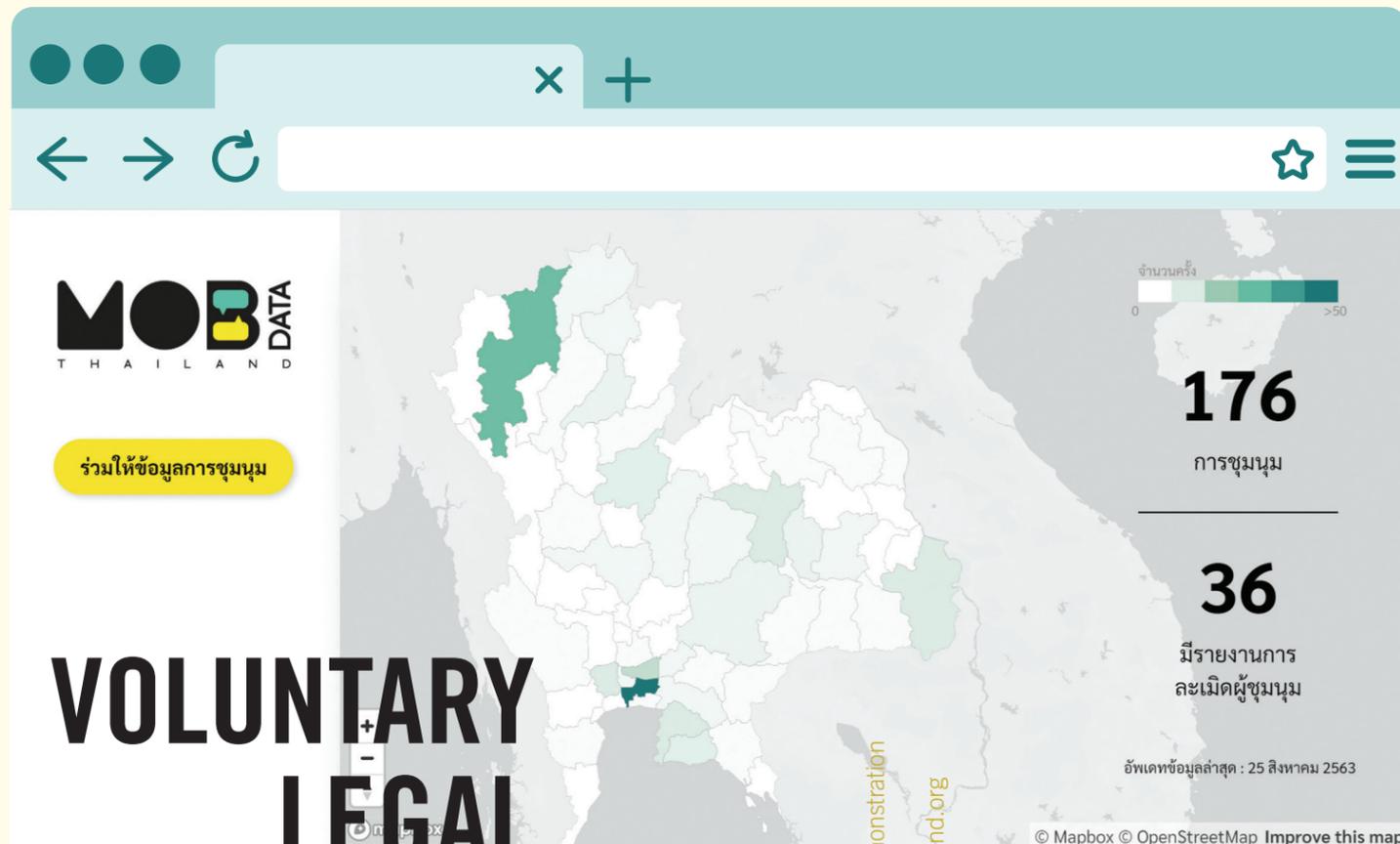


FREEDOM

ISSUE 2020/2





VOLUNTARY LEGAL OBSERVER DEBUT AND

mobdatathailand.org



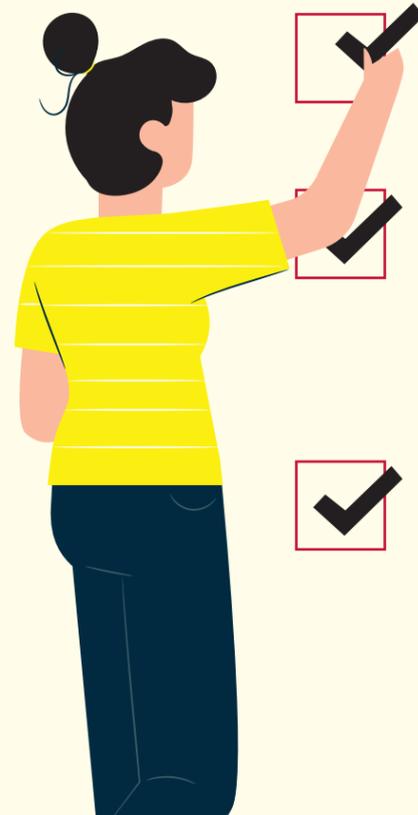
Scan to submit demonstration information
www.mobdatathailand.org

With protests coming up every other day, how good would it be to receive information directly from the venue and encourage participation? Amnesty International Thailand and iLaw have jointly launched mobdatathailand.org as a database for all public demonstrations that is open for all participants to report on the situation, including location, number of participants, and law enforcement response to the demonstration. Meanwhile, Amnesty, in cooperation with Thai Lawyers for Human Rights, the Community Resource Centre Foundation, the ENLAWTHAI Foundation, Prachatai, and Law Long Beach, will also follow up on the received data to formulate a policy proposal for freedom of assembly in Thailand.

Amnesty Thailand has also debuted **“Voluntary Legal Observers”** to record the situation in ongoing protests using human rights indicators and professional training for legal observation. The observers will display their **“Observer”** identification openly to distinguish them from the demonstration.



Scan to read Guidelines for observing rallies



FREEDOM TO DEMONSTRATE INDICATORS

Mechanisms to give notice of an assembly are supportive. There is no legal or practical requirement for the demonstrators to apply for permission in advance.

The period for giving notice of an assembly is not too long. According to international principles, it should not exceed 48 hours. Also, notification of an assembly should be easily accessible, such as online forms accessible to all individuals

Restrictions on assembly must be mutually agreed in accordance with international standards. Any restrictions must be reasonable and must be documented. Restrictions must be explained to the organizer and there must be an administrative channel for organizers to appeal.

CHECKLIST EXAMPLE

RESPONSIBILITY OF OFFICIALS DURING AN ASSEMBLY

- Assembly control must be based on negotiation and in coordination with the protesters.
- Information about the gathering must be provided to journalists and observers.
- Officials must receive and respond to observation reports.
- Collecting personal information such as taking pictures of ID cards or taking pictures must not involve any invasion of privacy.
- States must protect the right to assembly by referring to the principles of business and human rights. The private sector, which occupies areas considered public, must also be considered a public place for gatherings.



“The key principles are that the observer must not comment on the demonstration, nor offer support to or discourage any participant. Most importantly the observer must not participate in the demonstration in any way. The observer’s responsibility is to observe, take notes, and use the information to create reports to submit to the necessary individuals or organizations.”

“Freedom to demonstrate is a basic human right that must be protected, including freedom of expression, assembly and association. The government of a democratic nation should not restrict the freedom to assembly, because this right is supported under international human rights laws.”



SAID Piyanut Kotsan,
Director of Amnesty International Thailand.



NEW AMNESTY THAILAND COMMITTEE



Thitirat Thipsamritkul, Chairperson

Amnesty International Thailand holds annual general meetings in order to encourage members to express their opinions on past work, and jointly determine the direction of the organization in the future. The meeting also elects officers and members of the Committee to replace those whose term of office has ended. This year, more than 80 members attended.

The current Committee of Amnesty International Thailand consists of:

Thitirat Thipsamritkul,
Chairperson
Napat Narangsiya, Member
Wasin Ponggao, Member
Nazaneen Yagaji,
Youth Member
Patcharee Pabua, Treasurer

Thitirat Thipsamritkul, the new Chairperson revealed the direction of Amnesty International Thailand. She would like to see the human rights movement in Thailand become a common topic which everyone can talk about and which is not difficult, or serious, or seemingly distant, just a part of popular conversation. For this to happen, human rights must be linked to every aspects of daily life, in the drama we watch, in the art we consume, and in the relationships among friends, lovers, and family. If we can make

people in society see that human rights are close to their lives, Amnesty Thailand should be able to reach more people.

“As I’m already working in education, I would like to connect human rights more with university education. Many subjects that are studied in university, many student activities are already related to human rights. Another issue could be the technology that plays an important part in our lives. Both the protection and violations of rights are increasing in the digital world. By using digital technology as a tool for protection or advocacy of rights, it is likely that we can take the conversation about human rights and its movement further than it is today,” the new chairperson said.

People participated in the WRITE FOR RIGHTS campaign nearly 6.6 million times

In 2019, Amnesty supporters around the world set a new record for the **“Write for Rights”** activity. Human rights advocates delivered up to 6,609,837 messages including letters, e-mails, tweets, and other communications.

Each year supporters from all over the world send letters to pressure the governments of different countries to end human rights violations and bring justice to victims. They also write letters or messages to directly encourage people and their families who have suffered from human rights violations so that they know

they are not fighting alone. This activity has been going on for over 18 years. Messages from people around the world raise hope for the many human rights defenders we assist. And two of them are **Yiliyasijiang Reheman** and **Marinisha Abduaini**, a Uighur student and his wife. They were expecting their second child when Yiliyasijiang disappeared while the couple were studying in Egypt in July 2017, when the government arrested some 200 Uighurs, mostly indigenous Muslims from China’s Xinjiang region, and forced them to return to China. Marinisha believes her husband is now one of more than a million Muslims incarcerated in secret camps in China, and she’s trying everything to find her husband.

We are continuing our campaign of calling on the Chinese authorities to free the father who was taken from his wife and children. Our ongoing campaign will help change this family waiting for the day when its members will be back together again, no matter how long this wait is. *“Thank you everyone for your support in finding my husband. I feel like I’m not alone. My family and I still need your support. And I hope you will continue to support us”* said Marinisha.



MORE THAN 3,000 DOCTORS AND NURSES LOSE THEIR LIVES TO COVID-19



Amnesty International released a report concerning the welfare of healthcare workers working on the front line in combating the COVID-19 pandemic all over the world. It found that more than 3,000 health workers have died treating patients, and in a survey of 63 countries around the world, almost all of them lacked PPE (personal protective equipment).

Russia has the highest number of medical personnel loss from COVID-19 in the world at 545, followed by **England** at 540 (including 262 health volunteers) **United States** 507, **Brazil** 351, and **Mexico** 248. But Amnesty stated that the numbers could actually be much higher.

Amnesty International calls on governments to take the lives of doctors and nurses very seriously because it was found that some governments have *“punished these workers”* for expressing their demands and exposing working conditions that pose a huge risk of life, along with many other problems that they have to face, including the shortage of protective equipment, many hours of hard work, problems of violence against healthcare workers, or even low compensation in some countries compared to the risks that they faced every second.

Thanks to TNN for information
Updated July 2020



From FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION to FORCED DISAPPEARANCE



Amnesty invites supporters around the world to send letters to Cambodia to investigate the disappearance of Wanchalearm

Amnesty International launched an Urgent Action inviting more than 8 million members, activists and supporters worldwide to send letters to Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia to call for an urgent investigation into the abduction of **Wanchalearm Satsaksit**, a Thai activist in exile, and to immediately inform the family of his whereabouts.

Wanchalearm was abducted by a group of unknown persons from outside his apartment in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. He is known in Thailand for expressing opinions that differ from the state, and while he was in exile, he continued to exercise his right to freedom of expression online. The Thai authorities issued an arrest warrant for him in 2018

and he is one of nine Thai activists who fled to neighbouring countries and later went missing. Two activists seeking asylum have been confirmed killed.

Amnesty International invites members, activists, supporters and people interested in human rights issues around the world to write letters to the Cambodian authorities demanding an effective, urgent, comprehensive, and transparent investigation into his disappearance and his current whereabouts.

Cambodia is also requested to comply with the provisions contained in the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and to bring those

suspected of involvement in this crime to a fair trial by a civilian court and not to use the death penalty on them. Amnesty International also urges the Cambodian authorities not to send Wanchalearm back to Thailand, and to comply with its obligation not to participate in the forced repatriation of persons to places where they are at risk of human rights violations.



Scan to join

HUMAN RIGHTS QUIZ

Amnesty International Thailand invites you to join in the fun, answer simple questions, and win prizes. Just fill out the answers and personal details and take a picture of your answer sheet, then email it to media@amnesty.or.th by **October 25, 2020** (email subject: **Human Rights Prize**)

Q

Please explain why the right to freedom of peaceful assembly is feasible and it must be protected by the state?

A

Q

If you would like to provide information about the assembly to Amnesty International Thailand, which website can you enter for details?

A

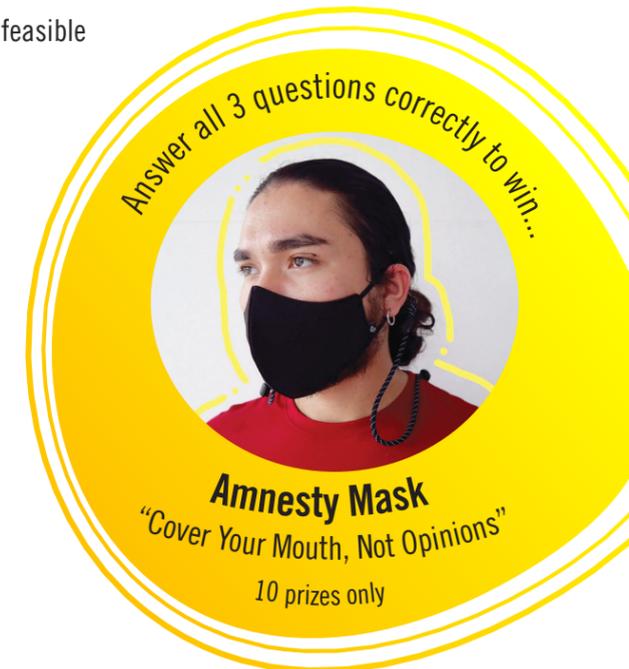
Q

What is Amnesty's request to the Cambodian authorities over the disappearance of Wanchalearm Satsaksit?

A

If you get all three answers correct, you will enter a lucky draw. 10 people will receive an Amnesty "Cover Your Mouth, Not Opinions" facemask and will be notified by 31 October 2020.

*Note: Only those who have not previously received an award from this event are eligible.



Please clearly fill in the information

Name Gender Female Male Other

Age group under 15 15-20 21-30 31-40
 41-50 50-60 over 60

Are you an Amnesty member? Yes No

Address

Phone Number E-mail

JOIN AMNESTY, PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS

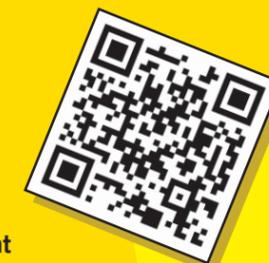
Amnesty International is a membership movement. The power and support of its members are essential to drive its campaigns. A growing membership base means we can become stronger and more powerful, which is the key to our work to protect and promote human rights.

- **Annual membership for youth (Up to 25 years old):** 200 baht per year
- **Annual membership for the general public:** 500 baht per year



Scan the QR Code to apply for/renew your Amnesty membership

For more information on Amnesty membership, please contact: **Membership and Fundraising Department** by phone at **02-513-8745** or by email at membership@amnesty.or.th.



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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL
THAILAND**



WHAT IS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL?

Amnesty International is an organization of ordinary people from diverse career fields who cannot maintain silence in the face of injustice and human rights violations no matter where in the world and who take action in the belief that every person can campaign for the respect, protection, and defence of human rights. Amnesty International was established in 1961, and the organisation was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. Today, there are more than 7 million supporters in over 150 countries.

After the 6th October 1976 massacre of Thai students, Amnesty became known in Thailand from its **prisoner of conscience** campaign. Over 100,000 letters from people all around the world were sent to the Thai government requesting the release of students and citizens. At present, Amnesty has over 1,000 members in Thailand carries out a wide range of activities for promoting knowledge, understanding, and campaigns for protection and defence of human rights.

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