



## Report on the Situation of the Right to Freedom of Assembly in the Second Quarter of 2025

### Preamble

This report aims to provide a summary and description of the state of the right to freedom of assembly from April to June 2025. It presents an overview and number of public assemblies, trending issues underlying such public assemblies, and the policing of such public assemblies according to the Public Assembly Act B.E. 2558. Aside from the above information, this report is also an attempt to offer an analysis against the backdrop of domestic law and international human rights.

### Overview of public assemblies

During April to June 2025, **at least 48 public assemblies took place all over the country**. Of these, **four were sit-in overnight assemblies**. If an assembly that lasts overnight counts as one assembly, there would have been such assemblies taking place 226 times in the second quarter; a 172% increase, or 143 times more than in the first quarter.

Most of the overnight sit-in assemblies were triggered by outstanding issues from the first quarter including the (1) the assemblies led by the People Living in the Forest Assembly (PLFA) and the Northern Peasant Federation (NPF) at the Chiang Mai Provincial Hall from 24 March to 1 April 2025 to demand the government addressing unfair enforcement of the forestry law, (2) the assemblies led by the ethnic Tai Dam in Ban Na Doem district, Surat Thani province who held their demonstration in front of the United Nations Building during 22-23 April 2025 demanding that the government addresses the issuing of Public Land Certificate (PLC) on community land and how the Ban Na Doem District Chief Officer tried to evict the community from the area. As their problems were yet to be addressed and facing the potential eviction, the ethnic Tai Dam have decided to come to Bangkok again during 9 to 11 June 2025. (3) The assemblies were led by the former workers of Yarnapund PCL and their alliances to demand the cabinet to approve the use of government contingency fund to address the needs of the workers. The workers staged overnight sit-in assemblies at the Office of The Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC) opposite to the Government House from 12 March 2025 until now (30 June 2025), altogether 112 days. During the demonstration, some participants have started their hunger strike since 13 March until 8 April 2025, altogether 27 days. And (4) The assemblies were mobilized against casino by the People and Student Network for the Reform of Thailand (KPT), the People's Center for the Protection of Monarchy (SPPS), and Kong Thap Tham to oppose the Draft Act on Entertainment Complex, and later to also demand the resignation of Paethongtarn Shinawatra as Prime Minister. They held their overnight sit-in assembly from 2 March to until present (30 June 2025), altogether 120 days.



The most trending issue for public assembly in the second quarter is **(1) the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR), with 21 assemblies.**

It was followed by **(2) LGBTI issue, with 13 assemblies.** Since June was a Pride Month, various sectors held activities successively to mark the occasion at least in 13 provinces. In each such gathering, the participants demanded equal rights that the LGBTI people should be afforded.

**(3) Political issues triggered 13 assemblies** including the right to bail of those incarcerated in jail as a result of their exercising their right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, and the call for the Prime Minister to resign from her position. (To clarify to readers, the assemblies led by the People and Student Network for the Reform of Thailand (KPT), the People's Center for the Protection of Monarchy (SPPS), and Kong Thap Tham started by opposing the parliamentary reading of the Casino Bill. Later they also demanded the resignation of Paethongtarn Shinawatra as Prime Minister. They started from conducting overnight sit-in assemblies which have since evolved into various other activities, although they continued to be organized by the same group of organizers and were based on the same demand. Their series of assemblies thus counted as only one assembly.)

And **(4) foreign politics prompted 2 assemblies** including the assemblies led by the pro-Palestinian groups in downtown of Bangkok to demand an end to genocide and the assemblies by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign Thailand (PSCT) to condemning the United States and Israel for their attack on Iran, etc.

During the first half of the second quarter of 2025, there was ban of a public assembly around 50 meter-radius of the Government House and the National Assembly. The ban was first issued in the first quarter including the Order No. 151/2025 of the Metropolitan Police Bureau which has extended the ban of a public assembly around 50 meter-radius of the Government House to until 6 April 2025 citing that close proximity of the sit-in protesters and the likelihood of more protesters who would hold a sit-in protest around the Government House, the outcome of which will affect the maintenance of public order.

In addition, on 26 May 2025, the Dusit Police Station pressed charges against members of the People's Movement for Just Society (P-Move) and worker members of Yarnapund PCL as well as members of the Thalufah and civil society workers, 15 of them, for violating the Public Assembly Act B.E. 2558 in six cases, four of which against P-Move and forest and land networks, and two of which against former workers of Yarnapund PCL, and all of such cases were later submitted to the public prosecutor for further legal action. All of the charges arose from alleged violations of the final paragraph of Section 7 regarding assembly in prohibited locations under the Public Assembly Act B.E. 2558.

#### **Detail of the assemblies**

**In April, nine assemblies took place**, seven of which were held in Bangkok and two in the province. Five of them were concerned with political issues including the following;



1. The assembly led by the Bright Future in front of the United Nations Building on 5 April 2025 when participants clad in black shouted to oust Min Aung Hlaing, the military dictator of Myanmar who came to attend the BIMSTEC meeting

Prior to its start, vehicle equipped with a sound system of the royalists led by Arnon Klinkaew, President of the People's Center for the Protection of Monarchy (SPPS), Thanathep Tulyalaksan, President of the Vocational Wisutkam Group and Songchai Niamhom, Chair of the Group to Protect the Monarchy led a protest in front of the UN Building. They accused members of the Bright Future for inciting unrest by the Myanmar nationals against the Thai government and the Myanmar military regime, an act of which is in their view a breach of Thailand's Constitution since the Constitution prohibits foreign nationals regardless of their nationalities from holding a political assembly in the Thai territory. Upon the arrival of Wera Saengthong, a member of the Bright Future and the organizer, the royalist Songchai attempted to put a chokehold on Wera who tried to escape from that. It caused Songchai and his followers to start attacking Wera while the police tried to offer protection and maintain safety.

2. The solo protest led by Sai Than, a 19-year-old student of Thammasat University on 4 April 2025, was held against Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the commander in chief of the Myanmar's armed forces and the chairman of the State Administration Council (SAC) who came to attend the BIMSTEC Summit hosted by Thailand. **He was placed under arrest** and taken from the Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok to the Yannawa Police Station and was later released without charge.

3. An assembly to hold an activity to advocate for people's amnesty in front of the Parliament Building on 9 April 2025 by the People's Amnesty Network to monitor the parliamentary reading of the People's Amnesty Bill

4. An assembly to hold an activity 'WATER OF HOPE, SPLASHING FOR CHANGE' on 14 April 2025 to mark the Songkran Festival by members of the public to amplify the voice of political prisoners and to commemorate the 11<sup>th</sup> month since the departure of "Bung" Netiporn

5. An assembly by the People and Student Network for the Reform of Thailand (KPT) and its alliance to oppose the parliamentary reading of Casino Bill, and later they added to their demand the resignation of Paethongtarn Shinawatra as Prime Minister. They held their overnight sit-in protest at the Government House for the entire month.

In addition, four assemblies were held related to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) including:

1. The assembly of the People Living in Forest by the Assembly of People Living in Forest and the Northern Peasant Federation (NPF) with an overnight sit-in assembly from 24 March - 1 April 2025



at the Provincial Hall of Chiang Mai to demand the government address the unfair enforcement of forest laws according to the group's recommendations including the amendment of the National Park Act B.E. 2562 and the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act, B.E. 2562, etc.

2. The assembly of the People Living in Forest by the People Living in the Forest Assembly (PLFA), the Northern Peasant Federation (NPF) and the People's Movement for a Just Society (P-Move) at the Government House to demand prompt actions be put in place to address issues concerning the enforcement of forest and land laws following their previous meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister who had accepted to review their demands and promised to bring the issue to the discussion of the cabinet meeting on 1 April 2025.

During the assembly, the police speaking through amplifier announced the ban of a public assembly around 50 meter-radius of the Government House invoking the Public Assembly Act B.E. 2558's Section 7 last paragraph.

3. The assembly of the ethnic Tai Dam from Ban Na Doem district, Surat Thani, in front of the United Nations Building from 22 to 23 April 2025 demanding that the government addresses the issuing of Public Land Certificate (PLC) on community land and how the Ban Na Doem District Chief Officer tried to evict the community from the area.

4. The assembly of former workers of Yarnapund PCL and their alliances to demand the cabinet to approve the use of government contingency fund to address the needs of the workers. They staged their overnight sit-in assembly in front of the Office of The Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC) opposite to the Government House for the entire month.

**In May, eight assemblies took place**, six of which in Bangkok and two in the province. Two of them were concerned with political issues including the following. (1) The assembly to show solidarity and demand an end of prosecution against protesters and to demand the repeal or amendment of the Public Assembly Act B.E. 2558 as members of the People's Movement for Just Society (P-Move), former workers of Yarnapund PCL, and members of the Thalufah went to answer to charges related to the Public Assembly Act B.E. 2558 at the Dusit Police Station on 26 May 2025. (2) The assembly to file bail application for Arnon Nampah by the Friends of Arnon Group on 14 May 2025 at the South Bangkok Criminal Court to affirm the right to bail and to commemorate the death in custody of "Bung" Netiporn last year. (3) The assembly of the People and Student Network for the Reform of Thailand (KPT) and its alliance which took place throughout the month and has started since March.

There was also an assembly conducted on the LGBTI issues. As next month was to mark Pride Month, the Chiangmai Pride organized a parade to celebrate love, equality and human dignity, as the first province to



do so, on 25 May 2025. The march started from Putthasathan through Tha Phae Road and Nigh Bazar and ended at the Tha Phae Gate.

Lastly, five assemblies have been conducted on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) as follows:

1. The assembly to mark the International Workers' Day or #MAYDAY2025 led by the Labor Movement for Democracy composed of various workers' groups including the Workers' Union of riders, houseworkers, and others. They marched from the Ratchaprasong intersection to the lawn in front of the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre, Pathumwan Intersection.

2. The assembly led by taxi drivers in front of the Ministry of Transport on 28 May 2025 due to the impact of the availability of Grab booth at the airport. They demanded that Suriya Juangroongruangkit, Minister of Transport, Director General of the Department of Land Transport and the Airports of Thailand Public Company Limited (AOT) to offer justice to the taxi drivers by amending or repealing the Ministerial Regulations on passenger cars for hire with a capacity not exceeding seven people, B.E. 2560 and Ministerial Regulations on electronic passenger cars for hire.

3. The assembly led by the community networks and members of Khao Kala Conservation on 22 May 2025 who were opposed to the first public consultation on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the mining of industrial limestone for construction industry, held at Wat Thar Lamyai, Moo 5, Khao Kala Subdistrict, Phuyuhakhiri District, Nakhon Sawan Province, and organized by Tathata Environment Company Limited (environmental consulting company). The main reason that prompted people to oppose this public consultation was because they were aware of the potential impact on their communities as a result of the mining industry.

4. The assembly by the former workers of Yarnapund PCL and their alliances to demand the cabinet to approve the use of government contingency fund to address the needs of the workers. They held their overnight sit-in assembly in front of the Office of The Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC) opposite to the Government House for the entire month. During their recess this month, the group continued to conduct activities to make their demands to various target groups including holding protest signs to demand help from the Ministry of Labour during the activity to mark the National Workers' Day, or organizing a team to clean up pond at the Sala Kaew of the Parliament Building, etc.

**In June, 31 assemblies took place**, 11 of which were held in Bangkok and 20 in the province. Due to Pride Month, multiple activities were organized in various places. Therefore, 11 assemblies were conducted on LGBTI issues in 11 provinces including Bangkok pride 2025, Ban Mo Subdistrict, Uttaradit Pride, Trang Pride 2025, Surin Pride 2025, Nakhon pride 2025, Mae Sot Pride, KRABI PRIDE 2025, HATYAI PRIDE 2025, CHANTHABURI PRIDE 2025 and One Pride Ratchaburi 2025, etc.



There were also at least 5 political gatherings this month. The details of the political issues this month include issues that have stirred up demand in Thailand about the political situation due to the Thai government's handling of the conflict on the Thai-Cambodian border and the case of the leaked audio clip of Prime Minister Paethongtarn Shinawatra and former Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, with details as follows:

1. The assembly of the People and Student Network for the Reform of Thailand (KPT), the People's Center for the Protection of Monarchy (SPPS), and Kong Thap Tham to oppose the parliamentary reading of the Casino Bill and later, they added the demand for the resignation of Paethongtarn Shinawatra as Prime Minister due to the Thai government's handling of the conflict on the Thai-Cambodian border. They have been holding overnight sit-in protest outside the Government House since 2 March 2025. Apart from holding the sit-in protest, they went out to conduct activities in various places including holding an assembly to show solidarity with the Medical Council of Thailand, following its executive board decided to impose disciplinary action against three medical doctors related to the treatment of Mr. Thaksin Shinawatra, former Prime Minister, on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of the Police General Hospital, reporting the case with the Central Investigation Bureau against the Prime Minister for committing an offense under the Penal Code's Chapter 3 , Sections 120 to 128, etc.

2. This is a continuation of the first point, which is the Ruam Palang Phaendin group, which has arranged a large rally on 28 June 2025 at the Victory Monument to demand that "Paethongtarn Shinawatra" resign as Prime Minister after an audio clip of her conversation with Samdech Hun Sen, the former Prime Minister of Cambodia, was leaked. They also called for the Democrat Party, Ruam Thai Sang Chart Party, and Chartthaipattana Party to immediately withdraw from the coalition government. This rally was considered a large rally with no less than 10,000 participants. During one of the activities on stage, Sondhi Limthongkul gave a speech that said, *"I did not encourage the military to stage a coup. If they wanted to do that, they would not have said that beforehand. But, please do not let a general to run the country. Let the people play a part in solving the country's problems."* This controversial message has stirred a debate in society, whether it was a call for a coup or a call for the military to rule the country. In addition, the day before the scheduled rally, gatherings were held in several provinces in preparation for moving to the central region, which is Bangkok, such as the Trang people's stage, "The patriotic Thai people ", and the people in Songkhla gathered to sing a song to show their solidarity with the soldiers. and the action by the Phatthalung Dharma Army, etc.

3. The Stand to Stop Detention has been held to demand the release of political prisoners and oppose military coup including the action at the Chiang Mai's Tha Phae Gate by the mobile Stand to Stop Detention group to demand the release of political prisoners and oppose military coup. During the activity, songs were sung and pictures of political prisoners were held along with placards saying "Coup  $\neq$  Solution" and "No Coup" to oppose military coup. Such social trending was predicated by



the leaked audio clip of the conversation between the Thai Prime Minister and Samdech Hun Sen, the former Prime Minister of Cambodia.

4. Stand-by Arnon was held to demand the right to bail and to stand by those who have been incarcerated for exercising their freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. It was organized by Amnesty International Thailand at the Criminal Court on Ratchadapisek Road.

5. A gathering of the Cannabis Federation for the People was held to submit a letter opposing the new announcement of "Controlled Herbs (Cannabis)" at the Office of the Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine's Director General, Ministry of Public Health on 5 June 2025, as the switching sides of political parties has led to the cannabis policy being reviewed again.

Next were two **international political rallies** including (1) members of the PSC Thailand and the Palestinian State Supporters Network on 15 June 2025 converged at the BTS Chidlom station to walk to the area opposite MBK (Mahbunkhrong) for a symbolic expression and demanding an end to genocide, oppression, and injustice during the violent incidences in the Gaza Strip, and (2) the PSCT group was gathered in front of the United Nations building in Thailand on 26 June 2025 to show their opposition to the US and Israeli attacks on Iran.

And lastly, the issue of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) has led to 13 assemblies including:

1. The gathering of more than 100 networks of southern people to oppose the Southern Special Economic Corridor (SEC) Bill on 1 June 2025 at the Khuan Nong Hong Intersection, Cha-ua District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province.

2. The Pattani Student Network assembled on 1 June 2025 at the Bhumjaithai Party Coordination Center in Pattani Province in collaboration with the People's Network for Protection the South (No-SEC) to submit a letter opposing the SEC law proposed by the Bhumjaithai Party, calling for the draft law to be withdrawn immediately.

3. The assembly under the theme "Gathering of People from Upstream to Downstream: Stop Mining the Kok-Sai Rivers", on the World Environment Day on 5 June 2025. They demanded that the Thai government find a way to stop mining upstream of the Kok and Sai rivers in the southern area of Myanmar's Shan State. The activity was held in three locations: Mae Fah Luang Public Park, Mueang District, Chiang Rai Province, Kok River Bridge, Mae Ai District, Chiang Mai Province, and the area in front of Chiang Saen District Office, Chiang Rai Province.

4. The gathering of the ethnic Tai Dam community in Ban Na Doem district, Surat Thani province and the participants set up a camp in front of the United Nations building to demand that the



government resolve the issue of the Public Land Certificate (PLC) land which has been issued overlapping the community's land during 9-11 June 2025.

5. People in Prachin Buri banded together under the helm of the Strong Prachin Network and were gathered on 12 June 2025 to submit a letter to the Prime Minister and the House Committee on Political Development, Mass Communications, and Public Participation to oppose the project to used Prachin Buri to expand the area of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC).

6. The gathering of southern people (upper region) in the name of the People's Network to Protect the South from SEC Laws was held on 14 June 2015 at the Ban Na Derm rest stop, Tha Ruea Subdistrict, intersection of Route 41 and Route 44 Southern, Ban Na Derm District, Surat Thani Province, to protect lives and protect the South from SEC Laws.

7. On 16 June 2025, the Strong Prachin Network and civil society in Prachin Buri province began demonstrating their opposition to the province's entry into the EEC by gathering in front of the Kabin Buri District Office as the first location. They also announced their intention to continue their campaign and expand the campaign area to cover every district of Prachin Buri Province.

8. The gathering of the villagers of Ban Hua Khao, Songkhla Province, to submit a letter to the governor of Songkhla Province to rescind the order to demolish the stow nets (*Pong Phang*), led by Mr. Alif Mattohan and 200 villagers of Hua Khao at Songkhla Provincial Hall.

9. The gathering of the Sai Buri River Basin Protection Network and more than 400 network members traveled to join the forum of the study project on drought and flood relief in the Sai Buri River by the Royal Irrigation Department at the Wasukri Meeting Building, Sai Buri District, Pattani Province. They asserted that the Royal Irrigation Department's water management by constructing concrete dams or structure across large rivers cannot solve the problem of flooding and drought as claimed by the Royal Irrigation Department.

10. The Thap Yang Resistance protest was organized by the Thap Yang villagers in Tambon Thai Muang, Phang Nga Province as they, marched to the Thai Mueang Tambon Administrative Organization to inquire about the notice which essentially states that the land on which the villagers live falls under a private land title.

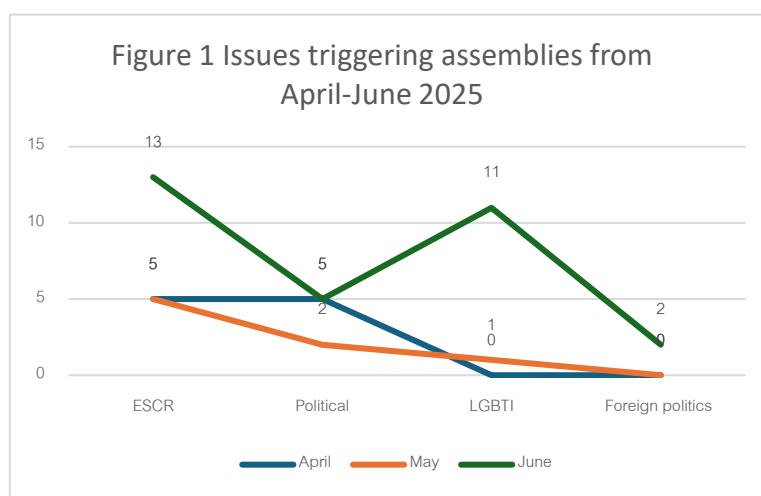
11. The rally was held by the Strong Prachin Network to oppose a proposal to turn Prachin Buri into part of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) at Wat Buyai Bai, Tambon Tha Tum, Si Maha Phot District, Prachin Buri. The forum was organized to reflect on industrial problems and to gather 10,000 signatures people who opposing the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC).





12. The gathering of human rights defenders, members of the Dan Khun Thot Khon Rak Ban Kerd Group in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, was organized to submit a letter to the governor asking for a clarification on the use of explosives in the potash mine in Dan Khuntod District.

13. The gathering of former workers of Yarnapund PCL and the workers' allies to demand that the cabinet approve the use of government contingency fund to address the needs of the workers. They conducted their overnight sit-in assembly at the Office of The Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC) opposite Government House from 12 March 2025 to the present (30 June 2025).



As summarized in Figure 1, throughout the second quarter of 2025, the issue that triggered the most assemblies and has led to an increase of assemblies compared to the first quarter was about Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR). It covers many dimensions, such as the right to housing, the right to health, the right to work, the right to welfare and social security, etc. Most of the problems persisted since the first quarter as they stemmed from the government's policies and were yet to be resolved. This included the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) project, the potash mining industry project in Dan Khun Thot District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, and the issue of the Public Land Certificate (PLC) overlapping the land of the ethnic Tai Dam community. If these projects do not take into account human rights and compliance with international principles, especially the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which is a multilateral treaty that is legally binding on states that must comply with their obligations, or do not take into account all-around impacts. This may give rise to the impact on basic rights, such as the right to housing, the right to health, and cultural rights, or may lead to conflicts and environmental impacts.

There are also issues of demands that the people want the government to seriously solve but have not been resolved, and this has prompted some protesters to camp overnight or hold protests multiple times, such



as the problem of toxic substances contaminating the Kok River and the Sai River, which originates from mining activity upstream of the Kok River and Sai River in the Myanmar's southern Shan State. There was also a demand by former workers of Yarnapund PCL who were abandoned following the shutdown of a private company, etc.

As to why **there was an increase of political protests when compared to the first quarter**, circumstantial issues have to be considered. This included the rise of assemblies to demand right to bail for political prisoners and the Parliament was scheduled to read five versions of the Amnesty Bill in early July 2025. In addition up to now, since 2020, there have been at least 11 people being incarcerated in jail for exercising their freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. Meanwhile, the right to bail is prescribed for in Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand's Section 29, second paragraph, which states that *"A suspect or defendant in a criminal case shall be presumed innocent, and before the passing of a final judgment convicting a person of having committed an offence, such person shall not be treated as a convict. Custody or detention of a suspect or a defendant shall only be undertaken as necessary to prevent such person from escaping. In a criminal case, a person shall not be forced to make a statement incriminating himself or herself."* In addition, such right is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)'s Article 11 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)'s Article 9, both of which apply to Thailand.

Or the rally of the People and Student Network for the Reform of Thailand (KPT), the People's Center for the Protection of Monarchy (SPPS), and Kong Thap Tham to oppose the parliamentary reading of the draft casino law. Later, they added another demand for Paethongtarn Shinawatra to resign as Prime Minister. The factor that drove the number of participants in the rally was due to the policy of resolving the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia and the leaked audio clip of the Thai Prime Minister's conversation with Samdech Hun Sen, the former Prime Minister of Cambodia. This has been used as a rallying cry to stir up nationalism and trigger rallies in many areas. This has given rise to **large-scale assemblies in this quarter** including the rally of the Ruam Palang Phaendin group, scheduled to take place on 28 June 2025 at the Victory Monument.

The issue that was added from the first quarter is concerned with the rights of LGBTI people. As June marks the Pride Month, it has led to activities in many areas, causing more assemblies on this issue. This year's activities have evolved into an annual festival, as the government, private sector, and civil society jointly organized events. During each activity, various demands have been raised including gender equality, advocacy of sex worker law, etc. In addition, there are also issues related to politics and wars abroad, with the most common demands being to stop wars and stop genocide, etc.



## Policing and legal frameworks related to public assembly

The Public Assembly Act B.E. 2558 is the main legal vehicle being use to police peaceful assemblies in the first three months of 2025, particularly the assemblies held around the Government House and the Parliament in Bangkok. The main legal provision which was applied to and become an obstacle to the exercise of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly recently is;

Section 7, first paragraph: *No public assembly shall be held within the radius of one hundred and fifty meters from the boundary of the Grand Palace, Royal Palace,....*

Second paragraph: *"No public assembly shall be held within the National Assembly, the Government House and the Courts; provided that, the specific place for public assembly is provided therein. In case of necessary and for the maintenance of public safety and public order, the Commissioner General of the Royal Thai Police or his entrusted person shall, after having considered the numbers of participant and related circumstances of each public assembly, have the power to notify no public assembly zone within the radius of not exceeding fifty meters from the boundary of the places."*

The second paragraph is specifically concerned with the use of discretion by the authorities. In general, the area around the Government House and the National Assembly should be available for holding public assemblies. This law, however, allows the authorities to have power to impose a ban of a public assembly around 50 meter-radius of the buildings while having to take into account the overall situation.

Last April, the Metropolitan Police Bureau issued the order no. 151/2025 to extend the ban of a public assembly around 50 meter-radius of the Government House to until 6 April 2025 citing that close proximity of the sit-in protesters and the likelihood of more protesters who would hold a sit-in protest around the Government House, the outcome of which will affect the maintenance of public order. This has effectively led to the **police's ban on public assembly against the** People Living in the Forest Assembly (PLFA), the Northern Peasant Federation (NPF), and the People's Movement for Just Society (P-Move) at the Government House. During the assembly, the police speaking through amplifier announced "the ban of a public assembly around 50 meter-radius of the Government House invoking the Public Assembly Act B.E. 2558's Section 7 last paragraph and asked the participants to move back to in front of the United Nations Building."

Meanwhile, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) recognizes the right to peaceful assembly as demonstrated in the General Comment no. 37 of the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

It states that *"States must leave it to the participants to determine freely the purpose or any expressive content of an assembly. The approach of the authorities to peaceful assemblies and any restrictions imposed*



*must thus in principle be content neutral and the participants must be allowed to conduct assemblies within sight and sound of their target audience."*

### Prosecutions under the Public Assembly Act B.E. 2558

In May, individuals have been summoned to answer to charges concerning the Public Assembly Act B.E. 2558 in **6 cases**, four of which were related to the assemblies of P-Move and forest and land networks and two of which were related to the assemblies of the former workers of Yarnapund PCL. Since April 2025, members of P-Move and former workers of Yarnapund PCL started to receive summonses from Pol. Capt Warach Bunyuen, an investigator at Dusit Police Station, on different dates. Therefore, they coordinated to make an appointment to answer to the charges all at once on 26 May 2025, with a total of 15 accused.

- Case No. 1 taking place on 8 October 2024 as the participants marched to the area in front of the Government House, with 5 accused
- Case No. 2 taking place on 16 October 2024 as the participants marched to organize activities at the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, with 1 accused
- Case No. 3 taking place on 18 October 2024 as the participants marched to submit a letter of petition to the Parliament, with 1 accused
- Case No. 4, with Pol. Lt. Col. Suraphan Panpiam as the accuser. The incident arose from the rally of the People Living in the Forest Assembly (PLFA) and the Northern Peasant Federation (NPF), on 1 April 2025 at the Government House. The participants intended to follow up on if the results of previous negotiations between the PLFA and the NPF had been added as an agenda in the forthcoming cabinet meeting, per an agreement with Deputy Prime Minister Prasert Chantararuangthong on 29 March 2025 at Chiang Mai Provincial Hall, with 7 accused. In this case.
- Case No. 5 with 1 accused, charged for organizing a public assembly in violation of the ban on assembly within a radius of no more than 50 meters around Government House
- Case No. 6 with 4 accused including cases occurred from the assembly on 1 April 2025, in which the participants moved to the front of Government House together with the networks of the PLFA and the NPF mentioned above. The charges are: Jointly organizing a public assembly in violation of the ban on assembly within a radius of no more than 50 meters around Government House.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> TLHR, P-Move - Yarnapund workers charged for violating Public Assembly Act banning an assembly within the 50-meter-radius in July 2025, (online). Website: <https://tlhr2014.com/archives/75626>



### Analyzing the trend of public assembly

Although there was only one large-scale assembly in the second quarter of 2025, the underlying issue did not get to trigger most of the assemblies in the second quarter. Assemblies took place every month, mostly concerned with the issue of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR), followed by political issue. Although the rallies have ended, but the demands of the protesters to the government have not been tangibly met.

The Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) mega-project is still ongoing, and the law underpinning the project warranted the development of procedure to hear opinions from public about the draft law. Amidst the opposition from the protesters of the People's Network Against Special Economic Zone Law, the land issue of the ethnic Tai Dam remains unresolved, while the former workers of Yarnapund PCL are still holding a protest to demand assistance from the government. Meanwhile, the People and Student Network for the Reform of Thailand (KPT) *has announced the possibility of another large rally* in August. In addition, the rally demanding an end to prosecution of those exercising their rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly is still ongoing. A factor that may affect the rally again is the result of the vote on the people's amnesty law.

Given the unresolved situation according to the demands of each group of protesters and some issues that continue to occur in the third quarter of 2025, it can be analyzed that in the third quarter, there will still be protests of the same nature as the second quarter. The enforcement of the assembly law will still be carried out without any safeguard to protect freedom of peaceful assembly in a tangible way.