



Thai Alliance for Human Rights (TAHR)

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Subject: Serious human rights abuses in connection with political movements in Thailand

Attention: All concerned Parties, especially Mr. Suthep Thaugsuban & Allied Protestors and Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra & Ministers

The Thai Alliance for Human Rights (TAHR), a non-profit, non-partisan, independent, non-governmental organization based in the United States of America, has been monitoring the development of political conflicts in Thailand for a long time and is now gravely concerned about the movements by the anti-government protestors led by Mr. Suthep Thaugsuban, the Democrat Party, the People's Alliance for Democracy, and allied parties, who are protesting against the current government with demands and actions that are unconstitutional, abusive of democratic principles of the majority rule through a free and fair election as basis for a rightful government, and in violations of the rule of law and respect for the universal human rights. We have earlier asked all parties, including the Thai government, to refrain from using violent means and seek dialogues in order to resolve all major issues peacefully and civilly.

As a human rights organization insisting on being non-partisan, and yet democratic and in favor of full respect for universal human rights, TAHR condemns the acts led by Mr. Suthep Thaugsuban and his allies, which seem to have seriously violated the following articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 12: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Mr. Thaugsuban and his allies have at many points rallied by using aggressive, violent, and illegal means that have caused lives and injuries, despite the fact that the Thai government and the red-shirted mass have expressed clearly that they would not in any way engage in violent confrontation. Even blowing whistles could be invasive and thus abusive of others' rights in the two articles above. In addition, trespassing and occupying government buildings, looting, and destroying both private and public properties are the harmful types of violations that should never be allowed and gone unpunished.

Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 9: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

On several occasions, the announcements aired nationwide by Mr. Thaugsuban and his allies have evidently been intended to encourage people to capture, encamp, harass, harm, or even

extradite other fellow citizens with different political views, especially those in the Shinawatra's families. All these acts are human rights violations according to the above articles.

Article 10: Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense.

Mr. Thaugsuban and his allies have accused and passed their verdicts that Miss Shinawatra's administration is corrupt and even tyrannical, along with several other serious charges that have been announced when, in fact, none of the accused have been tried through any legitimate courts and been found guilty beyond reasonable doubt. Then, Mr. Thaugsuban and his allies would use such propagandized verdicts as a basis for encouraging their supporters to topple the government and eradicate the Shinawatra's families, which is essentially in violation of the above articles. Thailand still is under the rule of law; thus, violations of relevant laws and the aforementioned articles must stop, and the Thai government and responsible officers must end the abuses enforcing the existing laws.

Of course, political activities are legitimate if they are the truly democratic expressions of and participation by rightful and peaceful citizens. However, acts that are uncivilized, rude, hateful, violent, and abusive of the basic human rights as highlighted above by Mr. Thaugsuban and his allies are at least disturbing at this point. It is quite alarming when given the fact that these abusers under Mr. Thaugsuban's directorship seem to be immunized from the expected law enforcement. Several grave, apparent, and daring crimes committed by these people, including treason and other charges, have long gone without an arrest or further viable legal pursuit. In fact, Mr. Suthep Thaugsuban and Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva whose commands led to the deaths of almost 100 unarmed protesters and armed officers and over 2000 injuries in 2010, have not even been tried in a court until now, almost four years after the bloodshed. The Thai Alliance for Human Rights has been worried that, if the needed negotiations failed at this juncture of Thai politics, Mr. Thaugsuban and his allies might resort to more violent means to invite a military coup d'état and hence violate more human rights. Consequently, there might be another round of bloodshed that could potentially lead to a civil war.

Although we unyieldingly seek to remain politically non-partisan, we have observed that Mr. Thaugsuban and his allies have been aggressively attempting at nullifying the Thai constitution, disregarding the political rights of almost 20 million Thais who voted for the parties that formed the Yingluck government by claiming that he had a crowd of five million whereas Western news reports gave an estimate of only between 140000 and 160000 people on December 9, 2013, after PM Yingluck had announced house dissolution and as a decree for a general nationwide election on February 2, 2014 had been signed by King Bhumibol.

The Thai Alliance for Human Rights, therefore, asks Mr. Thaugsuban and his allies to most strictly follow the principles of non-violence, democracy, and respect for universal human rights. We also advise the Thai government still led by PM Yingluck to continue to protect the rights of to peaceful assembly of the peaceful citizens, but also to enforce the relevant laws to maintain law and order in the country. Also importantly, PM Yingluck must create and engage in more dialogues with the protestors and the more influential parties supporting the anti-government groups who seemingly have the true authority and influence over the army, police, courts, and future political development. Most importantly, we wish to inform all the involved parties that

the Thai Alliance for Human Rights will work the hardest to study all cases of human rights violations and will report serious crimes with the list of perpetrators to governments of major nations around the world so that they may consider taking some actions against all human rights abusers, such as denying their entry visas.

May peace, love, and true democracy prevail in Thailand.

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Note: Organizations and individuals wishing to endorse this letter can do so at <http://wp.me/p1TLDG-5BS> or by emailing president@thai-ahr.org.

URL to this letter: <http://thai-ahr.org/2013/12/17/21623/>

Copies furnished:

PM Yingluck Shinawatra and her Ministries

Mr. Suthep Thaugsuban

Thai citizens (both electronic and printed versions)

International human rights organizations