

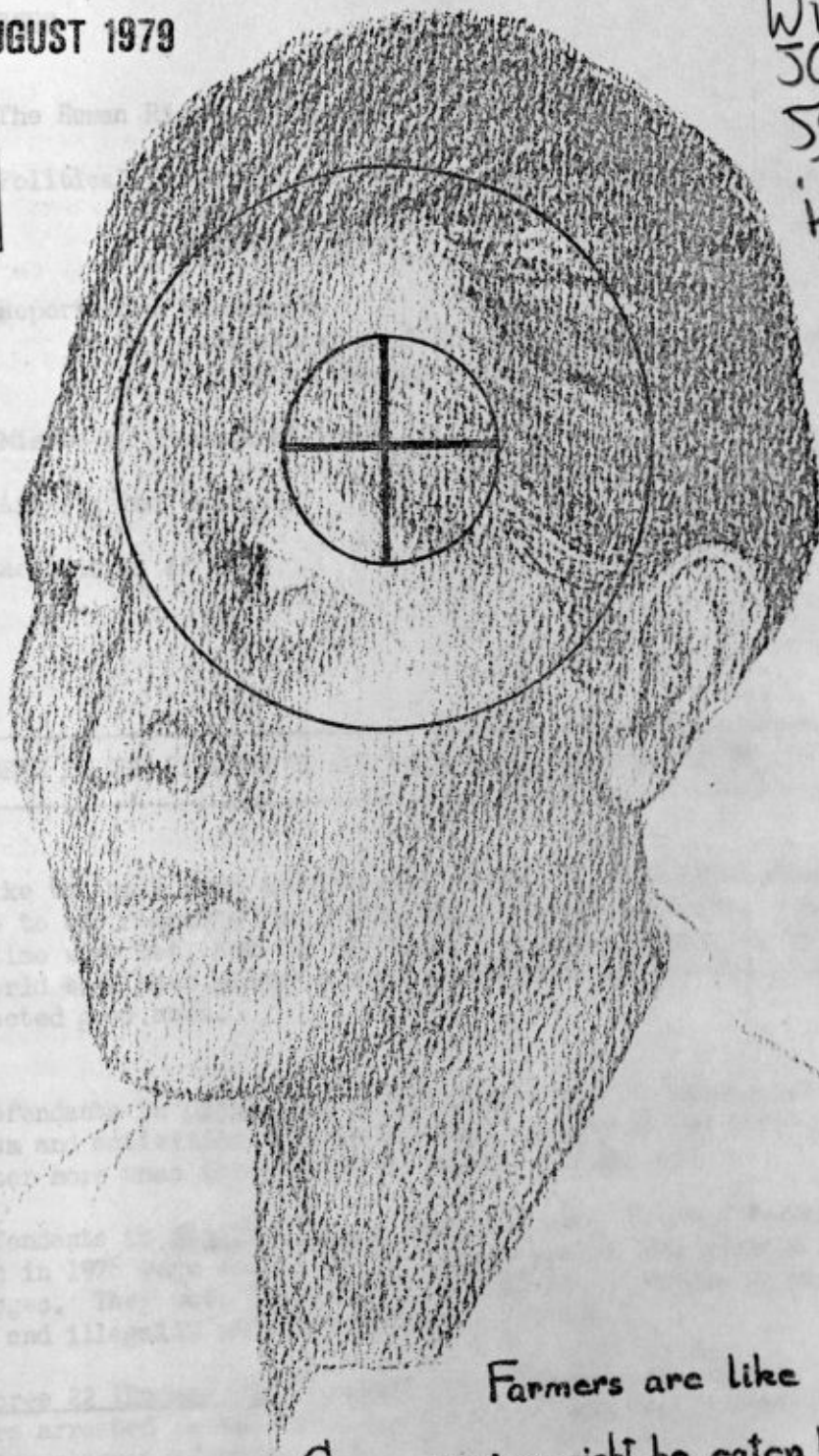
HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND REPORT

JULY — AUGUST 1979

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Farmers are like rice seeds
Some grains might be eaten by the enemy
But the seeds that fall onto the ground
Can grow into hundreds of thousands of rice plants

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TO OUR READERS TO OUR READERS TO OUR READERS TO OUR READERS TO OUR READERS

We would like to thank each and everyone of you for your tremendous support in response to our requests two months ago. Three out of four requests made last time were met, and the campaigns and actions that our friends all over the world took have played a very significant and crucial role for this unexpected good news.

- Seven defendants in Omnoi Case were all acquitted of severe charges of communism and activities threatening the security of the state, and set free after more than three years in prison. (Page 4)
- Nine defendants in Minibus Treason Case who were arrested during a demonstration in 1976 were acquitted of treason against the Kingdom and rioting charges. They were fined 700 Baht (US\$35) on charges of hindering traffic and illegally using an amplifier. (Page 5)
- NARC Decree 22 (Endangering Society) was abolished on August 1st. All prisoners arrested on this charge were to be set free, except these who have other charges adhered. (Page 25 and 17)

In this issue we continue to appeal to our readers to give urgent assistance for 3 more points :-

1. Chamras Muang-yam, ex-president of the Farmer's Federation of Thailand,

was shot dead. He is the 29th farmer's leader who was murdered since 1974. The assassination is believed to be politically motivated, -- an attempt to stop the creative movement of the Thai peasantry. Please send telegrams and/or letters to Prime Minister Kriengsak Chomanan. Your interest in his death will not only help ensure that the government will not remain silent over his death as they have over the deaths of the past farm leaders, but will also ensure safety of Chamras' wife and family and other Thai peasant leaders. (Page 7)

2. The two brothers Somboon and Vichai Banlusilp will get court sentence within 4-5 months. The two were detained for almost 3 years. The arrest is a good example of how the innocent can be arrested on severe charges, only because they have conflicts with local influential persons. Please express your concern on the case to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence and the Judge Advocate General. (Page 23)

3. The government and the local authorities are still silent with the disappearance of Somchit Morasilp, who was invited by a navy officer in Nakornsrithammarat and disappeared. Please continue with your campaigns by sending telegrams and/or letters to ensure his safety and to secure his unconditional release to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence, and the Commander of the Fourth Army. (After the military reshuffle in September, the new Commander is Lt. Gen. Juan Wannaratna). (See HRTR, May-June 1979 page 7)

As always we would like you to keep us informed of any action you take. Such information and copies of telegrams and letters sent to us have been very helpful for our internal campaigns.

Thanking you again for your great support and solidarity.

CGRS 59 Soi Sriswad, Pradipat Road, Bangkok 4, Thailand. Tel. 2791609

T H E H U M A N R I G H T S S I T U A T I O N

The period of July-August has again been very deceptive. On the one hand the government has abolished NARC Decree 22 and released 2 groups of political prisoners; but on the other hand political assassinations have continued unchanged, with a well-known and respected farm leader, Chamras Muang-yam, and many other community leaders, a labour leader, and a local journalist being murdered. Military suppression in the countryside, which too often ends in the death and suffering of the innocent, has become even more serious. Newspapers were closed down, thousands of books were confiscated, censorship was put on newspapers and TV. satellite news, progressive music players were violently attacked and beaten up by rightist groups, etc, etc.

Those concerned with Human Rights and justice in Thailand are happy with the abolition of NARC Decree 22. The decree empowers policemen and administrative officials to arrest and detain any person at any length of time without passing through judicial process. Thanks to National and International Campaigns, the decree was finally abolished. However, there are still many unjust laws and decrees that are as much or even more powerful than Decree 22, such as the Anti-Communist Activities Act which empowers the officials to detain anyone suspected of communism to be detained for up to 480 days before charges are formally placed, NARC Decree 1, 8, 14, 24 which bring the country under Martial Law and which grant widespread power to Military Court, NARC Decree 29 and 30 which deprive defendants in Criminal cases of their rights to appeal, NARC Decree 42 which empowers the police to censor and close down newspapers and all printing materials, etc. (Page 25) The government refused to abolish these laws.

The abolition of NARC Decree 22 and the releases of top political prisoners, namely those in Omnoi and Minibus Treason cases, (Page 4) seem far more to be a public relations move on the part of the government rather than a result of an increasing consciousness of the injustice of the cases. They are far more a compromise with conflicts rather than a result of an attempt to solve the problems at the roots.

Thus though we are happy that the unjust NARC Decree 22 was finally abolished, and that 16 persons have regained their freedom, we would like to emphasise that these are just a few cases of injustice out of the hundreds that still remain.

The case of Chamras Muang-yam is a small example. Chamras was gunned down to death on July 21 this year. Chamras was the president of the Farmer's Federation of Thailand from 1975 until 1976 -- when the FFT was banned by the military government. Since the beginning of this year Chamras had been politically active again, not only because he was still regarded by the people as the president of the FFT, but also because he was the only farmers' leader who survived from assassinations. The murdering of farmers' leaders was a widespread phenomena in 1975 and 1976, but after that died down for a while. These assassinations can

only be seen as political assassinations -- an attempt to suppress the farmers' movement against oppression and exploitation. (Page 7)

Labour leader started to be murdered as well. An ex-president of Pitsamulok Wiewing Factory Labour Union was shot dead by 2 gunmen. Amorn Khemthong had before his death led the workers in the protest against the corruption amongst the managing committee of this state-enterprise, until finally the executive manager and many other committee members had to leave their position there, only to have another new position elsewhere. Amorn and a few workers thus petitioned to the Minister of Defence, urging that the result of the investigation be announced publicly. The Minister of Defence promised that the protestors would get an answer on August 10th. On August 9th Amorn was murdered.

Another reporter was killed during this two-month period. On August 7th, Suchin Thipayamonthon, a reporter of many newspapers such as Thai Daily, Bangkok Pim Thai and Dao Nua, was shot dead by 3 gunmen, because of his coverage on the destruction of forests by an influential Tambon headman. (Page 15) Since 1976 there have been more than 25 assassinations and attempted assassinations of local journalists and reporters. According to the Provincial Journalist Association of Thailand, the reasons for the assassination, attack, etc. on these journalists and reporters are mainly because these courageous newsmen have disclosed corruption, hindered or opposed the malpractice of influential people or involved in political issue.

Apart from assassinations of local journalists and reporters, press freedom has seriously been attacked during these two months. A Thai-language daily newspaper, Tawan Siam, was on August 9th ordered closed for an indefinite period for its contemptuous attack on the government and certain Cabinet members. Legal action was taken against the editor and publisher of the paper, for violation of NARC Decree 42. The paper's editorial staff however launched another daily under the name of 'Siam Rasdorn' on the following day but it was also ordered closed with the same reasons.

On August 24th, Police Director General ordered the seizure of 100 Thai-language books which were delivered by airmail from the USA to some people in Thailand. According to the Police, the books which were discovered by the custom officials contained statements that insulted the monarchy and the Thai government, disclosed the facts behind the October 6th, 1976 military takeover and propagate Communism. Police also said that the names of these 4 books and many other books would soon be announced as "illegal" in the Royal Gazette. It should be noted that after the 1976 Coup, the Thanin government banned 204 books. These books are prohibited to sell or even to possess. The banned lists were officially promulgated as a royal decree and still remaining in force.

On the day that the 100 books were seized (August 24th),

policemen also seized a large number of books from bookstalls in Bangkok. The books seized were both (largely) books with ' political ideologies that endanger public order ' and (a few) pornographic books and magazines. Earlier in the same month, the Special Branch police ordered the confiscation of July 30 edition of Times weekly magazine which published the picture of the King and Buddhist monks below that of the Prime Minister of Thailand. According to the police the pictures were against the national peace and the people's moral. A total of 2,297 books were seized.

On August 23rd, Lt. Gen. Chalermchai Charuwat, Chairman of the Radio and Television Administration Board (RTAB) said that the " Satellite News " programme would, beginning September 1, come under the censorship. Any news reports adverse to government policy or setting a bad example to people or those being detrimental to national security or the good moral principles of the general public (such as news about demonstration) should be curtailed. The news censorship committee comprises representatives from the Information Office of the Supreme Command, Special Branch Police and the RTAB.

Despite the continued worsening of the overall human rights situation, there are also healthy signs. After continuous struggle, workers were able to increase their minimum wage from 35 Baht to 45 Baht per day, which, although still rather low comparing with the high cost of living, was a very good beginning. Five Press Associations have jointly and actively fought against NARC Decree 42 with a support from the Lawyer's Association of Thailand. The 18 student unions, although are still not allowed to set up a central organization to coordinate activities in every university like the NSCT in the past, have in practice worked together in great unity. In the countryside eventhough an organization like the FFT which can speak and fight for the whole peasantry cannot yet be set up, there emerge more and more groups and individuals who dare to challenge the existing power, to struggle nonviolently against injustice and exploitation for their better lives and freedom.

What has become of humanity, goodness,
modesty, temperance, wisdom, and piety,
and what can all these mean to me
if the last sight vouchsafed to my eyes
is my city reduced to rubble by fire
and sword, and if the last sounds to
reach my ears are the cries of women
and children as they perish in the ruins.

Voltaire

POLITICAL PRISONERS

TOP POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED

Omnoi - Acquitted after 3 years in prison



Seven defendants in the Omnoi case were acquitted of communist charges and were all set free after being in jail for 3 years and 5 months. The Criminal Court of Bangkok came to a decision on August 15, 1979. To acquit Supap Pasa-ong and 6 other defendants of communist charges; only Pisit Pataseree the 2nd defendant was sentenced to 1 year and 3 months, and Wimut Sumram the 5th defendant to 3 years imprisonment for having a pistol and war firearm (which did not belong to them) in their possession. But since the two have been in jail for over 3 years, they were both set free. However, the court ordered Supap and Pisit to be detained for 15 days further pending possible appeals by the public prosecutor. On July 24 Public Prosecution Department Director General Pratuang Kiratibut announced that there would be no appeal against the verdict of the Criminal Court because of lack of substantial evidence. On July 30, Supap and Pisit were set free.

"We thank people of all circles, overseas friends and organizations and the Press for fighting for our freedom," said Supap on the first moment of his freedom.

Supap Pasa-ong and 8 other people involved in labour union activities were arrested on March 30, 1976 on charges that carry the maximum sentence of life imprisonment. Supap, Pisit and 2 woman students (who, after the arrest, were allowed out on bail and disappeared) have assisted the workers in Omnoi and other nearby areas to build up labour unions strong enough to enable them to achieve their legal rights, which had usually been

neglected by the employers. The 5 workers arrested were workers active in labour movements and union activities. It was solely because of these activities that they were arrested and charged with propagating communism.

Judge Pichai Wuttichamnong took two hours and 15 minutes to read the 100 pages verdict which referred to 47 prosecution witnesses and 17 defence witnesses. According to the verdict, there is no substantial evidence that all defendants are members of the Communist Party of Thailand or any other of its united front organizations; nor had the defendants any contact with these organizations. Eventhough the proecutor has listed hundreds of activities of the CPT. during 1974-1976, there is no evidence to prove that the defendants were involved in those activities. The prosecutor stated that the 9 defendants had set up organizations in Tambons Omnoi, Suanluang and Omyai as CPT. sub-quaters to induce the workers of those areas to be members of the CPT. But from evidence given by the prosecutor there have been no organizations set up by the defendants of that nature. The only organization that had a concern with the defendants was the Samutsakorn Texttile Labour Union to which the 1st and 2nd defendants were advisors and the 5th, 6th and 8th defendants were members. The STLU was legally established to protect the interest of the workers, and was not a part of the CPT. There is no doubt, from all evidence given in court, that the CPT. had infiltrated in the STLU, but no evidence that the defendants were working for the CPT. in the STLU to propagate communism and misdirect the work of the union.

The Prosecutor stated that the first defendant (Supap) was a distributor of Atipat newspaper to the workers, but as a matter of fact, Atipat was a legal publication of the now defunct National Student Center of Thailand. Therefore the distribution of the newspaper was not illegal.

The prosecutor gave as evidence some letters written to the first defendant which urged him to join the CPT. The letter was only evidence that the defendant was not yet a member of the CPT.

The judge concluded that from all this that there is not enough evidence to prove that all defendants in this case were sent from the CPT to infiltrate, propagate and direct the STLU as they have been charged. There is not enough evidence to give punishment to the defendants on charges of communism and activities threatening the security of the state. Therefore the judge acquitted all the defendants from all charges.

Minibus Treason Case - All acquitted from Treason charge

Following a Military Court decision on September 14, 1979, the nine defendants in the Minibus Treason case were acquitted of severe charges of Treason against the Kingdom, were fined, 700 Baht each and set free. The nine persons, including a pregnant woman, were arrested during a mass demonstration against a franchise of a bus company in a north-eastern province, and were charged with activities against the internal security of the state (Treason against the Kingdom), rioting, hindering traffic, using an amplifier without a license, and libelling government officials. The judge sentenced them to a 700 baht fine on charges of hindering traffic and illegally using an amplifier.

neglected by the employers... in labour movements and union activities... - 6 -

The nine persons were arrested on June 10, 1976 at Prakonchai district in Burceram Province, while they were demonstrating against a corrupted and influential bus company, which had a franchise for bus service in the province. The demonstration broke out after the death of one pregnant woman who hired a free minibus to take her to a hospital to deliver her child. But the road was intentionally blocked by a bus of that bus company, until the woman finally died because of the delay.

Evidently the rich bus company was backed by the local government. Consequently the peaceful demonstration was dispersed by armed policemen and finally ended with the arrest of the nine persons on severe charges.

The case has gained much national and international interest, and lots of petition were sent to concerned authorities. The sentence date has been postponed twice, without clear reasons given by the court. Finally the court passed sentence on September 14 - an unexpected pleasing verdict.

Bamrung Charanyanon and 8 other defendants have passed on their thanks to people and organizations inside and outside Thailand, whose interests and actions have played a crucial role in their freedom.

The release of 16 innocent persons after long years in jail should certainly be a great encouragement to all justice loving people who have for many years been fighting for their freedom and justice. However, we must not forget that apart from these "famous" prisoners, there are still a lot more political prisoners (1,500 - 2,000) in Thailand. There are people who have lost their husbands, sons and their loved ones - the victims of political assassinations or misuse of government power, there are people who are forced to leave their home and land from the 'Strategic Hamlets' suppression tactic, etc etc. These less fortunate people are also crying out for justice and world interest.

Following the... nine defendants in the... of freedom... The nine persons... demonstration against a franchise of a bus company in a north-eastern province, and were charged with activities against the internal security of the state (Section 112 of the Criminal Code), rioting, interfering traffic, using an amplifier without a license, and libelling government officials. The judge sentenced them to a 100 year term on charges of interfering traffic and libelling an official.

REPORT FROM UP-COUNTRY

Assassination of Peasant Leaders

No. 29 - Chamras Muang-yam



" If I die, don't give up. You must fight."

Chamras Muang-yam, 50 year-old president of the Farmer's Federation of Thailand from 1975 until 1976, was gunned down on July 21, 1979 in Mapkaotom village at about 8 pm as he was walking home with his wife. Chamras is the 29th peasant leader to be murdered since March 1974. (Nine other peasant leaders have escaped with serious injuries when attempts were made on their lives during this same period.)

At about 4 pm, on July 21, six local government officials from the nearby district of Pluag Daeng came to see Chamras at his home in Ban Kai district. The officials included the District Chief, and the Superintendent of Investigation. The District Chief asked Chamras about the students who had visited Mapkaotom village. He wanted to know who had led the students to the village, whether Chamras had helped the students and in what way, and how Chamras felt towards these students. Chamras answered frankly that the students were surveying the village in order to carry out a community development project, and that he had allowed the students to stay in his house for one night since he noticed that there were several women in the students group. The District Chief also asked Chamras about his activities in the Farmer's Federation of Thailand.

During the discussion, Chamras's wife and children, and several neighbors, were also present. Ranong, Chamras's wife, said "While we were

listening, my 11 year-old daughter suddenly called out, ' Mother!! '. I turned to her and asked her what she wanted. She said, ' Mother, he's pulling out a gun! ' I nudged my husband and then noticed how pale his face was. He drew himself backwards and at that moment I knew that he was very frightened so I stepped forwards, and stood between him and the officials. The District Chief then gave a signal to the superintendent with his eye brow....."

The six officials left the house at about 6 pm. After they were gone, Chamras and Ranong went to the local temple to talk to a monk. They left the temple at 8 pm. On the way home they passed their daughter's house. Chamras told his wife to borrow some matches from his daughter, and he walked on ahead slowly by himself.

"I walked quickly after him and handed him the matches. Suddenly there was the explosive sound of a gun. I was immediately startled and thought of running, but I didn't. I turned to catch my husband around the waist and tried to carry him away. He seemed so light. I looked in the direction of the gun fire, but could not see the face of the gunman clearly because it was so dark. I shouted at him, ' Why don't you shoot me also? ' ' No ', he answered, ' They only want one ' . "

Chamras's daughter went to Bankai police station to inform them about her father's death. Meanwhile, Ranong was waiting beside her husband's body on the road for the officials to come and carry out an investigation. The police showed no interest in the case. After making the daughter wait for over two hours, the official finally told her to go and take her father's body home.

At 3 am the police finally came to their home. "They did not inspect anything, but simply picked up the cloth covering my husband face and looked. Then they said, ' Well-done! ' ", reported Ranong.

A short time later the police arrested VichienChaemsri (30) as the murderer. He is a villager of the same village as Chamras. Ranong does not believe that Vichien is the murderer because she can still remember the voice from that night, and besides, Vichien and Chamras, as well as both their families, are very good friends. Ranong believes that the murder was politically motivated.

" I am so angry with myself. I should not have tried to stop them when they wanted to kill my husband in our house. Then things would be very clear, and there would be witnesses, " said Ranong painfully as she remembered her last words to her dying husband that he could not even die free.

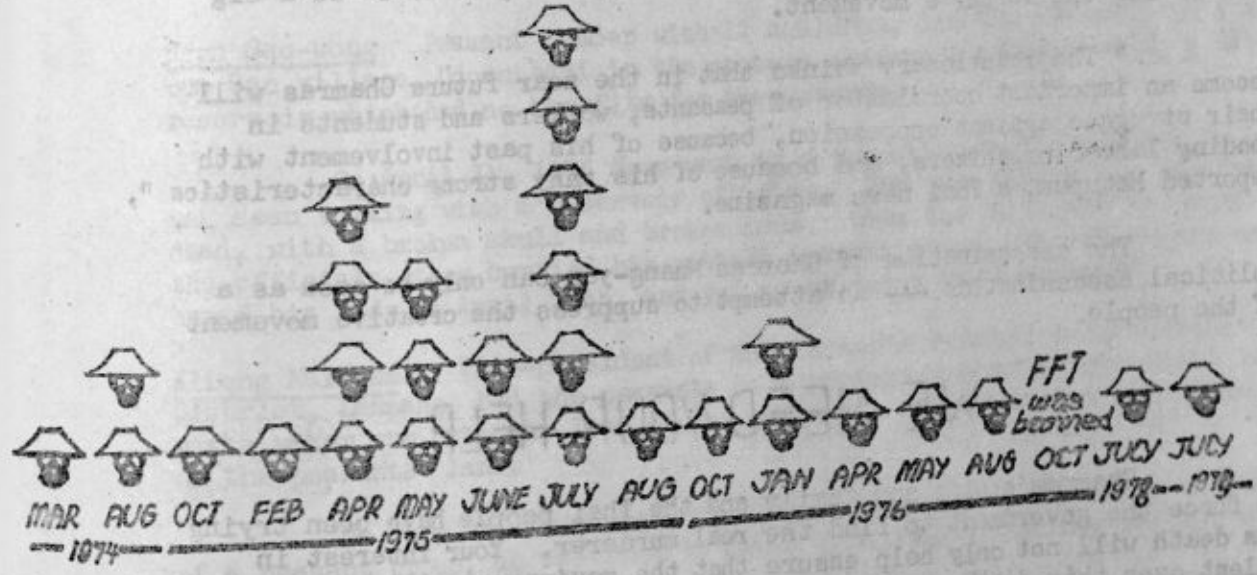
The Farmer's Federation of Thailand — A Bloody History

Chamras Muang-yam was one of the founders of the Farmer's Federation of Thailand (FFT), one of the first direct attempts to organize the peasantry in Thailand. The FFT was founded on November 26, 1974 during a demonstration in Bangkok by 50,000 farmers and sympathizers who were trying to publicize their grievances. The farmers, realizing from past experience that the government could not solve their problems, set up their own organization called the

The establishment and development of the FFT through the rights. The FFT's work covered 41 provinces (out of a total of 71 provinces in Thailand) and had a membership of 1 1/2 million farm families. One of the big struggles of the FFT was to lead the farmers in their fight against injustices such as land and debt problems. It also urged the government to enact a law which would regulate land rents and would start a land reform program.

In the past farmers, who make up 80% of the Thai population, have been very silent, and have accepted all the injustices and oppression poured on them. When the farmers began to get organized and to speak and fight for their rights, the government and the capitalist land owners became frightened and attempted to stop the movement. However, since the movement of the peasants and the FFT was done in accordance with the law, the suppression aimed at them had to be carried out illegally and with secret and violent means. Even before the FFT was organized, three farm leaders were murdered. To date, 29 farmer leaders have already been assassinated, and attempts were made on the lives of nine other leaders. These nine were lucky enough to survive with only serious injuries.

NUMBER OF ASSASSINATIONS OF PEASANT LEADERS MARCH 1974 - JULY 1979



All the farm leaders who took part in the establishment of the FFT have been assassinated with the exception of one who joined the CPT. In no case have the police been able to produce the real murderer.

" The establishment and development of the FFT through the storm of suppression is an indication to us that now the peasants of Thailand have decided to fight in order to create a new page in Thai history. This is a great, new beginning for the Thai peasants. Their struggle has told us again that the peasantry is a significant force for change in Thai society. The sounds of guns roaring in the countryside, and the assassination of peasant leaders and leaders of the FFT which has continued since 1974 cannot stop the struggle of the farmers. The brutal October 6 incident, and the threats and assassinations of farmers since then have reminded us that we must raise high the flag of democracy and national independence ". *

The FFT was banned by the military government after the 1976 October coup.

Shortly after the coup in 1976, Chamras Muang-yam was arrested under "endangering society" charges, and was detained for 8 months. Since the beginning of this year, because he was the only farm leader left, he was often invited to make speeches. During a June panel discussion held in Thammasat University on the Vietnam issue, Chamras was asked by one student if he was afraid of being murdered like all the other farm leaders in the past. Chamras answered with a smile, " Fathers are like rice seeds. Some grains might be eaten by the enemy. But the seeds that fall onto the ground can grow into hundreds of thousands of rice plants ",

The death of Chamras Muang-yam is a great loss to the Thai farmer's movement. Before his death, Chamras was trying to bring the FFT back to life. If the FFT could be revitalized, it would be a big success for the farmer's movement.

" The reactionary thinks that in the near future Chamras will become an important coordinator of peasants, workers and students in their struggle against oppression, because of his past involvement with leading labour organizers, and because of his many strong characteristics ", reported Matupun, a Thai news magazine.

The assassination of Chamras Muang-yam can only be seen as a political assassination --- an attempt to suppress the creative movement of the people.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Chamras's wife and family and the Thai people have been trying to force the government to find the real murderer. Your interest in his death will not only help ensure that the government will not remain silent over this death as they have over the deaths of past farm leaders, but will also ensure the safety of Chamras' wife and family and other Thai peasant leaders.

* Statement made by Chamras Muang-yam in his book " The Path of the Thai Peasantry " which was jointly written with a university professor, Preecha Piampongson, first published in December 1978.

Please send your letters and/or telegrams to the Prime Minister, expressing your concern over the assassination of Chamras Muang-yam and other peasant leaders, and urge the government to seek out the real murderer.

ADDRESS TO:

PM. Kriengsak Chomanan
Thai Ku Faa Building
Bangkok, THAILAND

Assassinations in the Past (1974 - 1976)

Intha SriBoonrurng President of Farmer's Federation, Northern Region and vice-president of the FFT in 1975, was a poor farmer without his own land, who had 5 children, and had been elected village-headman of Ban Long, Chiang-mai, for 5 years.

Intha led the farmers in a rally demanding a law to regulate the rent of rice fields in November 1974. He led the farmers in many districts to ask for justice on matters concerning land, taxes, and so on.

On July 31, 1975, while he was selling things at his home, 2 gunmen came and asked to buy something. He was bending over to get change for their payment, when the 2 gunmen shot him in the head. He died immediately.

Ngon Sao-wong Peasant leader with 12 children, led the peasants in Nong Bua Ban village, Udonthani in the protest against construction of a water reservoir which had no benefits for the peasants.

On April 21, 1975 Ngon went to a funeral. In the evening he was seen talking with a reservoir official. The next morning he was found dead, with a broken skull and broken legs. When the villagers informed the officials, they buried him without investigation. The villagers exhumed his body on April 24th, and yet no murderer has been found.

Klieng Mai-iam Vice-president of the Farmer's Federation in Hangchat District, Lampang, led the peasants in a protest against a mine which let waste water run onto the land of the peasants, and which took over some of the peasants' land.

On July 20, 1975 while Klieng was clearing up the money account of a peasant group, he was shot to death by a gunman. Nobody was arrested.

Kam Tamoon (60), peasant leader, led the peasants in a protest against Mae-Rieng mine in Serm-ngam district, Lampang. The owner of the mine once offered him 10,000 Baht (US\$500) to stop the protest, but he refused. He was often threatened with assassination.

On January 20, 1976 he was shot to death. Nobody was arrested.

etc.
etc.
etc.

MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT POWER

Tambon Headman Murdered by Marines .539

Nakornsrithammaret : On September 1, 1979 Prayoon Kaewpraju, headman of tambon Plian in Sichol district was invited to a traditional football match of schools in the tambon, which took place in a school in Ban Moo 6 (village no. 6) not far from his home.

After the football match was over, two marine officials known by villagers as Petty Officer Noo Dang and Petty Officer Pongsak followed the headman to his home to have a drink. Eventhough Prayoon himself did not drink, he offered the two petty officers some alcohol and food. It seems to be a common practise that government officials and soldiers will visit the villagers at their home and ask for some food and drinks and enjoy themselves at the expense of the poor villagers.

At 8 pm. the two marines said they wanted to leave. Prayoon then arranged for a motorcycle and one neighbour to drive them back to the marine camp, but the two refused, saying they could not trust anybody but the tambon headman to take them. Therefore Prayoon agreed to drive the two marines back to their place.

The marine camp was based in Ban Moo 10 of the same tambon. It was about 3 km. from Prayoon's house. Prayoon did not come back home that night. Therefore in the morning his father went to the marine camp. But when he was only half way some villagers told him that they had heard guns from near the marine camp the previous night. According to the villagers, when they heard the sound of the gun, 30 of them went to the place, but were stopped by the marines. They saw a military jeep driven to the place where the shooting should have taken place, the light was out for 10 minutes, and then the jeep went into the military camp. Soon after that a motorcycle was driven out, followed by the same jeep, and went southwards to a bridge. The light was out and soon afterwards only the jeep came down the bridge.

Prayoon's father and the villagers could easily guess what had happened. They went to the canal under the bridge and soon found the motorcycle that Prayoon drove the previous night, but they could not find his body as expected.

Prayoon's father went to Sichol district police station. The police did not even note down the case, eventhough there were many villagers willing to be witnesses. Prayoon's father later went to the marine camp to ask for justice, but the marines refused to answer all questions and denied any responsibility.

A Buddhist Monk Shot Dead ----- Accused of Communism

Surin : In the early morning of December 17, 1978 Pra Wijak Siripatto was gunned to death in the temple by 2 gunmen. Pra Wijak was an abbot of Lumpiniwan (Wat Banmai) temple in a small village named Banmai, 12 km. from Surin province.

It was widely said that one of the gunmen was named "Sin", a very close sub-ordinate of Vice Provincial Governor Sanoe Mulsat. Not long after the death of the monk, leaflets entitled "Black Danger - Crime in Uniform" were distributed widely in the t attacking the vice provincial governor to have made up false stories to make the province more sensitive than it really was, and as a result, a lot of people was killed. (The local government in sensitive areas will get more budget from the central government, and government officials will get special allowances for the risk they have to take).

Regarding the death of Pra Wijak, the Governor of Surin province, Chalong Kalayanamit, said that the abbot was one of the leaders of the communists in the city, but he did not know who killed him.

Pra Wijak was a very respected monk of the village. He could give some medical treatment and injections to the sick villagers from Banmai and the nearby villages who could not get such treatment from the hospital located so far away in the city. From this he was suspected to have learnt how to cure and give injections from the CPT and also suspected to have cured injured communist guerrillas as well.

The villagers were terrified by this murder. The two brothers of Pra Wijak who are also monks moved to other places, and one of them left the monkhood.

National Park Warders Killed 5 Villagers

Nakornrajsrima : Five villagers, including a 14 year-old boy, were shot dead with their hands bound with wines by 5 Khao Yai National Park warders on July 18, 1979. Another villager, Hem Kerdari (46), who was severely wounded, survived the slaughter since the warders thought that he was dead. A seventh man, Sanom Kakhen (38), escaped unharmed in the course of the massacre. These villagers were caught by the park warders after being found guilty of trapping animals and poaching trees in the park.

Sanom, the survivor, later led a team of policemen to the massacre site in a forested spot about four hours' walk from Ban Hin Ploen in Pak Chong district. At the site were the 5 bodies riddled with M. 16 and shotgun bullets and lying in a row. The dead men were identified as Subin Silapong (38), Paeng Kaewviset (29), Banthoeng Yoochit (14), Nivat Chitkham (16), and Karoon Oon-em (19). As the policemen were inspecting the area, they heard cries coming from a man in a swamp nearby. The second survivor, Hem, was later taken to hospital for emergency treatment.

Hem reported that on the evening of July 18 after they finished their work (looking for scented wood) and were cooking their food, 5 park warders armed with M 16 and shotgun came to them. They were only six since Sanom had not come back yet. They understood that they would be arrested but after being forced to walk only 2-3 steps, they were all shot in the back. Hem regained consciousness at around 9 pm. because of the rain. He heard the cries of one friend, Nivat, for 30 minutes, but could not help. The rest were dead. He was afraid that the warders would come back, so he crawled to a swamp and hid there for 2 days, until the policemen found him in the evening of July 20th.

At the site police also discovered that a canvas tent and animal trapping equipment belonging to the seven villagers were destroyed by a fire believed to have been set deliberately by the park warders.

A newly-carved inscription reading "communist terrorist camrade" was found on a big tree near the burned-out tent.

Apparently, the inscription was made by the assailants with an intent to mislead authorities, if they ever found the corpses, to the belief that the mass slaughter was carried out by the communist guerrillas.

Police later on arrested a park warder, Sommai Khonklang, who denied the accusation of involvement in the massacre. The four other warders are still at large.

Village Headman Shot Dead a Villager out of Anger

Suratthani : On June 29, 1979 while Supong Pongchinda (25) was drinking with 2 friends in a food shop in Tambon Bangsai in Central district, a village-headman from another tambon passed by. The village-headman asked the three not to make loud noises, because it was late at night, but the three did not listen to him. Out of anger the village headman shot Supong with his .38 mm. pistol. The two friends took Supong who was severely injured to the hospital, but he died on the way.

Policemen Killed 2 Civilians

Supanburi : Two villagers made a complaint to a newspaper (Siengpuangchon) in Bangkok that their son and their brother, Flad Srisamdaeng (17) and Korn Kaewrurung (19) were shot dead by two policemen and then were charged with resisting and fighting with government officials.

The two villagers disclosed that on May 17, 1979 they went with the 2 young men to a temple in tambon Nongsadao in Samchuk district to attend a priest ordination ceremony. The 2 young men, Flad and Korn, had to leave early in the evening, because they had to buy tobacco leaves for sale the next morning. According to an eye-witness they had not gone very far when they were stopped by 2 policemen, who asked to see their driving license. They had no driving license, so the police fined them 500 Baht, but the two did not have enough money. One of the policemen drew out his gun to threaten the two, but accidentally the gun was fired, and Flad was shot in his leg. Out of fear, the two policemen decided to kill the two men. The next morning the bodies of Flad and Korn were found near the street, beside their bodies were a gun, a knife and a hand grenade, which actually did not belong to them. They were later on accused of resisting arrest and fighting with government officials.

The villagers had petitioned the Provincial Governor and the Provincial Constabulary, but nothing happened. Instead, a police inspector offered them 30,000 Baht (US\$1,500) to withdraw the case, but they refused. They also came to Bangkok to petition the Police Department. After having gone through many government offices, the villagers do not seem to have much hope. They said that even the district chief had said in the meeting of Tambon and village headmen that the headmen should not lead

the villagers to petition the authorities on any matters, unless they wear armour!!

Tambon Headman Accused of Falsely Recruiting Mercenaries

Nongkai : A 36 - year old tambon headman, accused of making false recruitment of mercenaries among about 200 villagers in Nongkai to fight against Burmese troops in the Golden Triangle, was arrested August 4, 1979 on charges of swindling the public and running a job placement business without a licence.

The villagers, who each paid about 300 - 500 Baht (20 Baht = US\$1) to fight the imaginary battle were promised a salary of 40,000 - 50,000 Baht a month, and at least 400,000 Baht in compensation in case they got killed.

A unit of policeman was deatched to arrest the tambon headman, Pleng Kuno of Tambon Panna in Sawang Daendin district, after more than 200 villagers complained that they had been lured into paying a large amount of money to him to be recruited.

Some of the villagers had to sell their belongings or even cows and buffaloes to get enough money to pay for the recruitment.

Tambon Headman Suspected of Reporter's Murder

Chiengrai : Police have been assigned to closely follow the activities of a tambon headman who is thought by the authorities to be involved in the murder of a local reporter in this northern province on August 7, 1979.

Suchin Thipayamonthon, local reporter and one of the shareholders of the Chieng Mai Daily, was gunned down by three gunmen with M 16s while he was driving his car. The murder followed his coverage of illegal logging by the influential tambon headman Nuan Navarat of tambon Mae Yen in Pan district.

Assistant Village Headman Arrested for Murder

Kampaengpet : Assistant Village Headman, Pinyo Polkhetkit and his 14 subordinates were arrested for alleged involvement in the killing of 3 villagers on June 11, 1979.

Pinyo confessed that he and his 5 subordinates had actually killed the 3 villagers while they were making charcoal in the woods. The three villagers had earlier informed police and reporters that he had let his subordinates steal the wood which would be used to build a school in Ban Powatana village. Knowing that the police were going to arrest him for this, he killed the three villagers who were the important witnesses.

Policemen Killed and Burnt 2 Villagers

Franburi : Thirty villagers from Ban Fangta voiced complaints to Thairat newspaper against police malpractice. The villagers, led by

two women, whose husbands were reportedly killed by a group of policemen from Pranburi district police station, disclosed the following story.

On August 24, 1979, two men Taworn Kamching (25) and Suwin Klinhom (30) were riding on a motorcycle, followed by Noi Kaemkaew, from Pranburi market to Hua Hin district. On the way the motorcycle was stopped by a group of policemen. Police found 2 pistols and arrested the two, took them into the police car, and drove in the direction to Hua Hin. Seeing this, Noi who drove after them, went back to tell the relatives about what had happened.

The relatives hurried after them. On a side-road they found that a group of policemen were burning the bodies of two men. The relatives were stopped by the police until the bodies were totally burnt. However, the relatives could see that the burnt bodies were the bodies of Taworn and Suwin. Police later told them that the two were killed because they had fought with the police.

The relatives said that the two men were innocent and had legal professions in the sugar factory in Pranburi district. They also said that not long ago the policemen of the same police-station had shot an innocent man, Sathit Konggarian, to death, but when the malpractice was disclosed, the police closed the mouth of the man's father with 50,000 Baht cash.

Provincial Governor Accused of Student's Murder

Suratthani : A father voiced complaint that his son, Vacharin Prachumrat (22), a commerce student of an adult education school in Suratthani was killed by a group of about 7 policemen. He said that the then governor of Suratthani Chalit Pimolsiri who is now a governor of Supanburi was the one who order the killing.

Sawat, the dead man's father said that on July 6 last year his son was arrested and was accused of stealing. After the arrest the police shot him in the neck and he died immediately at a cross-road in the town. After that the police took his body to a temple and burnt it, without telling the relatives.

The father had made complaints against this malpractice at the police station, the provincial prosecutor and many other government offices, but there seemed to be no real attempts to find out the murderer for punishment.

ARRESTS AND RELEASES

Arrests

6/6/79 200 villagers living at Ban Klongplasoi, Moo 3, tambon Wangsai, Klongklung district in Kampaengpet Province, were arrested by 100 policemen from the province. They were detained at Technical School in Kampaengpet.

Police accused them of being refugees from Laos, eventhough the villagers have in fact been living in the village for 40-50 years and have ID cards. Detailed informations on the arrest will be reported in next issue of HRTR.

21/6/79 Mr. Prasert Chansit, a communist guerrilla, surrendered at police station in Central District of Suratthani Province. (Siengpuangchon 6/7/79)

15/7/79 Miss Tu Duangtaisong (18), a communist guerrilla, surrendered at a military camp in Aranyaprathet Province. (Siengpuangchon 16/7/79)

17/7/79 Mr. Urm Purgchai (18), a communist guerrilla, surrendered at provincial government office of Trang Province. (Siengpuangchon 22/7/79)

17/7/79 Mr. Chusak Sae-wong (or Wong Tiranusorn) (35), was arrested in Tambon Prupee, Nasarn District in Suratthani Province. Chusak was accused of taking part in a train robbery on Dec. 26th, 1978 where official money of over million Baht was robbed. At that time it was reported that it was the CPT who robbed the money. (Siamrat 24/7/79)

20/7/79 Two communist guerrillas, Mr. Tongtaen Suwannachot and Mr. Sawang Suwannachot, surrendered to the Border Patrol Police at Luei Province. (Banmuang 22/7/79)

21/7/79 Miss Amporn Butsopa (23), a communist guerrilla, was arrested after an arm clash between government and CPT forces, at Ban Donsa, tambon Chiengklong, Pak-luang District in Luei Province. (Siengpuangchon 23/7/79)

13/6/79 - 9/7/79 A total of 151 communist guerrillas, mostly from northeastern and southern regions, surrendered to the government. During this period 12 guerrillas were arrested and 18 were killed. (Supreme Command Press Conference 23/8/79)

Releases

9-10/8/79 Because the NARC Decree 22 was abolished, all ENDANGERING SOCIETY PRISONERS are supposed to be released within these two days, except for those who have other criminal charges adhered. (See more details on page 25)

According to official number disclosed by Deputy Metropolitan Police Commissioner, there are 261 endangering society prisoners detained in prison and 578 in police stations all over the country. However, it should be noted that there has always been considerable discrepancy between official figure, public figure and real figure. For example, the Corrections Dpt. announced on Aug. 11th that a number of 248 endangering society prisoners were released from detention center all over the country, and other 103 persons were remanded on other charges adhered, making a total of 351 prisoners. The figure was less than half of that announced. Five out of seven defendants in Omnoi Case were released from prison. These ex-workers were released one day after the Criminal Court acquitted them of Communist charges. The five are Vimuth Sumram, Vantha Rungfa, Thonglua Mongkolart, Promma Nanok and Narin Arpornram. (See details of the case on Page 4)

16/3/79

30/8/79

Two prisoners in Omnoi Case, Supap Pasa-ong and Pisit Patanaseree were released from Lard Yao Prison.

ACTIVITIES OF CGRS

The Coordinating Group for Religion in Society (CGRS) is composed of priests, laymen and young activists from the Buddhist, the Catholic and the Protestant Religions, who share a common belief in non-violence, and feel that religion and spiritual value have a central role to play in development of Thai Society. CGRS was founded early in 1976 but has become actively involved in Human Rights since the October 6th, 1976 Coup d'etat. For almost three years CGRS has carried out its activities openly, in spite of repressive governments and Martial Law. During this period the activities of CGRS have expanded considerably from merely helping political prisoners and their families and others suffering from conflicts in the society, to exposing misuse of government power and campaigning for its victims, for the release of all political prisoners and for abolishment of unjust laws; helping form other groups prepared to struggle for justice and human rights; supporting indigenous rural development groups and coordinating religious organizations.

All the efforts of CGRS are directed at tackling the injustices and oppression that exist in society, using religious principles as the basic method. In all these activities CGRS hopes to play a catalytic and coordination function, rather than doing everything directly itself.

Activities of CGRS during July - August 1979

Visiting, Helping Prisoners and their Families

During this two-month period CGRS continued with its regular work of visiting and helping political prisoners and prisoners facing injustices and

night and continued again in the following morning. I think it will continue like this until the session was over, that is, until I leave them. And when I leave, I can imagine that their lives will return to the normal situation--the lives filled with hardship and insecurity. It has always been like this, whether in the past, present or even in the dark future. I could feel the hope everybody in my family has in myself, that I could ensure security for their lives. But do you think their dreams will come true? I think they have wrong ideas, but I cannot blame them. The one that should be blamed is myself and the injustices in this society.

Mother has so many stories to tell --- endless stories. Some stories she told me with pride and happiness, others with tears. The first stories are about the goodness of many different people who came into her life during my detention. The story of her new children whom she loves as her own child. There are also stories that reflect the hardship of life, the high prices, the disease and sickness that **shake** her life, and the insult she bears from others, etc. It seems as if these hundreds of stories have composed a novel of her life.

The stories did not come from my mother alone, but also from my brothers and sisters. They told them to me, as if to ask me to judge all these injustices. And what on earth do you think I could do?

Songkla city has been enlarged so quickly. Factories and workers are increasing in number following the growth of capitalism. In the past the labour force of rural people is in the fields, but now it is drawn to the urban areas. The middle class has increased while the peasants in the rural areas become bankrupt and become labour sellers. I have been away for 5 years and things have changed so much.

I have not yet been to the sand and the sea. I have been missing them so much. When I visit them again I will tell you what is in their mind.

Love,

Supap

The other letter that we would like to share with you is that of Sakorn Wong-nun, a prisoner at a central prison in the far southern province of Nakornsri Thammarat. Sakorn Wong-nun (46) was before the arrest a committee member of Tha-shi Tambon Council, in Ban Na Sarn district, Suratthani province. While working in the Tambon Council, Sakorn had strongly attacked the corruption in the Council. Besides, he had a conflict with a Village Defence Volunteer. In April 1979,

two communist guerrillas, known as Prasert and Vichien killed 2 influential persons during a religious ceremony where there were about 200 villagers present. The two announced in public that they did not have any personal conflict with the dead men, but had a mission from the CPT to kill them.

However, on May 3, the police arrested Sakorn and accused him of killing, having communist activities and having a pistol without license.

LETTER FROM SAKORN WONG-NUN

Nakornsrihammarat Central Prison

2 August 1979

Dear friends,

I have been detained in prison for more than a year already. I guess it is unnecessary for me to go into any further details on the living conditions here. At least, I think you can understand very well the feeling of being separated from friends and loved ones and of being deprived of one's own freedom. Once you are put in jail, everything suddenly comes to a standstill. Indeed, it is a place designed in this society where the truth cannot be brought before the public's eyes. Nevertheless, I will try my best to keep up my courage and patience until the day of freedom arrives. Regarding my case, you can imagine the weight of punishment through the content of the charge in general.

Most of the people living in my village love and accept my good deeds. I did everything for them, aiming solely for the public good, nothing more, until I was able to win their trust in me. Certainly, I have done nothing wrong. These people can be my witnesses. I have my Identity Card too. Moreover, at the time of my capture, I was also involved in many activities in my community such as acting as the head of the Village Scouts, participating as a member of the public education committee, as well as being a member of the Local Council (Tambon Council). Naturally, all if these activities increased my influence with the villagers. Therefore, from this point of view, it brought me to the attention of the government, because in our village at that time, people were often treated very badly by government officials. I was one among those who tried to advise the villagers to take positive action. By these actions, I never realised the possibility of being charged with violating the Anti-Communist Activities Act. It was not myself alone who was charged with this case. Many friends with

strong faith in justice in their hearts like myself were also accused in the same way. I was charged with being a Communist. Anyway, it was as known by everybody, the government officials did not know exactly what to do or how to deal with such a case in accordance with the existing law. So, they only made use of the charge of communism as a means of controlling innocent people by forcing an unjust law on them. However, it was of no permanent use because it could be utilised only in the primary stage. For instance, when a person is arrested, they will provide him with a "Democratic Orientation" lecture, nothing else. This is because they are unable to find any reasonable law to make a charge of rebellion or causing riot. Actually, there was no other charge aside from the communist charge, which is a political one, to put on me. In fact, a political charge is used by the government to arrest anyone on suspicion, followed a re-education session, and last of all release back to his home. In actuality, however, there was a great difference in my case. The government officials created many other charges which had no element of truth in them. For example, they added the untrue charges of murder, attempting to kill and resisting the officers. I knew nothing about these charges at all. In the beginning I was arrested under communist charges and then the police added other additional extra criminal charges against me too.

However, neither of these different charges seem to have had any progress so far, although it has been more than a year since my arrest. The court hasn't made any arrangements for the hearings of the defence witnesses for me, and so the case has been delayed. Personally, I think there is no better way to regain my freedom than from the amnesty bill or else the case must be speeded up to finish as soon as possible. I thank you so much for the kindness shown to me from you and all friends. I can not ask for justice from any others except from those who have been trying hard to ensure justice by giving support both materially and spiritually to those who suffer from injustice like myself.

And also on this occasion, I want to thank you for everything you have done for me with unselfishness and self-sacrifice, especially for your visitation and package of necessary things. I don't know how to return your goodness. I will always pray for you and your friends' happiness and fulfilment in life. About my living and working conditions in the prison, it is not impossible to endure. I am now in charge of cleaning the well. Therefore the work is not too difficult.

With love and respect,

Sakorn Wong-nun

Listening to Trials and Providing Legal Aid

CGRS has been trying to ensure justice to political prisoners and prisoners facing injustices, that at least they should have legal protection, legal representatives and fair trials in just courts. CGRS has not only given direct assistance such as finding experienced defending lawyers for the prisoners, helping raise and arrange bail, etc., but also has given assistance to lawyers defending political cases, help organize lawyer groups, organize campaigns for the release of prisoners and against unjust laws, and so on.

The hearings of 10 defendants in Udom Pka-krong Case will be finished on October 4th. On October 10th the hearings of defence witnesses will begin. Most of the defence witnesses are wives, children, friends and relatives of the defendants, and live in the far southern provinces of Thailand. The hearings will take place in Bangkok court and will thus cause a lot of trouble and expenses for the witnesses (most of whom are very poor) to travel a long way to Bangkok. Consequently CGRS will arrange for the travel and accomodations for those witnesses who are in trouble.

Pralom Kaewsuan, the eleventh person arrested on the same charge and incident as the 10 defendants in Udom Pda-krong case, and used to be detained in the Nakornsrihammarat Central Prison, was allowed out on bail on August 27th. However, on that same day he was rearrested by the order of policemen at the Central district of Nakornsrihammarat. He was sent to Ban Cha-ien Detention Camp which locates in the same province. The Camp is under the control of the ISOC (Internal Security Operation Command).

The case of SOMBOON AND VICHAI BANLUSILP will be finished within 4-5 months; according to their lawyer. So far there are only 1 prosecution witness left to give statements. The hearings of the defence witnesses will last only 2 days, "because the prosecution witnesses have given very contradicting statements, and most of their statements were good for the defendants", said the lawyer.

The case of Somboon Banlusilp is a good example of how conflict with local influential people can lead to the arrest of the innocent on political charges.

Somboon Banlusilp (38) is a farmer leader from Ubonrajthani province. In 1975 general election he stood for an election under the Free Social Democratic Party, to which he was a leader.

Vichai Banlusilp (32) was an employee of the Telephone Organization of Thailand and a law student of Ramkamhaeng University in Bangkok.

In 1975 the Kukrit Pramroj government allocated the "Tambon Development Fund" to various tambons in poor rural areas, with the hope to solve the problem of poverty by this money. (The Tambons were encouraged to carry out some 'development project', using the labour

of the farmers who would be paid with the money from the fund.) The Hua Ruer Tambon Council decided to build a road to a school with this money. Somboon was elected a leader of the workers (farmers). The Tambon Headman named Daeng wanted to pay the farmers only 15 Baht (20Bt = 1US\$) a day, so as to spend the rest of the money to hire a tractor. Somboon was strongly against this idea. He thought that they should not use a tractor, so that more farmers could work with higher wages. His idea was supported by the villagers. But still Daeng insisted to do what he wanted. Finally the farmers demonstrated to a district office to petition to higher authorities. Daeng then went to the provincial office and accused Somboon of inciting people to rise up and to be communists.

Shortly after the coup in October 1976, Daeng led the officials to search Somboon's house. The officials found only some books and 14 letters written to him by his brother Vichai. The officials did not arrest him. On the following day (15 Oct., 1976), Somboon came to see his brother in Bangkok, and was arrested by Bangkok policemen who waited for him at Vichai's house. The police had got a letter from Ubonrajthani province, telling them to arrest Somboon.

On the following day, Vichai went to visit Somboon at the prison and was also arrested. It was until three days later (17 Oct. 1976) that a charge of Endangering Society was filed against them. On 23 Sep. 1976 they were released from this charge but were suddenly rearrested on communist charges.

At present Somboon and Vichai are being tried in Bangkok Military Court.

U R G E N T A C T I O N N E E D E D .

To ensure justice to be done to Somboon and Vichai Banlusilr, please send letters and/or telegrams expressing your concern and urging that the two brothers get all the justices to :

P.M. Kriengsak Chomanan
Thai Ku Faa Building
Bangkok
Thailand

Gen. Prem Tinasulanonda
Minister of Defence
Sanamchai Road
Bangkok, Thailand

Judge Advocate General
Lt. Gen. Pratin Pattanatham
Ministry of Defence
Sanamchai Road
Bangkok, Thailand

Campaign Against NARC Decree 22



For many months CGRS has been prepared for the campaign against NARC Decree 22, which allows the police to arrest and detain any person at any length of time without passing through a judicial process. NARC Decree 22, which was issued a week after the October 6th, 1976 bloody incident, had been widely used during the past three years, and about 12,000 people have been arrested under this decree.

Decree 22 was finally abolished on August 1st, 1979 when the Parliament voted unanimously for its revocation. The bill to repeal the decree has become effective on August 8th when it was published in the Royal Gazette. On August 9th and 10th, prisoners charged with endangering society were released, except those who were charged with other criminal charges. These people will be detained further under criminal charges.

CGRS has before the abolition of the decree lobbied with various groups of people including political parties, MPs and the Press, and has encouraged students and workers to join in the campaign against the decree. Besides, it has printed a small book with an in-depth background

information and analysis of Decree 22 (the injustice and misuse of the decree, numbers of people arrested, situation in the detention centers with a beautiful name of ' Profession Training Center ' and the challenges of the people to this law). The book was distributed widely and were sent to every political party and MP. CGRS also asked for solidarity campaign from overseas friends.

On August 1st five bills proposed by 4 political parties for the abolition of the decree was debated in the Parliament. In early morning of this day, before the session began, CGRS together with the ' PEACE RELATIONS GROUP*' held a peaceful demonstration in front of the Parliament Building to protest against the NARC Decree 22 and other unjust laws, namely NARC Decree 1, 8, 14, 24 which bring the country under Martial Law and which grant widespread powers to the Military Court in legal cases, NARC Decree 29 and 30 which deprive the defendants in criminal cases of their rights to appeal, NARC Decree 42 which empowers the police to censor and close down newspapers and all printing materials.

Six demonstrators sat beside the gate to the Parliament Building, each illustrating the unjust of each law and decree, namely the undemocratic constitution, NARC Decree 42, the Martial Law, NARC Decree 29, 30 and 42. Over the demonstrators was a banner which read " 60th year of Prince Rapee** where is the Rule of Law? " On the opposite side of the road was a big banner read " Justice is detained ".

In addition leaflets citing various unjust laws including NARC Decree 22 and calling for the abolition were distributed to MPs and Senators at the front gate.

Campaign on the Death of Chamras Muang-yam

CGRS feels extremely concerned with the death of Chamras Muang-yam, a leading farm leader who was assassinated on July 1st, 1979. The assassination was politically motivated, aiming to stop the movement of the Thai peasantry. (see details on page 7)

Besides giving financial aid to the family, CGRS has published a book in Thai 'In Memorial of Chamras Muang-yam'. The book discloses what is behind the death of Chamras Muang-yam, the assassinations and attempted assassinations of 35 Thai farm leaders since 1974, the history

* The Peace Relations Group was established after a Non-violent Training Seminar held by CGRS in May 1978. The founding members of the groups were the participants of the seminar,

** Prince Rapee is known as the Father of Law in Thailand. For many years, on August 7th, the day he died, Law students of all law colleges jointly held an exhibition on legal problems in Thailand.

of the Thai peasantry's movement including the establishment and development of the Farmer's Federation of Thailand, and the land problem in Thailand.

CGRS expects to held a religious ceremony for Chamras some time in October 1979, 100 days after his death, and expects to invite his family and all concerned people, including the government authorities, to the ceremony. We also urge our overseas friends to take some action on the case. (See page 10)

Statement Urging for the Abolition of Unjust Laws

On August 7th, 1979 (Rapee's Day), CGRS together with the Union for Civil Liberty, the Law Students' Committee of Thammasat, Chulalongkorn and Ramkhamhaeng universities and Turakitbundit College, jointly made a statement urging for the abolition of unjust laws, namely the NARC Decree 1, 8, 14, 24, 42 and the Anti Communist Activities Act.

Assisting Thai Rung's Workers in their Struggle

We have reported in HRTR May-June 1979 the long and courageous struggle of the workers in Thai Rung Union Car Company. 400 workers staged a strike on May 7 and later on May 11, 257 strikers were fired from their work. The strike continued, but on May 21, two hundred policemen arrested 170 workers who were later released on bail. The released workers continued with their strike...

On July 17, 1979 the Labour Relations Committee settled the disputes. The result has turned out that the workers were wrong, and 121 workers were to be fired from their work.

The workers felt that the judgement was unjust, and have continued with the protest, except for a few of them who found new jobs.

The long drawn arguement and strike have caused a lot of problems to the workers. Apart from giving urgent aid to some workers who have serious problems, CGRS also assisted the workers with legal problems and assisted them to lodge for compensation at the court after they have been expelled from work unjustly. In addition, CGRS has assisted the workers with the publishing of a book on their struggle. The book is wholly written by the workers.