

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND REPORT

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CGRS Activities

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Human Rights Situation

October 1986 - June 1987 was a period of execution of the new government led by the same Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanond with his 5th cabinet. Political conflicts and confusions as ever were gradually increasing among the coalition parties, within each parties and between the military and politicians while the popularity of the Prime Minister diminished. Rumours of the houses resolution and the cabinet reshuffle dominated the political atmosphere. Amidst these confusions alternatives were suggested to strengthen the power of the army. It was in such a situation that human rights have been critically violated. The long rooted problems of land disputes and eviction of farmers, slum dwellers especially in Bangkok, the lay-off, harassment and even assassination of workers, reporters or people who struggle for justice as well as the violation of detainees' rights, prisoners and the misuse of power are still prevailing in the central region as well as in other localities and were even more intensive. Moreover, the new Press Bill which proposed to abolish the extensive power of the Press officers (namely the Director General of the Police Department and the Provincial governors) was rejected. Freedom of the Press was also limited and news or reports which might be detrimental to the good images of the government were prohibited. On the other hand media owned by the government e.g. radio channels of the government or of the military became important mechanism in proposing government's and the military's views to the people during critical events.

Several important political events had occurred which deeply cut into the hearts of the people and politicians who would like to see the development of democracy and respect for freedom of expression. One of them was the threat of about 300 rangers who tried to force the gate to get into the house of M.R. Kurit Pramoj a former Thai prime minister (1975-1976) on April 5, 1987. They were angry at the criticisms by M.R. Kurit of the similarity of the reorganization coun-



The struggle at the gate of the residence of M.R. Kurit between the rangers and the policemen.

tering communism in Thailand and that of Communist society, thus accusing the Commander of the Thai Royal Army (TRA) General Chavalit Yongchaiyuth, who has initiated such a reorganizing (of the Internal Security of Command (ISOC), of being communists. Though no violence occurred and the incident ended with the intervening of a group of soldiers and Kurit's statement expressing his sorrow of his criticism which had affected others' feeling and his carefulness of the future opinion. Several factions both in the government and the public general opposed strongly this event which showed the aggressiveness of the military.

One of the opposition leaders requested an urgent investigation of the government into the matter. Several asked in what way these para-military men came out of their battalions and why they were not punished.

Apart from this event two bombs were thrown at the fence of one of the opposition leaders-Samak Suntharavej on March 12, and at the Daily Mirror's office which also belonged to Samak on May 29. Both events were believed to be due to

Samak's critics on Prem's execution and the military's battling with Vietnamese at Chong Bok Pass, Ubonrajathani, the border areas of Thailand and Kampuchea. Samak charged that both events were created by the military who supported the Prime Minister, Prem.

However, the killing of the no confidence debate by the withdrawal of 15 MPs of the opposition was worse. These MPs were lobbied to withdraw from the debate thus shortening the voices of the opposition requesting for the debate for one voice and made the debate impossible. This event was regarded as one of the blind spots in Thai politics.

It can be said that apart from the conflicts within the parties and between the parties; the main political conflicts were from the powerfulness of the military interfering in the political system. Opposition to the no-confidence debate was well known with in the military men.

One of the important movement of

the military during the past months was the restructuring of ISOC by emphasizing ISOC as a policy-making, coordinating and budget-determining agency rather than the former operational agency. The plan also emphasized the cooperation of the civil section by coordinating political parties, civilian bureaucrats and the grassroots e.g. farmers, workers and the masses into the framework of the ISOC Secretariat which would be chaired by the Prime Minister and not the Commander-in-Chief as before. It would be organized in a coordination committee stressing the political aspects of the anti-insurgency struggle. Its manpower and budget would also be reduced to be a smaller but more effective organization. Its aims was to further weaken the military affairs and the front activities which is still believed by the army to be active especially in the towns. His believe was proved by military's operations of which 18 communist members and executives were arrested in Bangkok and in a nearby province between April 21-22, 1987.

Moreover, by strongly criticized the present political system of being more commercialized than democratic and that the politicians and the political parties of being able to be interfered by communism, the army by its Commander justified that it had the role to protect the legal government. He thus raised the issue that the army had never said that it would not stage any revolution. If it is necessary the army would stage a peaceful revolution which, according to him, is in the sense of altering for change or social revolution and not just a coup de' tat with the popular consent. His opinion was responded by the movement of the 'Revolutionary Council' declaring themselves on April 28, 1987. Though the army denied any involvement especially the role of its commander with the Revolutionary Council, the group who organized the meeting said that they supported the idea of the peaceful revolution. It later became clear that a group of 'democratic' soldiers whose strategy of fighting against communism is that of political operations leading military ones became supporters of the council. It, however, with its proposal of consisting of representatives from all walks of life has raised the question of how to prove that these representatives be actual ones and who can guarantee that the council would not become a dictatorial one by its acquainted representatives.

Its unclear proposals and strategies including the unreliable personnel in the group (a number of them are unsuccessful politicians) led to the criticism that it was a joking council. Another attempt of proposing a suitable political system was the proposal of changing the constitution by

separating the execution and the legislation suggested by groups of politicians. At the same time some politicians proposed proportional representatives. It was wellknown that some leading military men supported these ideas. All the movement of the army, thus, directed to the control or supervise more and more the Parliament by providing a structure of assimilating the power of the army into the parliament. (Phongpheng Saguntapai, Discussion on "Crossroad of Thai Democracy" at Chulalongkorn University on April 1, 1987)

Amidst those struggle for power and a finding of a suitable political system, basic rights of the people were critically violated; they faced different fate or even assassination.



AN embattled Pornpit being escorted into a police car after her failed suicide attempt in front of Government House.

In the countryside farmers have faced evacuation and land disputes in various areas. Nakhon Sawan is the province with frequent land disputes. Apart from the case we have reported of the conflicts between the villagers of 9 districts and the third Army and the case between the villagers and the Land Development Department reported in this issue (see CGRS Activities) another case has been dragging for years. This case led by a persistent protester *Pornpit Muensri* who used to stage a lone marathon protest with her buffalo for 3 years in front of the Government House and was only went back home in September last year. She came back again this June when the disputes between her farmland and others' in the area of Nuang Bua district or Thung Kao Phra of about 24,000 rai (2.5 rai = 1 acre) were to be seized for the public pasture by the local authorities could not be settled

in March. This time on June 9, 1987 she attempted suicide by setting herself ablaze in front of the Government House. After unsuccessful attempt which was interfered by the police she was arrested on charges of resisting police arrest and attempting to damage other's property. She was also claimed to be a mentally-ill person and was sent to a mental hospital to be checked for a month.

In Phitsanulok some 130 families also came to air their grievances in front of the Government House and called for help from the Government in April this year. They were from Tambon Chompoo, Nern Maprang District of Pitsanulok who had moved into the areas at the request of the Government over 10 year ago to act as a

buffer to neutralise the communist influence. But now that the area has been cleared of communist influence, they have suddenly become intruders and are driven off the land. The 130 families were the remaining of 189 families who did not know where to go.

The fifth case involves 200 families in Tambon Sri Khirimat, Sri Khirimat district, Sukhothai province whose land has been appropriated for the construction of a reservoir by the Irrigation Department.

The farmers have travelled to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ask to be resettled in a third country since they said they have no other way out of their predicament. They even went as far as to lie down in front of tractors and graders in an effort to prevent progress on the project.

Another problem was that the Irrigation Department still has not compensated,



Farmers from Nakornsawan and Pitsanuloke complained of land disputes at the Commander-in-Chief of the Thai Royal Army's residence.

them for the loss of their land and crop. In addition, people already settled on land being reassigned for the 200 families are opposing the resettlement plan.

Another case which is causing great pain to people who are already well-settled with a good income concerns four villages in Cha-am District which covers 1,600-22,000 rai of land on which some 1,400 families are growing pineapple to supply to four nearby canning factories.

The dispute arose over a claim by authorities that the land in this area was Crown Property, located within the Maruekathaiwan Palace under the Royal Command issued on May 17, 1923.

Border Patrol Police (BPP) based at the Rama VI Camp in Cha-am District and responsible for the project said it was a Royal project aimed at allocating land for local people to cultivate called the Huay Sai Education and Development Centre.

Since 1983 BPP officers have put up demarcation posts to stop people from cultivating the land or building houses in the area. They have arrested on trespassing charges anyone who entered the vicinity and sent in tractors to destroy crops cultivated by villagers.

In the town especially in Bangkok, as much as 200,000 slum dwellers will face evacuation. For example, the area of slums at Suthisarn Soi 10, Bang Na which belonged to private owners were planned to be developed; several more e.g. slums in Phra Khanong, slum behind Ban Pitsanuloke and many others along Klong Premprachakorn, Klong Lad Phroa and Klong Bang Sue located near the canals

are going to be moved to pass the way for the improvement of the Bangkok Metropolitan Authorities sewage and drainage system. These poor people are going to face evacuation as the result of the city's development. They will have to move to the suburb where they have to pay extra for communication and work will not be easily found. A lot of them face law suit, some were arrested. At Bang Na slum on Jan. 21, Mr. Subin Huanthin, 21, and Mr. Wichien Suwanakul, 30, were arrested on charge of trespassing the land. In the Rashadaphisek slum as of Sep. 30, 1986, 19 persons including 8 adults and 11 children were arrested and 14 cases were on trial. In this case after a fortnight of protest in front of the Ministry of Communication, on June 8, 1987 Mr. Udom Trisamut had tried to set himself ablaze to protest against the indifference of the Minister to settle the dispute. (See more details "Shelters for the

Homeless : The Plight for development").

In October, 1986 the workers succeeded in struggling for their new minimum wage after two years' freezing which would be a rise of [three baht per day] from 70 to 73 baht (nearly US\$3) per day in Bangkok and adjacent cities and southern provinces (Ranong, Phan-aga and Phuket) and 2 baht from 65 to 67 baht (US\$2.85) for big-cities i.e. Choburi Saraburi, Nakornrachasima and Chiangmai and from 59 to 61 baht (US\$2.55) for the rest of the country.

The wage only effective as of April 1, 1987 has been questioned of its effectiveness.

A large number of workers also faced lay-off e.g. the Si Khiew Jute Mill in Nakornrachasima, the 400 textile workers of Srikoa Weaving Industry Co. in Samut Sakorn and Samaggi Textile Co. in Samutprakarn were dismissed during the negotiation after the submit of their yearly demands for fringe benefits. They also work and stay under bad conditions and inadequate safety for life. For example, 19 workers and their families in a leather factory in Samut Prakarn province were reported in February this year of being burnt to death in a fire in the quarters where they slept. Moreover, the obstructions of the labour unions' activities by various kinds of strategies including injuring and assassination are still happening.

An assassination of a worker, Mr. Yod Plaeksawat, 31, vice president of the bleaching of leather factory labour union in Samut Prakarn occurred on March 21, 1987 when he was shot dead on the spot while the labour union disputes of which he was the leader was still in process. The labour union had submitted demands on minimum wage adjustment and welfare according to the law on Nov. 13, 1986.



During the negotiation the employers had lifted several kinds of welfare e.g. dormitory, free rice and closed work for those involved in the demands. Later in January 1987, the employees led by Mr. Yod protested against the judgement of the dispute commenting on its facts and legal aspects. In March the employees also submitted a letter to the provincial labour officer informing him of the employers' performances which were against the law. On March 17, 1987 Yod received a legal issue of which the employers accused him of taking his leave without asking for permission and asked the labour court that they would not employ him any further. However, four days later he was shot dead on his way to ask for permission to go for the election of the representatives of workers in the triparties.

Regarding the aspect of freedom of expression reporters still face harassment. On March 16, a reporter, Mr. Vishnu Cholitakul, of the *Nation's Review* was hit on his head twice in the Ministry of Commerce's compound by an unidentified young man armed with stick. However, after the investigation, he was informed by the police that the case did not have enough information. The National Administrative Reform Council (NARC) order No.42, an extensive law, has still been in use and had exercised its power on banning the *Khao Sod* Daily Newspaper on March 6, 1987 on charge of threatening the public order and good morals which violated NARC No.42 and the editor was withdrawn of his license indefinitely. A head line in March 6 edition of *Khao Sod* accused PM Prem of lacking etiquette for involving the monarchical

institution in politics. This was accused of being contemptuous and damaging to the government. The new Press Bill with its proposal of abolishing this order, however, was rejected in the Upper House on June 5, confirming the power of the Press Officer in withdrawing or stopping the license of any editor whose news is considered detrimental to the national security, public peace and moral. Moreover, the Press Officer can check and censor news in case of emergency. The reason given is that the Press council proposed by the new Press Bill is not an administrative court and should not have the authority to consider such governmental performances. On June 9, 1987 president of the Federation of Reporters of Thailand submitted an open letter to protest state its points: firstly it supported the Press Bill proposed by the House of Representatives which would abolish some of the acts and Announcements opposing democratic principles. Secondly, it protested against the publishing of newspaper run by the government and which will not have to be under this new Bill; the power of the officers by the policy of "national security" which can suppress the popular freedom in any forms; the infinity withdrawing of license of any editor by Press Officers; the changing of news by "government offices involved" will provide much power to any government offices; the consorship of the Director General of the Police Department in case of emergency will be a seize of power of the military and other agencies under martial law and other acts. Regarding detainees' right, in the procedures of investigation

in Thailand, it was not so astonishing to learn that Mr. Samai Sritanyarat was arrested and charged on suspicion of killing a bar girl in the third week of February, 1987. The police only believed that he was innocent after the real criminal admitted his crime. In another case, a robbery suspect, Bunlert Hempala, 38, who failed an escape from the Criminal Court on Nov. 7, 1986 was reported to have committed suicide at Bang Kwang maximum security prison on Nov. 9, 1986. He was reported to have hung himself to death in his solitary cell by using a one-metre long rope attached to his shackle. The alleged nature of his death was, however, doubtful to several, including MPs.

In early March, 1987 it was sad to learn that Mrs. Vimol Phienthamdee, one of the political detainees on Communists charges whose case was defended by CGRS died behind bar after more than 6 years' imprisonment. During this time she struggled to be released on bail in order to have her eyes cured but failed. One of her eyes was thus taken out.

Up-country reports and investigations informed us of several cases of people struggling for justice who were murdered including Phra Charoon Buparatananang, Khru (Guru or teacher) Sawang Harnbang and Sombat Na Sunthorn etc. (See more details in "Human rights from upcountry report") An NGO worker in Kalasin, Bannong Khayotha, was also searched and interrogated at the provincial police station in January, 1987. Several other innocents were also harassed and killed by government officers e.g. 2 farmers were shot dead by 2 drunk policemen in Chachoengsao, a young man in Phichit province was burnt to death by police etc. (See "Misuse of government power" *News from Thailand*).

A few good signs did occurred during this period e.g. a tougher anti-prostitution Bill which will impose heavier penalties on brothel owners and procurers was approved by the Cabinet in November, 1986 and the urgent order of Minister of Interior issued on Feb. 27, 1987 warning the police not to misuse power during investigation. (this is due to the case of Mr. Samai Sritanyarat, who was arrested by mistake) However, their enforcement and effectiveness is still in question.

Most of the happenings occurred during the past 9 months indicate that human rights violations are still very much prevailing and justice has to be struggled for in his society.



LAI-D-OFF WORKERS RALLY: About 100 workers laid off in September, 1986 by a fireworks factory in Pathum Thani Jan 7, 1987 rallied at the Army Auditorium in Theves to ask the government to help them regain their jobs.

During the past months three cases, including a monk Phra Charoon Bupharatananang in the central province of Kamphaengphet, a teacher-Khru Sawang Harnbang in the Northeastern province of Surin and Mr. Sombat Na Sunthorn in the Northern province of Chiangrai were reported of being murdered by the authorities and local influential persons. All of them are people who used to struggle for justice and the development of their communities. CGRS investigated these three cases as follows:

Monk tortured to death

Inспекторы from Muang District, Kamphaengphet province had arrested Phra Charoon, 46, the abbot of Wat Pa Phanawan, made him drunk and disrobed him. After being charged of illegally possessing a gun, drinking which was a breach in Buddhist principles, the ex-abbot was tortured to death at the police station.

To our investigation, on June 29, 1986 at 5 p.m. six persons in a police car reached Wat Pa Phanawan. They were identified as Pol Maj Somphoet Pho-amphai, Sgt. Prasert Thongdee, Sgt. Wichien Rodnin, Sgt. Somkiat Washachat from police station of Muang District and a monk-Phra Wimon Thamakorn the abbot of Wat Ban Rai. The visiting abbot had knocked at the door of Phra Charoon saying that he was a monk from Wat

Ban Rai and would like to visit him as well as stay overnight. As soon as Phra Charoon opened the door of his room, police rushed in and closed the door. Witnesses of the event reported that they overheard very noisy sound as if someone had fallen from his bed and the shouting of Phra Charoon: "Don't hurt me; don't hurt me". Afterwards the police poured a bottle of liquor bought by a boy who shared a room in the same house with Phra Charoon through his month till Phra Charoon got drunk and was going to be dragged out of his room. But Phra Charoon tried to resist by holding a house pole saying "I won't go; I won't go." But he couldn't resist the force and was taken out to somewhere for 5 hours before he was taken to Wat Ku Yang, Nai Muang sub-district, Muang district, Kamphaengphet to be disrobed by the provincial head of monks who gave him 200 baht and asked the police not to hurt him anymore. If he had done any wrong the monk asked the police to deal with him legally. Afterwards the police took the exabbot to the police station where a police there reported that the exabbot was beaten in an air-conditioned room, then locked in a room till he died in the early morning of the following day (at 05.15 a.m. June 30, 1987).

The autopsy of the corpse by doctors from the provincial hospital documented that the lower end of the breastbone marked with bruises, the stomach was torn for 3 cms. and his abdominal cavity contained 2,000-3,000 cc. of blood.

It was after six months that the police came to ask the court to state that Phra Charoon died from the stomach pain during their investigation. However, the statement had to be investigated in the court first. The cause of Phra Charoon's death of taking liquor in excess which resulted to stomach pains and taring was then rejected by the court because both the personal and documental witnesses indicated suspicions. For example, the time of arrest was changed from 5 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.; the fault accusation of his behaviour of taking drinks, shooting and beating people staying in his temple. The court, on contrary, stated that Phra Charoon was beaten to death and further the report to the prosecutor.

It can be said that the arrest of the police without warrant as well as the unclear charges was illegal. They also changed and added some documents accusing Phra Charoon of always taking drinks and beating people in the temple. If this were true Phra Charoon was not to be subjected to the authorities. Because of his monkhood he had to be first under the monastic rules and investigation. Moreover, as soon as he died his corpse was cremated without informing of his relatives or ritual performances.

CGRS thus made a petition to the Prime Minister requesting for a committee to investigate the case which is now under operation. However, the group who caused Phra Charoon's death tried to make an excuse to the Prosecutor Department saying that they were persecuted by the court.

Phra Charoon's biography

Phra Charoon in his childhood used to stay in Buddhaisong district, Buriram province in the Northeast and became ordained as novice after his primary education. He studied religious studies up to the highest class. He could recite one of the sermon excellently. At Wat Pa Phanawan he conducted several activities both for religion and public interest. He taught religious studies to monks and novices and preached the villagers. He organized the digging of a big pond in front to the temple, helped build the community school, bought buffalos from the slaughterhouses for the villagers. He also lent money to poor people to develop their occupation. The main reasons of his death may derive from the fact that he came to know the secrets of the influential persons especially the incidents of the arrest of people involved in deforestation. The other reason may be that he had requested for the borrowed money from the head of the village who wouldn't like to pay back.

Human Rights from upcountry report



Murder of CGRS' network

Khru Sawang Harnbang, a representative of the Legal Aid Central and CGRS' network was murdered by local influential persons.

Khru Sawang Harnbang, one of CGRS network in Surin, a Northeastern province, was brutally murdered in the night of February 7-8 between 01.30-04.00 a.m.

On February 7 between 9.30-12.00 a.m. Khru Sawang attended a teacher meeting of Ban Ta Kong group which consisted of 7 school teachers. In the meeting among 54 teachers Khru Sawang informed the meeting that during the last two days a stranger came to his village and asked for him. He also informed about the coming legal training and invited the teachers to participate in the training.

After the meeting Khru Sawang went to Ban Kaphu, another village, to meet Mrs. Sameun Thienthat. Khru Sawang was the consultant of Mrs. Sameun on the case of her husband—Mr. Vichien Thienthat—who was shot dead by a group of local influential persons including the head of the sub-district, some policemen and village defence volunteers (vdv). In his status of an representative of the Legal Aid Centre he had given advice and asked for justice from the Minister of Interior. This led to the investigation of the head of the sub-district and policemen involved by the higher authorities from the center. Afterwards he went to have lunch in the town of Sangkha district. Three strangers came to talk to him while another waited in

a car parked in front of the restaurant. They talked to him for a while and then left. At about 9.30 p.m. Khru Sawang told one of his friend, Mr. Damkerng Thothong, that he would go to discuss the case of Mrs. Sameun's husband who was shot dead till it would be clear.

At around 1.30 a.m. people near a petrol station in the town of Songkha revealed that they saw a group of men beating a man in front of the station near a mini truck. At around 2.00 a.m. villagers of Ban Kaphu heard a man's screaming for help.

In the morning of Feb 8 Khru Sawang's corpse was found along the road between two villages namely Ban Kaperro and Ban Nong Jong Long on the way to Buachet district. Khru Sawang was shot at the forehead and his chest were stabbed. There were cuts in both of his hands. It was assumed that he fought during the murder and was killed somewhere else before his corpse was left there. After his death, teachers and villagers in Surin held demonstrations demanding for the arrest of the murderers. However after police had already collected evidences and asked for the permission from the provincial governor Mr. Saneur Mula-



sart to arrest the murderers they were not allowed to do so. This led the provincial superintendent police ask to be moved from the areas reasoning that influential persons obstructed the arrest of murderer of Khru Sawang case. Moreover, not long after the demonstration witnesses of the incidents were hit by cars.

CGRS asked to meet the Director General of the Police Department twice and discussed the case on May 5, and 28, 1987 requesting the police to investigate



the case and arrest the murderers and influential persons. We also requested for measures to protect the witnesses and people who participated in the demonstration. To our disappointment none has been arrested despite the fact that it is wellknown among teachers and people in Sangkha district who are the murderers.

Khru Sawang Harnbang's biography

Khru Sawang Harnbang, 31, was a teacher in Thakerng School in Takong sub-district, Sangkha district, Surin. He had 3 children and led a simple life. He had good human relationship, was a trustful person, strongminded and always helped protect public interest especially civil rights' aspects.

He was anonymously voted to be one of the primary education committee members of the district. He had initiated lunch project for poor students and launched fund raising for the project. He also helped organize self-reliance farmers group, rice-bank, credit union and consumer cooperatives as well as promoted legal information to the people.

He resigned from his teaching career in June last year to be nominated in the recent election of the last July. After his failure he returned to continue his former career.

The important role before his death was of being a consultant to Mrs. Sameun's husband case who was shot dead at home by the local influential persons.

Since his family leads an economical life and with 3 children Mrs. Ladda might have difficult times, CGRS launched a fund raising campaign for her children's educational funds. If the readers would like to join our campaign, you're warmly welcome.

Please send your contribution to CGRS by our office address.



The assassination of Mr. Sombat Na Sunthorn

Mr. Sombat Na Sunthorn was brutally shot dead by a group of murderers dressed in soldier uniforms using battle firearms opposite a police kiosk at the Golden Triangle of Chiengrai, a northern province.

On April 17, 1987 which was still during Songkran Festival (the local new year festival) of the northern of Thailand the restaurant and guesthouse belonged to Mr. Sombat and his brother in Ban Sob Ruek in the area of the Golden Triangle, Chiengsaen district in Chiengrai province was thus crowded by both Thai and foreign tourists. They came to watch the boat racing along Maekhong river which was the boarder of Thailand, Laos and Burma. Around 3.00 p.m. an officer of the Internal Security Operation Command (ISOC) and an ex-defector came to the restaurant and discussed with Sombat for about half an hour during which Sombat provided them with food and drinks. After the two went back Sombat told his brother that he and his family would like to go back home in Phan district because his children were not so well. But his elder brother asked him to wait until their work in the restaurant and the account was cleared. Sombat agreed and went out to take pictures in front of the restaurant. It was at this moment i.e. about 3.45 p.m. that a group of more than 10 persons dressed in soldier uniforms with black scarfs reached the restaurant in a six-wheel truck behind Sombat. Five of them standing on the truck fired at Sombat with their battle firearms i.e. M16, Arga etc, till



Sombat who tried to run away fell down. One of them then jumped from the truck and shot at him till he died at the spot. The gang of murderers then asked for Sombat's wife; shot into the sky and left. The incident occurred in front of a big crowd in the restaurant and in the area nearby as well as in front of a policeman in the kiosk who did not try to do anything to stop the murder.

After Sombat's death another group of strangers came to ask for autopsy of his corpse but were refused by his relative.

It can be said that the murder had been planned before hand. For example, officers were sent to check the situation before the incident. The policeman who was friendly to him was moved from the kiosk in front of his restaurant to carry his duty in the town; the new policeman was inactive during the incident and not even sent any message to friends on duty in town to stop the murderers. If he had sent the message the gang would have been easily arrested since there was only

one way back to town which would have pass the police station of Chiengsaen district. He only came to see Sombat's body and say sorry for the incident.

From the investigation it is believed that this is a political murder for he was an ex-defector who used to join the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT). He surrendered to the authorities after the government amnesty and the Order of the Prime Minister No. 66/(B.E.) 2523 was issued in 1982. This order citing political strategy leading military one encouraged numerous of people who went to join CPT after the October 6 blood bath in 1976 to come out and surrender to the authorities. Sombat often reported himself to the authorities according to the regulations and supported the government in the development and defence activities. For example, he was the chairman of the self defence in the Voluntary Self Defence Committee in his home village of Nong Phak Jik, Phan district, Chiengrai province. Despite this fact he might not be trust worthy to the authorities. Such fate also occurred to several defectors who after their surrender were assassinated and police have never been able to arrest any murderer. It is reported that another 7 defectors of the same village as Sombat are on the black list of death.

Sombat Na Sunthorn's biography

Mr. Sombat Na Sunthorn, 35, married to Mrs. Sula, had 2 children. After his graduation from a technical college in Chiangmai, another province, specialised in machanics he went to start working in Bangkok. During his stay in Bangkok he used to join the democratic movement demanding for the constitution in the incident of October 14, 1973. Later he went back to his home village in Phan district, Chiengrai and opened a repair service garage. He also organized a youth group to help develop their village. Moreover, he was one of the leaders who struggled for justice of farmers in Chiengrai province. When the October 6 blood bath in 1976 occurred he joined the armed struggle of CPT in his village and the areas nearby. In 1982, he surrendered to the authorities; went back home with the youth group and led a normal life with his wife and children raising pigs and fishes. He later was employed by a company for wood cutting. Afterwards he ran his own wood cutting business in another province but failed in the business. He had just started his restaurant and guesthouse in Ban Sob Ruek with one of his elder brothers.

Special Reports

Jaroen Campeerapap

Human Rights movement in higher educational institutes.

It is difficult to say that the ideology of human rights or rights of freedom first happened in any one place. It is too easy to jump to the conclusion that the ideology came from the West. People in any place try to obtain their absolute status either in their rights of freedom or in other aspects. Human beings of every society of every time have had a human rights ideology. Their level of ideology depended on the conditions and opportunity for the exercising of power by the rulers and the ruled of each society.

In the case of Thailand, a country in the Orient, this ideology was related to religious beliefs, especially Buddhism which has been the main religion of Thai people.

The ideology of the rights of freedom increasingly appeared after the changing of the ruling system in Thailand from absolute monarchy to the so-called "democracy" in 1932. It was actively mentioned after the uprising of the students and the mass of the October 14, 1973. However it was obstructed again since the October 6 blood bath in 1976. Like elsewhere dictatorship could not stop the demand for human rights. The discussion of human rights has again gradually increased. Apart from political rights, economic rights and rights of development have been gaining momentum. This can be seen in the past decade in the growing number of various NGOs which deal with child labour, child rights, women's right, shelters for slum dwellers rural development etc. People involved in human rights are not only human rights workers, lawyers, students, etc. intellectuals also take parts in the movement. The higher educational institutions have also attempted to expand the ideology as follows:

1. Research on development of human rights in Thailand

This project under Prof. Saneh Jamarik of the Thai Khadi Research Institute (Institute of Thai Studies), Thammasart University, started in 1980 as an attempt to study basic conditions of Thai society in social economic, political and cultural aspects in relation to human rights. It aimed to indicate the relationship of

each human rights problem. For example, the first part of this volume discussed cultural and institutional aspects, values and ideology, relationship between people and the state, and the effects of modern changes e.g. economic changes and human rights in Thailand, human rights and the development of Thai laws, development of the constitutions in legal and political aspects. The second part discussed the rights of several groups of people in social and legal aspects e.g. human rights and

juridical processes; human rights and employees in Thailand; human rights and youth; communication rights in Thailand; rights of consumers; rights of slum dwellers etc.

This research on "development of human rights in Thailand" may not cover all of the human rights problems due to time constraints. It is an attempt to indicate the main characteristics and varieties within the development of human rights processes which would be the basic guidelines for further studies in more complete aspects. It is especially useful for concerned groups who campaign on human rights issues.

2. Seminars on "Human Rights: Theories and practice in Thai society" and "Social Studies for development: Human Rights in Thailand"

These two seminars were continuing programmes of the Thai Studies Institute and the Promotion on Education and Social Service Office of Thammasart University in December 1986 and February 1987.

The objectives of the first seminar are to study the visions of human rights of human rights workers and human rights organizations in Thai society. Three groups were selected to be samples of the study i.e. CGRS, Thongbai Thaongpao Law Office and the religious aspects by Phra Pracha Phasannathammo.

Jaroen Campeerapap of CGRS presented his research from the study of CGRS activities in the past decade (1976-1986) in both seminars.

From the study, human rights situation of Thai citizen is still unstable. Despite many laws, acts and announcements which, in theory, try to protect the rights of Thai citizen, in practice problem of effective enforcement prevails.

This resulted in various kinds of violation e.g. torture of the suspects and detainees, the evacuation of people etc. Moreover, in the past decade several announcements and laws violating rights and freedom of people were issued after the revolutions. For example, arrest and the detention without juridical processes, and some kinds of cases are under the military court and the defendants have no rights to appeal. The cause of such situation is due to the guaranteed system of the rights of people i.e. the statements of the protection of the rights of Thai people in the Constitution identified that it is under other secondary laws.

His study of CGRS' activities indicates CGRS has given individual rights high priority. CGRS' visions on human rights are that of both religious principles of love, sharing and peace as well as juridical justice. The work of Thongbai Thongpao and his law office has been inspired by his experiences of unjust treatment under dictatorship, i.e. 8 years of imprisonment under Anti-Communist Act. B.E. 2495. Realizing of the numerous unjust and old fashion laws which are undemocratic as well as the misuse of power by government officers he, thus, has had the strong intention to help people from all walks of life who face unjust legal charges with only minimum and necessary expenses. Apart from juridical principles of justice, righteousness and benefits of the clients as well as compromising he also has religious principles of love and generosity as well as non-violent struggle and Buddha's teaching—winning evils by goodness—in dealing with his work.

He has long been successful in defending numerous political cases as well as other unjust cases of workers, farmers, and slum dwellers. Providing legal advices; giving public speeches and legal training as well as writing are, to Thongbai, means to help and raise public's awareness of their rights.



3. National seminar on Teaching of Human Rights organized by The Education Promotion and Social Service, Thammasart University on March 20, 1987

This seminar was a brain storming of educators on human rights, human rights workers as well as lecturers on human rights in various educational institutions. It intended to provide an opportunity for sharing experiences, knowledge as well as other related problems in order to expand the understanding and information of human rights. The education of human rights for people since their childhood to adult would provide an opportunity for them to be interested in human rights. They would learn to understand the human rights ideology and study the related conditions affected by human rights. This would be a systematic process to promote the respect of human rights and the living of human being together in pride through education.

4. Seminar on "Human Rights and People's Rights in Thailand" organized by Faculty of Sociology and Anthropology, Thammasart University on June 1-2 1987

Due to problems of different interpretation of human rights especially the version of the West and the developing countries a movement has proposed the principles of people's rights with the belief that these will be principles which can protect more appropriately the rights of people.

This seminar was thus organized to discuss the people's rights in the Thai context appropriated to our society. It is a progressive sign in which the trend to define and interpret human rights has been widely interested.

Though the answer in our Thai aspect was not so clear new issues related to the topic came out of the seminar e.g. rights of people in public welfare services.

Forums of various discussion about "human rights" mentioned above are attempts of academicians, human rights workers and lecturers in higher educational institutes especially from Thammasart University to encourage people to be more interested in human rights issues and to find the appropriate context in the East especially in Thai society and its traditional beliefs e.g. Buddhism etc.

Shelters for the Homeless The plight of development

The development of the modern sectors in Bangkok has become a plight for the survival of the slum dwellers. It has been found out that more and more slum and squatter settlements will be evacuated both by the government (48.9%) and by the private owners (15%). The survey conducted by School of Urban Community Research and Actions⁽¹⁾ in 1985 came out with 1,020 slums and squatter settlements with about 1 million population or about 20% of the population in Bangkok. Out of this number 269 slum and squatter settlements with population of 254,260 will be evicted, or 25% of the slum population. The National Housing Authority (NHA) survey by the end of 1986 revealed that out of 273 squatter settlements (with about 50,000 households) 193 settlements or two-third of them with about 36,000 households and about 200,000 dwellers will face critical crisis of eviction. The Committee for studying the investment plan for shelter development and solving the slum problems in Bangkok Metropolitan (set by the Committee on development of Bangkok Metropolitan and the adjacent areas of the government) revealed that the number of eviction was 90 settlements. Within this number 33 settlements will be evicted for commercial reasons; 19 settlements for trespassing on private land; 9 settlements for public building and the rest for government's use (e.g. building roads); trespassing government land or the



land owners would like to develop the land for other activities.

The government has not responded to the UN International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in 1987, said Khru (Teacher) Prateep Ungthongtham Hatta, slum angel who is the leader of the struggle of the Klong Toey settlements-the biggest one-for years.

We thus will examine the situation of evicted settlements and present a case study of Rashadaphisek dwellers' struggle.

Background information

Since the implementation of development plans for nearly three decades (the first plan was first implemented in 1958) emphasizing the economic growth and the development of industrialization, the use of land has been accelerated for commercial investment. It has been found out that the use of land in Bangkok was mostly in the private sector, investment and various kinds of construction.

This affected greatly the low income group of Bangkokians. Various communities of this group were expelled from the centre of the city or potential business areas where commercial buildings and businesses were going to develop (mostly for shopping centres, banking offices etc.) Government also expanded its offices. However, no policy and implementation of land use has ever issued to direct the development of the city, though two plans for land use in Bangkok were developed in 1960 and 1969. The use of land has thus been under pressure of investment and development regardless of the disadvantageous and low income groups. They increasingly become "uninvited guests" who have to be abolished from the city.



Though settlements are located on private owned land (64%) more than state own land (31%) most of the evicted settlements are on the latter. This is due to the vast areas of state own land which have often not been looked after, or to the government offices which own the land and do not have exact plan of land use.

In the past two decades and especially in the last one they drastically faced eviction. Statistics of the NHA Show that

Year	Settlements	Case
1977	250	84 settlements were facing eviction
1981	410	30 settlements had already been evicted
		54 settlements were facing eviction
1982	410	39 settlements had already been evicted
		90 settlements were facing eviction
1983	450	62 settlements had already been evicted
		84 settlements were facing eviction
		11 settlements would be evicted
		5 settlements which were physically improved by NHA were evicted
		6 settlements were under negotiation
		7 settlements disputes could be settled

Source: Prapaphat Niyom, 1984 Situation and Numbers of settlement Evicted in Bangkok 1983 Article presented in the seminar :The Right to Stay: The Poor the Land and the Law in Asia Cities 20-26 January 1984, Bangkok Thailand.

Government policy and approach and the struggle against eviction.

To Somphong Phatpui, while the first priority of government's policy is to abolish slum and squatter settlements (viewing them as unwanted communities of criminals, drug addicts, ones who do not pay respect to the law and the cleanliness of the city. Their aim is to) replace them with flats. The social welfare and development approach is used when the first priority has been unsuccessful.

On the otherhand, the strategy of the land owners for eviction (either private ones or ones who rent the land from government agencies) was to pressure the dwellers as much as possible. For example, they will not allow the improvement of the facilities within the communities e.g. water drainage system, electricity and water supply or the improvement of the houses; they will inform of the dismantling asking the police to take them to court (on both criminal and commercial cases). Sometimes the dwellers did not receive any payments for damages but they would also be charged by the owners for compensation and the loss of opportunity. The most

serious strategy was to set ablaze the communities. To a few private owners, they would sometimes sell some parts of their land to the dwellers or asked them to move to parts of land which would not be developed or allowed them to stay for sometime and paid the rent.

To these dwellers eviction is the most threatening problem, though they also face several other basic ones ranging from employment, inadequate income

(their average income is only 3,000 B or US \$ 120 a month which is one time below the average income of the Bangkokians). The lack of facilities i.e. the drainage system, water and electricity supply; these supplies if being bought from neighbour who managed to have it would cost 6 times and 3 times respectively the standard expenses), the lack of house registration and thus the lack of education of their children. Their strategies when facing eviction problems were to get organized, elect community's committee members to develop the communities in various aspects e.g. developing the environment, organizing community's school etc. They would also coordinate with other settlements; contact politicians, military men, bureaucrats, lawyers etc. The last measure they would do is to submit a petition to the King or other members of the Royal Family.

The trend

Though attempts to solve the problems have been implemented in the past by both GOs (NHA), several social welfare agencies, the Thai Royal Army and the Ministry of Interior also took parts for security reasons to organize mass movement e.g. village scouts; Thai volunteers for National defence etc.) and NGOs; the main problem these dwellers have faced is that there is no clear policy of the government in solving the problems and no real agency to deal with them. (NHA who used to deal with the problems for more than two decades has been reduced by its,



budget and roles in 1986. The main agency will be the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority (BMA) which will decentralize its responsibilities to the 24 district offices in Bangkok.) The settlement leaders, NGOs officers and individuals concerning the problems during the seminar held by NHA on 6 March, 1987 further voiced their opinion as follows: Government and several state offices seem to give the priority to the development of their lands commercially (by private sector) rather than tackling the problems of the homeless e.g. the Ministry of Communications preferred to rent the land (which had earlier called from the citizen) of the State Railway of Thailand to a private investor (the case of Rachaphisek settlements which will be further elaborated). Moreover, while the settlement problems did not get enough attention and cooperation from the government agencies and government officials; on the contrary, the dwellers are unjustly treated by them. They also lack the opportunities to get service and development.

In the Sixth Five Year National Economic and Social Development Plan (1988-1993) slum and squatter settlement problems will be one of the three urgent problems dealt by the Committee on development of Bangkok Metropolitan and the adjacent areas. The Committee's policy will emphasize the cooperation of all government agencies including NGOs in order to provide shelters, land and development of public utilities, social service and occupation. However, considering that it will emphasize the providing of new shelters and the limitation of the expansion of slum and squatter communities as well as the improvement of Bangkok Metropolitan drainage system to

prevent flood which will affect 13 settlements of 10,000 households and about 50,000 population along 3 suburban canals, the situation of eviction will have been even more intensified. This is due to the limitation of policy, budget and operation. For example, the new policy of NHA of providing new shelters with loans of 12% interest and a duration of 5 years payment will not be realistic for most dwellers have unstable employment, inadequate income. The study of a team of researchers from University of Delft of the Netherlands on the flood prevention of BMA presents a more flexible solution of moving the settlements on the areas near the canals in order to better improve the communities with the participation of the dwellers with economized expenses. This is due to the fact that only 10% of slums can be moved because of budget constraint. The dismantling expenses of 5,000 B (US \$ 200) being paid to them is so little comparing to the real expenses and other losses effected by the eviction.

To Khru Pratheep the eviction of the settlements to the suburbs is an unrealistic one for three main reasons. Firstly most dwellers will not be able to find job there (most of them are daily workers or work in the informal sector); they will have to spend more money for travelling and accommodation which they can not afford. She proposes the land-sharing strategy and the improvement of the communities. Sopon Pornchokchai of the School of Urban Community Research and Action proposed that rented houses should be given more consideration as one of the solutions.

In all cases unless the policy and implementation of land use becomes realistic the problems of slum and squatter dwellers

will still be prevailing and even more problematic.

The Eviction of Rashadaphisek settlement

The Rashadaphisek settlement is present one of the evicted communities facing violent harassment.

The areas near a crossroad of Phracharatbompheng Road and Rashadaphisek road of 12,558 sq.m. near Huay Kwa communities was earlier demanded from the citizen the State Railway of Thailand reasoning that it would be used for activities. The squatters of 315 households and about 1,485 population occupied the land for about 10 years. 80 per cent of them are daily employees and vendors in the nearby market.

In 1982 the State Railway of Thailand asked the squatters to move out the areas in order to build a cargo port. Later on April 10, 1986 the Authority signed a contract for 2 years (1987-1988) renting of the land to Mr. Serm Suriyaphadilek with nearly 4 million baht (US \$ 174,000) of rent per year. Mr. Serm would like to construct commercial buildings for rent.

He was also authorized to evict the squatters. The first group of an electric officer, 2 policemen and 2 lawyers from the renter succeeded in their persuasion of some squatters to move to an area behind the restaurant "Na Thong" claiming that it belonged to the Authority. However, they were evicted again because





Mr. Udom Trisamut, a Rachadapisek squatter dweller who was going to set himself a blaze during the demonstration at the Ministry of Communication was helped by policemen and friends on June 8, 1987.

the land, in fact, belonged to the Crown Property Bureau. Moreover, 2 houses of those moved there were burnt down with no one knowing of the causes. After this incident no squatters would like to move. They were then threatened by the same group of representatives of the renter that 'this slum would be burnt down by only 4 containers of gasoline' the squatters then complained the case to the authorities. After the policemen were moved from the area, the pressure became even more violent. Leader of a gangster named 'In Thevada' and his followers were hired to harass the squatters together with some policemen and Mr. Serm's lawyers e.g. shooting during the dweller's meeting; injured the dwellers with knuckle-dusters. The squatters took the cases to the police but they did not take any further action except for a night imprisonment for the injuring case.

Another attempt of Mr. Serm was his request to several other officers e.g. officers from the Metropolitan Guarding Force; Mr. Sunthorn Na Songkhla, an inspector of BMA, deputies of two district officers and lawyers to negotiate with the squatters. However, with the involvement of the gangsters they were refused.

The other strategy was legal measures. The leader of the settlement, Manas Thongchan, then was arrested on charge of robbery of wood. They also seized the cash of 17,000 B (US \$ 280) for the water supply of the community. Several other squatters were also arrested on trespassing charges. However, the police operation,

was not according to the regulations. They never inspected the places of the incident, interrogated witnesses (only one witness who was a man of Mr. Serm). They did not even know the names of the arrested. Moreover, all the cases were handled by the police inspector of Suthisam Police Station. (Till September, 1986, 14 cases were on trail.)

The squatters used to air their grievances and organized petitions to the Commander of the Royal Thai Army, the Director General of the Police Department, to the Prime Minister and his secretary 2 times, but all these were in vain. They were offered 500-7,000 B for the dismantling per household and a place in Nong Jok, Minburi, an adjacent area of Bangkok. However realizing that they will face the problem of employment in the long run only a small member of them have moved out. Most of them still struggle against the eviction for their survival in the city.

The latest demonstration was staged when about 50 of them air their grievances in front of the Ministry of Communication for a fortnight between the end of May and June, 1987. They planned to discuss with the Minister but were not successful. They later contacted Khru Pratheep who in turn contacted the BMA's governor. The governor at last succeeded in requesting the Minister to discuss the matter and they were promised to be informed of the result of the authorities' consideration by September 9, 1987. They then dispersed back home. During the demonstration Mr.

Udom Trisamut who was among the squatters on trial announced his decision to set himself ablaze after two weeks had passed without any progress, but was helped by his friends. No one knows whether their proposals of the rights to rent the land of the Authority as others do would be approved or whether the Authority and the investors could provide a new piece of land for them or NHA would approve their staying on the ground-floor of the flats in Din Daeng area. To them, struggle to survive is their only choice.

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Footnote.

(1) According to this school the number of 1,020 slum and squatter settlements a figure more than double the last figure of 480 in 1984 due to the inclusion of squatter settlements and slums along the canals as well as newly discovered communities becoming clear by better techniques of bird's-eye photos.

The average in a settlement is 180.3 households. Half of them have an average of 116.5 households. The biggest settlement is Klong Toey consisting of 7,390 households (located near the Bangkok harbour). 40% of the settlements have the size of less than 50 households up to 100 households. The average age of the settlements is 25.3 years old and half of them do not exceed 20.3 years old.

News from Thailand

Surachai was saved by the King

His Majesty the King has granted clemency on Dec. 1, 1986 to Surachai Sae Dan, who will serve a life term.

Surachai, 44, a convicted communist insurgent who was arrested in 1981 and sentenced to death by the Military Court in January, 1986 after he was found guilty of murdering a police officer during a train robbery in Surat Thani in 1978. Surachai denied the charge but the verdict of the military court cannot be appealed.

He had earlier in October, 1983 been sentenced to 23 years of imprisonment for masterminding the arson at the residence of the Nakhon Si Thammarat governor during a riot in 1975.

Surachai was arrested together with Mali Sakhon and Pravut Paencharoen on June 29, 1982 while they were on their way to negotiate a ceasefire with the then governor of Surat Thani, Sanong Rodphothong. The group was



charged with sedition, Communism, and membership of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT). They were sentenced to 10 years under the Anti Communist Act B.E 2495.

These two earlier penalties were lifted for Surachai on grounds he had already been condemned. Surachai submitted an appeal to the King on March 27, 1986.

The royal command makes Surachai the first death row convict to receive royal mercy after being convicted of killing an official.

He was removed from solitary confinement at Bang Kwang maximum security prison to the Zone One-the area reserved par-

ticularly for people serving life imprisonment or on death row.

Bangkok Post 2 Dec 1986

Lawyers for Suspects

The plan of the Lawyers Association of Thailand to provide a lawyer consulting service to police stations was reported to be successful when it was implemented on a trial basis with female lawyers stationed at 2 police stations Thong Lor and Bang Sue a year ago.

The Lawyers Association of Thailand thus proposed to expand this kind of project to police

stations both in Bangkok and the provinces which was approved by the Police Chief Gen Narong Mahond on March 6, 1987.

According to the plan more female lawyers will be sent to several police stations. The project will cover a period of one year after which an evaluation of it will be made.

Bangkok World,
7 March 1987

Development workers detained

Sainawang Farmers Association (SFA) in Kalasin, a province in the Northeast, protested the local authorities on the search of its office and arrest of its chairman and workers.

On January 16, 1987 district officers and armed policemen from Police Station encircled SFA's office at no. 20 M 6, Ban Nakradow, Tambon Sainawang, Khao-wo District, Kalasin Province.

The officers showed a search warrant, aiming

at illegal objects. They could not find anything illegal in the office, and yet Mr. Bamrung Kayotha, Chairman of SFA and two unidentified workers of Tapioca feed-Pig Raising Project were escorted by the authorities to Khao-wong District office for interrogation.

A deputy chief of district, in charge of security affairs, showed his suspicion over the Tapioca Project saying that it received financial support from non-government organization (NGO) in West Germany, without informing government officers at district and province levels. The two workers were accused of working in the district without informing the authorities.

The deputy chief of district mentioned that many NGOs are threatening national security and some of these organizations recruited former Communist Party of Thailand supporters to work for them.

According to SFA, their work of improving the living standard and their traders according to the laws must have created a conflict of interest with local fertilizer traders and corrupted government officers.

About fifty members of SFA signed a petition and submitted to deputy governor of Kalasin Province on January 20, 1987. The deputy governor promised to see to it that such an incident would not

occur again in the future.

Sainawang Farmer Association hosted a group of participants of Thai-German Dialogue in December 1985. Its chairman Mr. Bamrung Kayotha attended the final consultation meeting at Bangsean as well. Tapioca Feed - Pig Raising Project emerged from the Dialogue and SFA requested some of the participants to help looking for a funding agency in West Germany to support the project.

Mr. Bamrung was a former labour union organizer who returned to his

group met with more failure than success, but nevertheless gained some valuable experience. But later on its rice bank was a success and the membership of the group rose to over 100 families. Poor farmers in the area realized the necessity of being well-organized. In May 1984, the group received official registration as the Sainawang Farmers Association.

Khao Or.Por.Chor. -
NGOs' news published by
Thai Volunteer Service,
February 28, 1987



home village in 1979. In 1980 a farmer group of 80 families attempted to apply for registration with the authorities as a farmer association. The application was turned down but about 30 member families pushed forward to form an unofficial group.

Between 1980-1982 three projects were initiated e.g. a low-price fertilizer purchase project, a fish-breeding project and a rice bank project. Initially the

Tougher anti-prostitution bill and bill on rape victims

A new anti-prostitution bill which seeks to impose heavier penalties on brothel owners and procurers was approved by the Cabinet on Nov. 4, 1986.

Under the bill, people who are found guilty of

procuring are subject to a maximum jail term of five years and a fine of up to 30,000 baht. (US\$ 1 = 25 baht) And if the practice is pursued on business basis, the jail term ranges from one to seven years and the fine is set between 6,000 to 42,000 baht.

The penalty now is three months and 1,000 baht.

Brothel owners will face imprisonment terms between two and seven years and fine ranging from 12,000 to 42,000 baht, compared to six months to three years and a fine of 6,000 - 30,000 baht under the current act.

Owners of entertainment businesses who allow sex trade in their place will face up to seven years' imprisonment and fine ranging from 6,000 to 42,000 baht.

The penalties will be doubled if these persons are found guilty of luring girls below 18 years old into prostitution.

The bill also spells out additional penalties for brothel owners or prostitution racketeers found guilty to holding women against their will for prostitution purposes. The penalty will be a jail term of three to 15 years and fine of 18,000-90,000 baht.

Those found mingling in brothels are subject to a maximum jail term of two months or fine up to 1000 baht or both. There is no penalty for this category of prostitutes in the

present legislation.

The bill also sets similar punishment terms against advertisements through the mass media which can be interpreted as the promotion of sex-for sale.

Although the bill still specifies that prostitutes who solicit in public face up to two-month imprisonment of the maximum fine of 1,000 baht while prostitution in brothel faces a three-month jail term or fine up to 1,500 baht, it proposes that the court may suspend the penalties considering their behaviour educational background, health condition, and living circumstances.

Instead, the girls may be placed under a maximum of two-year probation under the following conditions:

they must seek periodical medical treatment upon the court's instruction, or

they must receive vocational training, or

they may be prohibited from entering some specific places or banned from association with certain groups of people, or

they are required to periodically report to the authorities.

To help provide vocational training to prostitutes, the bill allows private entities to establish vocational training centres under the supervision of the Public Welfare De-



Mr. Somchai Samanphong

partment, which is an addition to the present one.

The bill, meanwhile, requires the authorities to provide temporary lodgings for the women who have completed their terms at reformatory home pending their return home or the start of their new jobs.

It also allows the director general of the Public Welfare Department to permit some of the girls under probation to work outside the vocational training centres.

It provides for hospitalization of arrested prostitutes at either state or private hospitals for medical treatment instead of confining them in houses for women.

The clauses are included in the bill on grounds that women are forced into prostitution by economic and social reasons and therefore the government should provide them assistance in order to

turn them to new vocations. It is also aimed at preventing women, especially young girls from being lured into flesh trade.

The draft bill will be furthered to the Government-Parliament Coordinating Committee before being tabled for the Parliament's deliberation in the next parliamentary session.

NATION 5 Nov 1986

Another bill concerning women's issues, that of raising the age for rape victims eligible for protection from 13 to 15 was successfully passed by the House of Representatives on April 7, 1987. The drafted law to amend the criminal code on sexual assaults and freedom was proposed by the National Committee of Women Development. This draft was meant to protect girls aged between 13-15 who are still very young and inexpe-

rienced from being lured into the sex trade. Moreover, amendment of the draft also mentioned protection of women of any age, either willing or not, who were deceived or lured into sexual assault. The present code protects only women up to 18 years of age.

BANGKOK WORLD
8 APRIL, 1987

Misuse of Government Power

• Suspects torture and killed

A. On March 17, 1987 at about 4.00 pm while Mr. Somchai Samanphong, 38, was cleaning the ground floor of his house at 116 Moo 2 Ba Klang sub-district, Sa Phatong district, Chiang Mai ten policemen in plain clothes reached his house by a minitruck, ran into his house and shot for more than 10 bullets. Mr. Somchai tried to hide himself behind the bush at the back of his house but was later arrested. After unsuccessful inquiry under force and beating the police took him to a house in Chiang Mai to be further interrogated about a murder case in Hang Dong district. When he again confirmed his innocence, he was tortured by all the policemen who hit his head

to the elbow several times. After his strong stand he was detained at the Hang Dong police station. During the MP's investigation bruises were found at the right side of his neck, his right eyes and the left side of his chest.

Somchai's relatives complained the case to an MP in Chiangmai who would further the case to the higher authorities.

THAI NEWS
22 MARCH 1987

• Farmer burnt to death

A young farmer in Phichitr province, charged of robbery was taken away from home and burnt to death.

On June 5, 1987 at 7.00 a.m. Mr. Bunreon Reun-Aeng, 20, a young farmer living at 75 Moo 5, Pho Sai-Engam Subdistrict, Pho-Thale District, Phichitr province, was arrested by 10 policemen in a police car of Banphotphisai district on charge of robbery a water pump in Banphotphisai district. After being cuffed he was taken away. His parents waited for three hours and went to Banphotphisai district police station to ask for their child. They were informed that no such arrest was conducted.

They were later informed by the head of the sub-district that their son was shot and burnt to

death along the road in another sub-district-Bung Na Rang. Bunchan, his younger sister, recognized some parts and the clothes on his body i.e. his red T-shirt.

SIAM RATH
8 JUNE 1987.
DAILY NEWS
9 JUNE 1987.

• Two workers tortured by police to confess of robbery.

Mr. Suthat Ruangsri, a teacher at Nathawee Witthayakhom School reported on June 5, 1987 that at 6.30 p.m. Lieutenant Apirat Songkoa, head of a special operation 524/2 in Songkhla, and 4 others arrested Mr. Based Paiha, 26, and Mr. Yosed Homilee 23, rubber plantation workers in Nathawee district, Songkhla province on charge of robbery and brought them to the resort of the special operation. According to Mr. Suthat, the arrested were tortured to confess the charge till they were seriously injured. This Lieutenant Apirat had been recently sentenced on charges of corruption and torturing detainees.

Mr. Suthat would submit the case to General Prachuab Suntharangkul, Minister of Interior on June 18.

SIAM RATH
18 JUNE 1987.



△ เขื่อนไทย นายบุญเรือง วันเอ็ง ถูก 10 ตำรวจ ส.อ. นราพคพิชัย ข่มขู่ปล้นชิงของ กลายเป็นศพปริศนา "ฆ่าแล้วเผา" ญาติพี่น้องไว

• Student killed instead of his brother in-law after the inquiry of the police was in vain.

On May 24, 1987 Mrs. Pranee Dawan's brother-Mr. Songchai Dawan, 18, a student at Thung Song Technical and Business Administration School, living at 275 Moo 5 Thung Song sub-district, Thung Song district, Nakornsri thamarat was arrested by about 10 policemen from Ban Nong Khla Special Operation Centre and interrogated of the whereabouts of his brother's in law who was a murderer in several cases and the police were hunting for him. After his refusal of the whereabouts of his brother-in-law he was beaten and shot dead. The corpse was found in a deep rubber plantation with a gun near the body. Mrs. Pranee

aired her grievances to the local reporter of Matichon Daily Newspaper and would petition the case to the higher authorities.

MATICHON
26 MAY 1987.

• Villager from Khantharawichai District, Mahasarakham shot and beaten by policemen in front of a Buddhist ceremony.

On February 15, 1987, Mr. Uthai Bunla, 24, a villager of Ban Makok, Khatharawichai district, Mahasarakham province who was going to enter a Buddhist ceremony in Ban Khoaw Noi in the same district was shot and beaten by 15 policemen under the command of Lieutenant

Colonel Siri Jinabun, police inspector of the district. Uthai, seriously injured was admitted in the provincial hospital and later became paralysed.

On June 16, 1987, 300 protestors from Khantharawichai and Chieng Yuen district staged a demonstration in front of the Provincial House asking for justice from the governor about the case. This is due to the indifference of Lieutenant Colonel Siri who did not prohibit policemen in his team from beating Uthai, he also did not take any action when the villagers took the case to him. Moreover, 2 witnesses were threatened not to involve themselves in the case. Mr. Phat Bunla, Uthai's father, submitted

a petition of three demands to the governor who agreed to look after the case. They were : setting an investigative committee without police from the district, transferring Lieutenant Colonel Siri and 15 other policemen involved in the incident out of the province and arresting Lieutenant Colonel and 15 others in charge of trying to kill and misuse of their duties.

MATICHON
17 JUNE 1987

• Two villagers in Nakornsrihammarat killed by policemen

In the night of February 5, Mr. Phraphan Panphol, a villager of Saisab village, Plien sub-district, Sichol district, Nakornsrihammarat, a province in the South, was shot dead by policemen led by head of the police station of Plien sub-district. Later on, Phrakob Panphol, his elder brother, was also shot dead while on his way to the provincial court to be a witness for Phraphan's case on June 13, 1989. Phrakob's death was allegedly criticized to be committed by the same groups of policemen.

5,000 villagers demonstrated in front of Sichol District Office on June 19, 1987 demanding the head of the police station of Plien sub-district and 7 others to be transferred



within 24 hours; the arrest of those policemen involved in the two cases and handed the murderers to the court within 15 days.

MATICHON
20 JUNE 1987
SIENG TAI
19-23 JUNE 1987

• Two villagers killed by drunken policemen

On June 19, 1987 a groups of 300 villagers of 3 sub-districts including head of a village and head of sub-district of Bang Nam Prieu district in Chachoengsao province in the Central region staged a demonstration and discussed with the police superintendent the case of 2 villagers in the district who were shot dead by 2 drunkard policemen of Chimpli sub-district on June 9, 1987.

The two were identified as Mr. Leu Noiwo 20, living at 33/2 Singthong sub-district, Bang Nam Prieu district and Bantheung Sudha, a friend of Mr. Leu. It was about 10.30 p.m. when two farmers went out along the main road to open a water way in the field and saw two policemen fall from the motorcycle because of being drunk. The farmers then laughed at two policemen who were angry at them and shot them dead. Afterward the two policemen called a car from the Chimpli sub-district police station to take the corpses and in Khaeng-Khoy district Saraburi province.

DAILY NEWS
20 JUNE 1987



CGRS Activities

The Coordinating Group for Religion in Society (CGRS), founded in March 1976, is an ecumenical organization consisting of Buddhist, Catholic, Protestant and Muslim Laypeople and activists. They share a common belief in non-violence and promote non-violent and religious principles as the basis for development. It has actively carried out various projects since the blood bath of October 6, 1976 concentrating on the 3 areas of human rights, religious relations and non-violence, and rural development. In the past decade CGRS had tackled a number of issues ranging from campaigns for the release of political prisoners, detainees' rights, disappearances, torture, the peace movement and organizing training on non-violence, to community projects for example a nutrition programme, a rice cooperative, and a centre of technology for rural people etc. Within the three sections CGRS is also concerned with and has carried out actions as special issues such as child labour, grassroot micro media, shelters for squatters and slum dwellers, and women's rights including campaign against sex tourism. However, in order to promote more groups concerned with human rights issues, some of these projects were encouraged to be separate and stand on their own with the help of CGRS in the beginning. At present, five projects have separated from CGRS. They are : For the Little Hungry Project (deals with nutrition programmes for children upcountry), Centre of Concern for Child Labour (CCCL), Grassroot Micro Media Project, Community Relations Group (deals with shelters for slum dwellers) and the Peace and Development Project.

As a coordinating body, CGRS plays the role of raising the public's awareness and concern for the justice and oppression that exist in society and proposing an alternative of involving religious and non-violent solutions as well as providing services to disadvantaged groups of people e.g. through legal aid and services, appropriate technology etc.

I. Human Rights Activities



1. Legal Aid and support of unjust cases

1.1 Land dispute in Nakorn Sawan province

CGRS provided legal aid and lawyers to 10 villagers in Nakorn Sawan province whose cultivated lands were damaged by the Land Department who developed the land for its Land Development Station. Both civil suit and criminal charges were launched by the villagers. However, 8 out of the 10 cases were rejected by the court of first instance claiming that the lands were owned by the state according to the Land Act of B.E 2479 (A.D. 1936) since the villagers did not possess any land titles. Two cases were still in the court of first instance.

1.2 Case of Mr. Chalaw Suk- glin and his friends

Mr. Chalaw Sukglin and other three persons were tortured to confess on charges of robbery.

They were arrested in an area near the harbour of Bangkok while they were seeking for jobs in 1986. They were tortured and were brought on air. In fact only three of them knew each other. The torture was so severe that they even asked the owners of the properties robbed to



identify them as robbers otherwise they would be more seriously tortured. They were imprisoned at Thanyaburi Prison, PrathumThani province.

1.3 Legal aid for prisoners.

1.3.1 The Case of 2 prisoners in Nakornsrithammarat

CGRS provided a lawyer to deal with the case of two prisoners namely Mr. Sawai Chaiyanuphong and Mr. Somchai Prachak, two prisoners from Thungsong Prison, Nakornsrithammarat who tried to escape in July, 1986 and were beaten to death on the following day.

In our investigation there were evidences that the necks of these 2 prisoners and their 2 friends in the same case were broken and bruises were found on their bodies.

1.3.2 The case of prisoners who allegedly created disturbance in The Bang Kwang Central Prison, Bangkok

CGRS with the cooperation of the Union for Civil Liberty and the Legal Aid Centre have provided legal aid to 290

1.4 Phra Charoon Buparatananang case

CGRS investigated the case of Phra Charoon Budparatananang, 46, who was arrested on charge of possessing arms without permission and taking liquor which is a breach of monastic discipline on June 28, 1986. He was reportedly disrobed the same evening and tortured until he died on June 29, 1986 at Muang police station, Kamphaengphet province.

An appeal of the case to the Prime Minister was organized by CGRS on March 11, 1987. CGRS also supported Phra Charoon's relatives in taking up charges against police involved.

1.5 Mr. Vichien Thienthat case

Mr. Vichien Thienthat, a farmer at Kapu village, Takong sub-district Surin province was shot dead by head of the sub-district in November, 1986. Kru Sawang had suggested Mr. Vichien's wife to air her grievances to the Minister of Interior. The case and the head of the

Sawang's wife, brother and the teacher leaders in Surin who tried to find out the murderers of Kru Sawang.

CGRS provided 1,000 baht for the cremation ceremony and support to Kru Sawang's wife and her children for 5,000 baht.

1.7 Mr. Sombat Na sunthorn case

CGRS has investigated the case of a communist defector who was shot dead at his own restaurant near the Golden Triangle at the border of Thailand, Burma and Laos in Chiengsaen District, Chieng Rai province which might be a political murder.

2. Campaign programme

2.1 Campaign on detainees' rights

CGRS with the cooperation of the Thai Inter-religious Committee for Development (TICD) organized a campaign called 'Pha Pa of kindness for detainees without relatives' on May 8, 1987.

This event is an applied tradition of the 'Pha Pa' ceremony which is a Buddhist tradition ceremony of offering robe (Faa Pa) as well as others e.g. money, medicines, other necessities for monks, building equipments (to repair the temple) etc. In this campaign the 'Pha Pa' ceremony was launched to ask for contribution and daily necessities e.g soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bathing cloth, medicines, etc. to be offered to the detainees without relatives.

The programme started in November, 1986 and ended on May 11, 1987 when 1,300 sets of daily necessities were passed from Bang Prae Tai Temple to the representatives of 1,300 detainees without relatives in the Bang Kwang Central Prison, Nonthaburi, an adjacent of Bangkok with the kind cooperation of the Director General of the Correction Department and the head of the Prison.

In the campaign letters and leaflets were distributed to prisons all over the country and heads of the courts in every province. Campaign was also launched through newspaper, 10 radio programmes various banks throughout the country. Small saving boxes were put at 50 lawyer



prisoners of the Bang Kwang Central Prison who were charged of creating disturbance in the prison.

The prisoners organized themselves and demonstrated between 4-6 August 1985 demanding for royal amnesty of the year. During the negotiation 9 of them were shot dead. They are groups of prisoners who were charged of being spearhead the demonstration. Despite the fact that a number of them were proved innocent by regulations, they were still included in the charges which are:

- gathering more than 10 persons to creat riot
- resisting the official order of prohibition of the gathering
- together obstructing the performing of officers according to their duty,

sub-district was then taken to the court and this may lead to the murder of Kru Sawang. CGRS has provided a lawyer to be another plaintiff in this case.

1.6 Kru Sawang Harnbang case

The case of Kru Sawang Harnbang, a teacher in Sangha district, Surin province who was shot dead during the investigation of Mr. Vichien's murder in the same district was taken up by CGRS and two appeals addressed to the Director General of the Police Department were organized under the name of the Legal Aid Centre in May in May in order that the case would be investigated and the murderers arrested to be punished according to the law. Protection was also asked for Kru



offices in Bangkok. We also seek the cooperation of big companies who produce those necessity products and the Organization of Medicine as well as the contribution of members of NGOs. In the end the contribution was amount to 52,000 baht (about US\$ 2,080) and a number of daily necessities were offered to us. The contribution was exchanged for 1,300 sets of necessities. The left amount of 3,000 baht and the left necessities will be organized as fund for detainees without relatives in other prisons.

2.2 Campaign for a Human Rights Committee in the House of Representatives

From our experiences of working on human rights issues we found that we cannot effectively rely on the complain system of the executive section or the court if the violations were caused by government officers. This is due to the fact that the damaged dare not complain the cases to the head of the officers or take the case to the court for fear of their security reasons. Together with the intention to raise the status of the Members of Parliament to be the people's refuge according to the democratic system CGRS and other human rights organizations have campaigned for an Human Right Committee in the House of Representatives with the following activities :

Dec 4, 1986, a seminar on "The roles of the House of Representatives and the protection of Thai citizen's rights" was organized at Thammasart University with the objectives to present human rights violation situation and the principle that the Members of Parliament should be another resort of Thai citizen in case people cannot rely on the executives or the court. 60 human rights workers, students, an MP and others participated in the seminar. The one MP agreed to the principle and would act as a coordinator with other MPs in the party to disseminate the idea.

March 26, 1987, Human rights representatives including Mr. Chan Kaewchusai from the Legal Aid Centre and Dr. Gotham Arya (from CGRS) went to meet and submit a letter to the House Speaker requesting for support and inclusion of an agenda on consideration of organizing a House Committee on Human Rights in the House Assembly. Copies of the letter were presented to both of the deputies of the House Speaker as well as to all of the heads of the political parties.

March 27, 1987 Representatives of 7 human rights organizations presented a basket of flowers to Mr. Piyanat Wacharaporn, an MP in the opposition party



and thank him for his support of proposing the House Committee on Human Rights to the opposition parties.

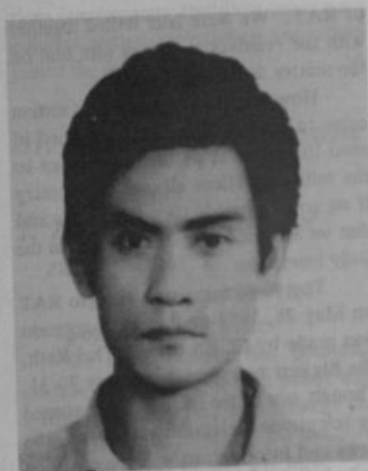
April 10 1987 7 Human rights representatives including CGRS workers and committee members were invited to present principles and roles of the committee on human rights to the Committee on the House of Representatives' Activities. The meeting was successful. The Committee agreed to present the principles to the Assembly of the House of Representatives.

CGRS and other human rights organizations are preparing a booklet presenting various aspects of human rights problems in order to submit to the MPs and disseminate to mass media, libraries in higher education institutions throughout the country. This is to raise the awareness of human rights problems to the public. A petition supporting for the House Committee on Human Rights will be included at the end of the booklet so that supporters of the Committee can sign and send them to the coordinating committee on human rights who will collect and present them as the popular vote. CGRS will present the human rights situation of detainees of 1986 for this booklet.

2.3 Campaign on Disappearance

Related to the 9 disappeared in Nan the case of Mr. Surot Trirat and 8 others who were reportedly arrested at Huay Nam Un check point, Sa District in Nan one of the Northern provinces on June 8, 1983. CGRS had been contacted by two relatives of the disappeared Mr. Surot and Mr. Somnuk Dejkriengkraisorn to investigate the case. Our actions are as follows

Two investigations at the point where the incident took place in Nan were



conducted in May and September 1986. A woman vendor and a policeman at the check point confirmed the arrest. The policeman reported to us that the detainees were taken to be interviewed in the resort of the forest protection officers, 3 kms from the check point until 3 a.m. of the following day (June 9, 1986) and moved to Pitsanuloke, another nearby province. Mr. Somnuk was confirmed to be among the detainees.

On October 24, 1986 by our contact CGRS and the two relatives were invited by the Royal Army of Thailand (RAT) to be explained of the matter. The chief of staff of the Civil Affairs Centre, RAT, chaired the explanation while Maj. Veera Prasobchoke, head of the Special Activities, explained that the army did not arrest the 9 disappeared. He stated further that they may join the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) and moved to other areas; they may flee to Laos and were killed or they may already die from malaria.

CGRS had filed a document of the incident and presented it to the Commander



of RAT. We were later invited together with the relatives to discuss with him on the matter on May 13, 1987.

However, the officer on news section came to discuss instead and proposed to send the pictures of the two persons to the military offices all over the country if we could provide them 80 pictures and that we announce the 2 disappeared in the daily newspaper.

The 80 pictures were given to RAT on May 26, 1987 and an announcement was made by CGRS through Thai Rath, the biggest newspaper, on May 30-31. Though, one of the relatives was contacted by telephone, telegram and a man, the news and information were too confused to be believable.

3. Coordination with other human rights organizations

3.1 Coordination with Legal Aid Centre

CGRS supported a seminar on human rights promotion in the South organized by the Legal Aid Centre at Songkhlanakarin University, Had Yai district, Songkhla province (about 1,000 kms. from Bangkok) during 23-25 April, 1987. The objectives of the seminar were to build a network in the South as well as finding out for the local representatives of the centre from various provinces. 50 lawyers, reporters, development workers and teachers took part in this seminar. The representatives from the Northeast also joined the seminar and exchanged the views and experiences of the activities of the centre of the Northeast.

10 participants from 10 provinces volunteered to be the centre representatives.

3.2 Human Rights Appeal

CGRS joined other 7 human rights organizations in protesting against the arrest of 16 human rights and development workers in Singapore without any report of their whereabouts and without visiting of any lawyer or relatives.

The protesting groups petitioned copies of letter addressed to the Prime Minister of Singapore through the Ambassador of Singapore in Thailand requesting for the place of detention and the rights to have lawyers and the rights of visiting as well as fair trials) on May 26, 30 and June 19, 1987.

On July 17, a panel discussion and signed petitions among general public including students and workers were organized in Thammasart University. About 100 participants joined the event.

II Religious Coordination and Non-violence Promotion

1. Training on non-violence

1.1 Training for monks

During 13-16 February, 1987 CGRS organized a training on non-violence for 47 monks and 13 novices mostly from up-country at Wat Go Non, Bang Sithong sub-district, Bangkreuk district, Nonthaburi.

The issues of the training consisted of social problems and their solution; concepts of non-violence; the experiences of problems solving and development work of the monks. The programmes



were organized into lectures and groups discussions.

After the seminar participants had the opinions that the training was useful and suggested that some activities could be organized as a continuation of the training among the participants and asked CGRS to be the mediator of communication among the monks as well as be a consultant in providing media and experts for activities organized by monks in the future.

1.2 Training for environmental workers

During 29 May to June 2, 1987 a training on non-violence and environment conservation was organized by CGRS for 38 students from various higher education institutions who are active in this aspect at the graduate volunteer training centre, Thammasart University, Rangsit Centre. The issues covered the problems and solution of environmental conservation in Thailand; methodology and strategy of environmental conservation; two case studies; non-violence and environmental conservation. Lectures, group discussion, role plays and mock situation were activities for the training.

On the last day of the training a direct action was organized on the issue of polluted water in Bangkok both on the





street and on the beat along the polluted canals. They also marched to discuss the issue with the governor of Bangkok.

2. Non-violent campaign at the Defence Asia'87 Exhibition

On March 17, and 21, 1987 CGRS and other NGOs under the name of "San Santi Group" (Peace Action Group) organized a non-violent campaign at the Defence Asia'87 Exhibition held during 17-22 March at Hyatt Central Plaza, Bangkok. The exhibition organized by foreign arms trading companies in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence displayed various kinds of weapon and war equipments for suppression and defence.

The campaign organized in front of the Exhibition intended to provide information to the public of the huge amount expenses of the building of weapons and the cost of war while the lacking of food, health service, education etc. are still seriously prevailing in the developing countries. The motto of the campaign was "Change weapon to food; Change war to peace".

The campaign consisted of movable exhibition in cartoons about the effects of arms to human life, movable exhibition of information on the comparison of budget for weapons and social necessities; leaflets and pamphlets. Street music, songs and pantomime and kite flying were also conducted in the campaign. It struck the attention of the public and the media. About 50 demonstrators joined the campaign.

3. Religion and peace for the community programme

Between 19-26 April and 29 April - 3 May, 1987 two programmes for religion and peace in the community were conducted with the objective to study the roles



of the religion in creating peace and solving conflicts in the community.

The first programme was a study tour in Chiangmai province in the North 20 participants visited 5 Buddhist villages in Mae sub-district, Chom Thong district where conflicts between the villagers and the Mong Hill Tribe villagers on the problems of damaging the sources of streams and water occurred. A monk was the mediator in this incident. They also visited a Karen village in Mae Tang district where the villagers are catholic and aware of the effects of consumerism and materialism from the town. For example, they refused the jungle tours of the tourists.

The second programme was organized in an Islamic area in Songkhla province in the South where influences of the city life effected the social changes e.g drug addicts among teenagers, debts etc. A comparative study in another Islamic area in Nakhonsithammarat province was also

conducted for the participants. This is a self-reliance community where Islamic principles are a code of conducts for life and society.

20 monks, priests, development workers and workers in religious organizations joined the programmes.

4. Seminar on the status and role of Buddhism in Thailand

A seminar on "The Status and Role of Buddhism in Thailand", a research supported by CGRS was organized on May 13, 1987. The content analysed the status and roles of Buddhism in the past and present; basic problems and faults of Buddhism; contemporary Buddhist organizations and movement and the status and roles of Buddhism in the future.

50 participants of monks from various contemporary Buddhist movement scholars, students, researchers and others joined the seminar.

III. Rural Development

1. Technology Centre for rural people

Developing of the rice pounding machine

We developed the rice pounding machine by adding an electric motor with 1 Hp instead of $\frac{1}{2}$ Hp and enlarge the milling stone to 15 cms. This machine can pound 40 kgs of rice per hour with expenses of only 1.25 B (US \$ 0.05). Four machines were distributed and experimented by NGOs.

Developing of the bending rower pump

This is an experiment of a more efficient water pump using man power, but with the cheapest price of 150 B (US \$ 6.- per unit). We also simplified the production process so that any organizations or individuals can produce by themselves.

Developing of digging machine using buffalo's power

We have tried to develop the yoke, the scraper and the ridger of a digging machine using buffalo's power. From the experiment of the machine in 2 ponds-a big one and a small one-we came to the conclusion that although it is much more efficient than using man power in 5-8 times we still face several obstacles in promoting this machine. The first one is the attitude of the villagers who are not willing to have buffalo work for them during summer; the second one is that



most of the buffaloes are female which are not as strong as the male ones. Moreover, in term of efficiency villagers are fond of tractor more than this machine. Together with the problem of the limitation of buffalo's power thus we decide to develop a single asole tractor in the next step.

2. Agriculture training for youth programme*

12 village participants of Ban Charoen Samaggi boys and girls-were trained for a year in an integrated farming programme raising fishes, 120 ducks, goats, rice farming on 5 rai (2.5 rai = 1 acre) of land and growing vegetable on 1 rai of land; growing trees and fruits along the dikes around the paddy field. Moreover, mat weaving and fish sauce producing were also offered to them.

We also encouraged the participants to implement on their own farms the idea of such programme. The programme completed by the end of March, 1987 with only 5 participants left in the programme. Several participants left out because of the demand of their labour at home.

An evaluation was conducted at the end of the programme with the following conclusions. That is although the principles and objectives of the programme seemed to be very useful to the youth and the village, the coordinator of the programme the teacher-lack administrative skill and

had problems of administration. Moreover, parents had the attitude that the contribution of their children's labour and time did not provide sufficient compensation. Other villagers, thus were not willing to send their children to participate in the programme. This programme, then, temporary stops.

3. Promoting agricultural information to villagers programme

Since March 1987 the programme has started again with our new worker in the promotion of poultry raising and fish farming in the paddy field in 2 villages (namely Ban Sok Khaw and Ban Dong Sawang). 37 villagers were interested in participating the poultry raising and 10 villagers were interested in the fish farming.

In April a campaign on vaccination of the poultry was organized in these two villages to prevent epidemics. 100 of borrowed chicken were also offered to be raised among the villagers who will return the chicken by the next generation.

4. Home industry programme

This programme has been experimented since October 1986 with the objectives to promote supplement income for women in rural area. A number of left knitting wool were bought from factories in Bangkok for blanket weaving. 10

participants joined the pulling process while another 5 joined the weaving process. During Oct. 1986-March 1987 120 blankets were produced. Though it is quite difficult to sell them 90 per cent of them were sold.

The programme is temporary halted because of the short of raw material for blankets and the lack of market. The proposal of reserved mango producing as supplementary income was also halted because of the lack of mangoes this year.

*supported by CGRS and the Foundation for Children Development with the coordination of a local leader-a teacher at the community school