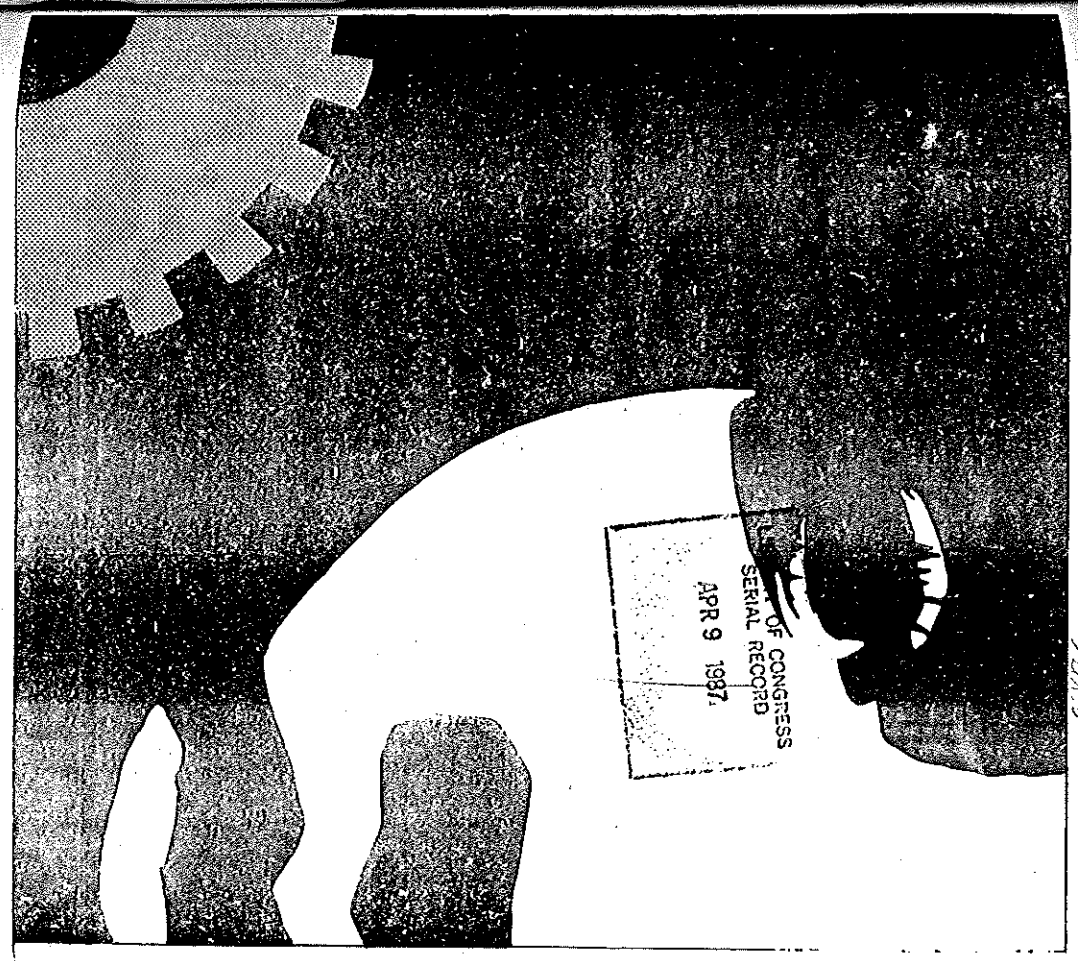


**HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND**

REPORT  
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*Boyd*



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To Our Readers

The issue of child labour in Thailand has been raised in the main feature of HRTR agents, though the same topic was formerly treated here almost two years ago. (See HRTR Vol 4 July-December 1980.) In this issue an aspect of the subject is examined which has never been touched before. Ill-treatment of child labourers and severe conditions in sweatshops are frequently exposed in the press and other mass media but their untraceable disappearances are rarely mentioned. We are thus focusing on the missing of children from their workplaces, a phenomenon that accelerates the worsening of the child labour situation in this country. It should be noted that the cases presented in the article "Missing Children: Another History of Child Labour" is only the tip of iceberg. A huge number of cases are still undiscovered mainly due to parents' ignorance of the complaint filing process and the ineffective apparatus of the government. It is the tradition for people to place their hope in the government for a better situation, but in this particular case, such a hope is almost futile as long as the authorities concerned still maintain that child labour exploitation is a commonplace in every country", as recently stated by the present Director of the Labour Department.

Also in this issue, we introduce a partial picture of widespread killings in the countryside, some of which are believed to be the result of the government's move to combat crime through the so called "death squad", whose existence has been openly acknowledged by high-ranking police on various occasions under the banner of "special task force" "death squad" acts as investigator, prosecutor, judge and executioner concurrently, while the Police Department believe in using fire to put out fire, we are of the opinion that many innocent lives will be lost under such a system of legalized murder. More information on this abhorrent crime suppression method will be presented in the next issue of HRTR.

The situation in the rural areas did not change. Assassinations of those who struggled for justice went unabated: during the last few months, three more villagers involved in social development were killed. Although these three people came from different walks of life, they shared the common concern of their community. Their action, however, affected the interests of certain local influential quarters and provoked suspicious from the local officers closely connected with these influential people.

On March 9, Mr. Phai Prasas (59), sub-district headman of Tambon Pa-daeng, City District of Phrae, the northern province, was gunned down by three people while he was making an inspection tour at the festival of Wat Phra That Chon-Bae. He was well-respected by villagers for his outstanding achievement in developing the villages under his jurisdiction. He had been singled out as an exemplary sub-district headman and an exemplary village headman of the country for three consecutive years. Nothing could explain his assassination except the fact that his praiseworthy deeds might have affected the interests of some local influential people.

In Nam, not far from that of Phrae, on April 27, Mr. Singha Prakobthong (35), leader of a cooperative store in Tamng-Kiang Village, Tan Sub-District, Pa District, was killed at night-time while working in his cooperative. He was the cooperative manager and had been increasingly supported by the villagers. The cooperative prospered rapidly, so much so that one non-member shop was forced to close. In the wake of the incident, the rest of his family and his colleague moved out of the village because of threats against their lives. In the northeastern province of Kalasin, a village headman of Kao-wong District was gunned down in May. He was involved in many local development projects before his death which is believed to relate with the disclosure he made about the graft in job creation scheme in his Tambon (Sub-district). For safety reason of the source, his name and details of his village are unable to be revealed here.

Workers, too, succumbed to this kind of assassination. On June 9, Mr. Prachum Mal-chen, workers' representative of the Burepha Steel Works Factory, was shot dead in the factory restaurant. His death was believed to result from the fact that he had led a workers' protest against the management that later sued him and 53 other workers. Their case was pending in court. On July 1, Mr. Ang-kim Sae Bay (43), the head workers of the Fish Marketing Organization, was shot dead. The incident happened following the conflict between workers and the FMO over the materials to be used for fish container.

In the meantime, many workers were attacked, among whom, Mr. Ekart Nusanant, president of the Labour union of the Fishing Net Industry, was hit on his head on June 3. Earlier, on April 22, Mr. Vichai Punoi, president of the Labour union of the York Tyre and Rubber Factory, was injured by 2 young men on his way back home following a workers' gathering of which he was the leader. Seven more workers from the rubber and steel factories were assaulted in different ways. (See NEWS FROM THAILAND)

Killings of, and especially attacks against workers are gaining currency in this period, characterized by a tense labour situation since late last year. The conflicts between employers and workers appear in the form of labour disputes, work stoppages and lay-offs or, frequently, closures of factories. According to Mr. Charern Siripant, Deputy Director-General of the Labour Department, during the period from last October to January this year, about 25,000 workers were laid off. This figure was confirmed by the President of the Labour Congress of Thailand Palsal Thawatchalain who also disclosed that more than 40,000 workers were laid off during the first four months of this year. The deteriorating world economic situation was used as a pretext by management to proceed to such mass lay-offs, reductions of welfare, and contraventions of the regulations on minimum wages. (It has been revealed by the National Statistical Office that more than 50% of factories both in Bangkok and surrounding provinces never observe such regulations.)

The pressure from management, and the rising cost of living together led to a spate of labour disputes followed by rallies and strikes. Recently, various anti-strike measures adopted by the employers have included dismissing union leaders and attacking or killing those involved in strikes not to mention the rejection of whatever demands were forwarded by the workers for negotiation. In those factories where a strike was about to occur, workers were threatened or warned against joining or organizing any action.

The use of force and assassinations was intensified both in the cities and rural areas, not to mention other kinds of violence. In the last six months, 11 journalists, workers, teachers and rural development workers, were killed (six of them in the first three months of this year - see HRTP, Vol. 6, No. 1) Most of these incidents were attributable either to certain local officials or to certain local influential people well-connected with these officials. It appears, therefore, that no suspects were ever arrested. Aside from assassinations for local political reasons, illegal crime suppression, i.e. arbitrary killings, increased. It was reported, for example, that in the northeastern provinces of Surin, Khonkaen, Mahasarakham, and Buriram, an increasing number of hoodlums and robbers at village level were killed by a group of strangers, believed to be members of the death squad of the Police Department, which had announced its intention last year to suppress all local influential persons. One of the most evident cases is that of the assassination of Mr. Chai Saenon and Khram Srichan. Mr. Chai was an influential person in the Slong Village, Nong Songkhong Sub-District, Khonkaen Province. He was killed by two strangers who came in a pick-up truck. Mr. Khram was the village headman of the Nongmaeng Village, Ban Km Sub-District, Phatthaisong District, Buriram Province. He was believed to have investigated the stealing of cows, and water buffalos from the villages in adjacent provinces. He was killed by

two strangers riding a motorcycle. The two incidents occurred last May and in the same manner. Before the killing, the killers asked after the two persons, and shot them dead after they responded. The incidents took place during the daytime in the centre of the respective villages. The killers then took out the photos of the dead people to check if they had killed the right persons. Similar incidents were reported in neighbouring areas. According to a village headman in the northeastern Province of Khonkaen, the police chief of the Nong Songkhong District had a 'black list' of 11 people to be got rid of in his area. Incidents of this kind resulted in creating a climate of fear among local leaders and influential people. Strangers coming into the villages were suspected. Besides in the northeast, the Hunter Unit also operates in some Central provinces. As was reported in the press last November, the Police Department set up similar units in the provinces of Phetchaburi, Rajaburi, Kanchanaburi, Nakhon Pathom and Prachinburi. (See HRTP, Vol. 5, No. 4.)

Not only breaches of laws, which constitute a base for protection of life, had a tendency to rise, but right of expression of the press was also increasingly threatened. The Thai Language daily MATRUHOM was ordered closed indefinitely on April 8 this year, on the grounds that it had published an article conducive to division between the soldiers in Bangkok and in the provinces. However, following protests from the Reporters' Association of Thailand the newspaper was allowed to resume its publication one week later. Two months after, the Thai Language political weekly CHATUMAS was also ordered closed since it had published pornographic pictures.

Facing constant threats of closure, many newspapers were affected by various forms of government censorship such as warnings. In the month of May this year, following newspapers were given six warnings: three Thai Language daily NAMA (twice), DKO SLM (twice), PHA KHUP, and one Thai Language weekly SLM MLI. Furthermore, on June 18, all newspapers in Bangkok were "requested" by the Police Special Branch to avoid using derogatory nicknames for Cabinet members and high-ranking officials. The fact that government circles were sensitive to news and comments by the press in the last three months is in no ways astonishing, since the government's instability has been noted amidst the numerous reports of coup d'etat especially in the month of April. Although the government survived the no-confidence vote by the opposition in Parliament in early June this year, the future of the present government is still fragile. The above-mentioned measures to control the press were thus mere attempts by the government to shore up its own position and to save itself from a worrying situation, economically and politically, at least until the general election in April next year.

U-thai Sirisook is a 12 year old girl from Sa-yeuk District, Buriram Province, an arid area without irrigation infrastructure. Her parents are poor peasants who have to depend on borrowing to buy enough rice to eat. When a man approached U-thai's parents and told them that there were comfortable and well-paid jobs for girls like U-thai in Bangkok, they allowed him to take U-thai to Bangkok in September 1987. The employment agency near Bangkok's main railway station took her and gave her parents 300 baht as the girl's first month salary. In February 1988, a friend of U-thai came to visit her, only to be told by the employment agency that she had disappeared. When U-thai's parents came to find their daughter at the address which was given in the contract, they found that it was a false address. They went on to check another address, taken from the car registration plate of the employer by the employment agency. It was another false address. The employment agency could only tell them that the man who took U-thai claimed to be a military officer but refused to present his Identity Card. Any way, in May, U-thai's parents heard good news when a friend of their daughter found her working in a house in Nonthaburi Province not far from Bangkok. When U-thai's father and the officials from the Centre of Concern for Child Labour, in which CCRS is involved, tried to bring her out of the house, they were stopped by the owner of the house who said he was a Lieutenant Colonel. Later on, with intervention from the police, the employer agreed to let U-thai go back to Buriram with her father.

For those months, U-thai was forced to work with no pay. She was not free even to come out of the house. There was no way for her to get in touch with her parents since her employer would not let her write any letters. More important, she did not know her home address.

If her friend had not accidentally found her, no one knows how long she would have had to serve her employer, and what her future would have been.

No matter how much hardship and misery U-thai had to suffer, she is yet more fortunate than many other children who are missing and have no way to contact their parents.

These children are among hundreds of thousands of children engaged in child labour business. They migrate to Bangkok to find jobs through job placement agencies or their agents. They work on a yearly contract. Since they are not used to competitive life and do not know how to survive in Bangkok, the job placement agencies and employers can impose unfavourable terms upon them. Besides the low pay and maltreatment, they have to work under inhumane conditions. More important is that many of these children are lost to their parents. Those responsible for the disappearance of the children are either job placement agencies, or employers.

It frequently happens that when parents take their children to find jobs in the job placement agencies, they are given false addresses of the factories or places where the children will be employed. This is partly because the employers do not want parents to take their children back before the yearly contract expires. Another reason is to prevent parents from renewing the contract directly with

the employers. By directly-agreed contract, the agencies would thus lose their commission.

However, in many cases, it is the employers who give false addresses to the agencies. The important reason is to avoid having to pay to the agencies or parents in future years. This means the employers have cheap labour indefinitely and unconditionally by paying a lump sum of no more than 3,000 baht (US\$ 150).

The prostitution business which the job placement agencies or employers are involved in is another reason to explain the disappearance of good-looking girls.

It can be seen that even if, in theory, children come to work voluntarily by signing a yearly contract (though it is illegal for children under 15 years old to work) in practice, many children are "bought" to work indefinitely and unconditionally either in factory work, homework or prostitution.

The fact that parents do not know where their children are and cannot find them means that the fate of their children is at the mercy of the employers and agents of job placement agencies or the owners of brothels. Children are mistreated, forced to work too heavily for their age under appalling conditions, let alone the pay which is little or even nothing. (See HRH Vol.5 No.3)

The fact that children are like property which can be bought and sold (without the knowledge of parents) and are maltreated by employers with no rights whatsoever, means that they are no better off than slaves. Despite the continuing denial by the senior officials of the Labour Department that there is any child selling or slavery in Thailand, the fact remains, that it does exist.

Here are just a few cases of missing children. The fate of some of them is still doubtful. It should also be noted that these children are all girls.

Thongdam Chongkrum

Her parents who live at Nilom Sub-district, Sa-yeuk District, Buriram Province, do not have their own land. They are therefore hired-hands on a farm.

Early in 1979 when Thongdam was 14, her mother, Marn took her to Bangkok to the job placement agency near the Bangkok railway station. She received 2,500 baht (US\$ 120) per annum of which 1,000 baht was given to her mother who did not know where Thongdam would be working. Six months later, Thongdam's father came to reclaim another 300 baht from the agency without any chance to see his daughter. After a year, Marn came to take her daughter back. She was told by the agency that Thongdam had disappeared, and the person responsible for her disappearance was the employer, namely the fish farm called "Wit Pramong" located at Tanayburi District, Pathumthani Province. When Marn came to the farm, she was told that it was in fact the agency who took her daughter to another factory for a further commission.

Until now, Thongdam's fate is still unknown, and it is almost impossible for her parents to hear from her since she can neither read nor write.

Sabai Suananphet  
Sabai's father is dead. Her mother, Prom is a tenant. When Sabai came to work in the city in 1979, she was 12 and had never been to school.

She came to Bangkok in October through Mrs. Onchan Nimhom, the middleperson who took her to the job placement agency called "Banchara" near the Port of Bangkok. From came with her daughter too, and got 700 baht as an advance on her daughter's 1,400 baht per year wage. The other 700 baht would be paid after Sabai had worked for a year, she was told. From then traveled back without learning where her daughter would be working.

One year later, Mrs. Onchan, the middleperson did not keep the promise to pay the remaining 700 baht. She also refused to help take Prom to see Sabai. Realizing that her daughter had disappeared Prom was unable to search for Sabai, for she is poor and still has to look after another 3 her children. She did not know what to do next. Although she filed a complaint with the police at Buriram Province, nothing came of it. Now 2 years have passed.

Lampong Yindeerum  
Lampong is the second child of the 11 children of Mrs. Beontong who is a peasant lives at Ban Fong-woe, Ta mung Sub-district, Sa-touk District in the Province of Buriram. In June 1979 when Lampong was 17 years old, her 70 year-old grandmother who had come to Bangkok as a beggar several times before, took her to Bangkok to find a job. When they arrived at the railway station, a middle-person asked Lampong to work in a factory. The middleperson asked Lampong's grandmother to wait for her there, until she returned with the money. Then they both disappeared, Lampong's grandmother did not know where to look for Lampong. After begging for enough money to pay the fare, she returned home.

Lampong's sister went to search several textile factories at Prapadaeng District with no success. It is now three years since anyone has heard from her, and she is believed to be another victim of the prostitution business in Bangkok.

Despite numerous appeals about missing children to the authorities concerned, nothing apparently has been done to solve this problem. Today thousands of illegal factories and brothels in Bangkok where the exploitation of children is concentrated continue their business with no fear of the authorities, whether they be policemen or labour inspectors. Limited finances and personnel are always the excuse for official inefficiency and failure. It is partly true, however, under those conditions of limited personnel and resources, there exist many possible measures the authorities concerned can take to control these job placement agencies, which are far fewer in number than factories and brothels. It cannot be denied that by acting as the middleperson between children and employers, the job placement agencies play an important role in the child labour problem. To solve this problem in the short-term, there is a need for serious measures to control the job placement agencies which operate without licenses or illegally (for instance, provide children under 15 years old for employers). There are many of these agencies in Bangkok. At the same time, the control of registered agencies is also necessary so that the welfare of the children is guaranteed. At the very least, important information about factories or employers must be recorded in detail by the job placement agencies. The signing of employment contracts must be done at the employer's work place with the

children's parents as witnesses. It must not be done at the agencies, otherwise it provides an opportunity for employers to give false addresses or evidence which is no safe guarantee to the children. The above-mentioned measure can be implemented only if there is a change in the bill on job placement agencies which was enforced in 1968. Over the past 14 years, the labour situation has drastically changed and the problem of child labour has become a serious one. Now the maximum penalty for agencies which mistreat children is a fine of 1,000 baht or 1 month imprisonment (no one has even been jailed under this act). The agencies earn at least 30,000 baht each month from the child labour business. It was estimated that in one month, an agency can provide no fewer than 30 children for employers, and they make 1,000 baht from each of them. To change the relevant law is only possible when the authorities concerned particularly the Labour Department become genuinely serious about solving this child labour problem. Unfortunately, at present, the sincerity of the Department remains a big question.

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Ranger kills 12 people and injures 50 in a temple fair

Ubon Rajathani  
People of Sannikom Sub-District, Ubon Rajathani Province on March 19, 1982 sent an appeal to Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda asking for the compensation of damages caused by a ranger's commander, Sergeant Mongkol Kantaman, who tossed a M-26 grenade to the crowd watching a film, during the Nong Tab Ma temple fair of Sannikom Sub-District on February 20, 1982.

7 people were immediately killed another 5 died on the way to the hospital and during treatment and about 50 other people were seriously injured and became disabled.

In the open letter they asked 50,000 baht (US \$ 2,100 ) compensation for the dead, 40,000 baht (US\$ 1,700 ) for the disabled and a fair amount for the wounded. (Mahachon 1-15/4/1982)

A man killed by ranger

Phattalung  
Mr. Sant. Khan-on, 33, a ranger of Trang Province killed Mr. Duang Nuklab, 33, at the cremation of Sant's brother Mr. Sant- at Wat Don Pan Du, Dok Pra Du Sub-District, Pak Poyoon District, Phattalung on March 27 .

Sant thought that Duang was the murderer of his brother since they had quarrelled on March 25 before his brother was killed. (Daily News 29/3/1982)

Accused man hanged

Chonburi  
Mrs. Fayo Saksuren from Chonburi Province, on May 13, appealed to VP Buranarak Thepakham that her husband Mr. Bundat was seriously man-handled and hanged until dead by police of Phanbong District, Chonburi Province on the charge of robbery of a motorcycle on May 6, 1982. (Matuphum 14/5/1982)

Teacher beaten up

Surat Thani  
6 representatives of Kok Samui District teachers appealed to Interior Minister Sittih Jarrote for the transfer of 3 policemen from Kok Samui, who beat one of their colleagues Pairoj Iamsuan a teacher at the Wat Kumaram School and his brother-in-law, Narudom Samsathien, on March 30, 1982.

The 3 policemen refused to pay for food they ate at Pairoj's foodshop and beat him up when he insisted that they pay the bill. They also tried to hit Narudom's head. On the following day one of the alleged policemen hit him when Narudom went to complain about the alleged beating at the police station. (Bangkok Post 13/4/1982)

An innocent man killed and accused of robbery.

Nakorn Sawan  
Mr. Ben Onkiam, 56, ex-director of the Wat Payubakdi School in Nakorn Sawan Province, on May 1 appealed to Pol. Lt. Colonel Chalerm Sanghong superintendent of Nakorn Sawan City, that his son Mr. Chaman Onkiam, 25 - was shot dead by 2 policemen on the way home at Bang Nerng Fan Thong, Payubakdi Sub-District, Nakorn Sawan with 3 shots at 4.30 p.m. April 30, 1982. After the incident his son was identified as the robber of the motorcycle which the 2 policemen left behind as evidence to accuse Mr. Chaman, who resisted the police arrest despite the fact that he was known by neighbours as a good man who had never made anyone suffer or owned any gun or any motorcycle. (Daily News 2/5/1982)

Worker beaten by a group of police

Ayudhya  
Mr. Somsak Manatrakulroj, 29, a worker of the Glass Organization in Bangkok on June 2, 1982 appealed to the police at the Crime Suppression Division that on May 31, 1982 he went to visit his sick mother at the hospital of Bang Ben District, Ayudhya Province until 9 p.m., and on the way back to his mother's house he was beaten by a group of 10 drunken policemen. He was seriously injured and was dragged to the police station and imprisoned without charge. On the following morning he was transferred to another police station where he was fined 100 baht without being informed of the charge. When he asked the policeman of the charge he was threatened. (Daily News 3/6/1982)

The Harry Durrance Foundation for Education in Thailand searched

Bangkok  
On April 26, 1982 at 5.55 p.m. Pol. Major Charay Khammeesri, Inspector of the Phaholyothin Station led 6 policemen to search the Harry Durrance Foundation for Education in Thailand, a foundation which provide educational funds for poor students, at 47 Phaholyothin Golf Village. The policemen claimed that they were informed of a time grenade being placed in the Foundation's office.  
During the search the police had no bomb inspection instrument with them but searched the library, the documents and all the official equipment both on the ground floor and the first floor.

Pol. Maj. Charay, in answering Mr. Kittti Hoyyeehm, one of the Foundation committee members, on the grounds for the search, later stated that the Foundation was misunderstood by someone who thought that the Foundation was sending personnel to work for the insurgents since there had been so many people crowded in the office.

The Harry Durrance Foundation for Education in Thailand, a foundation which commemorated Harry Durrance, a Canadian volunteer who died in Thailand, was founded in 1976 to serve educational purposes by providing funds for poor students throughout the country to study till they complete their education.

17 Persons executed and sentenced to death during April and May

Yala  
Two men, Mr. Thongsuk Pinnaraw, 41, and Mr. Venan Norkasul, 49, were sentenced to death on April 1, 1982 by the military court of Yala Province after they were found guilty of bank robbery and murder of a bank manager 4 years ago.

Another two men also found guilty of the same charges, were sentenced to life imprisonment on the grounds that one of them is under 20, and another pleaded guilty.

The four men robbed nearly 300,000 baht in cash from the Siam City Bank, Betong Branch, Yala Province on March 7, 1977, and one of them shot and killed the bank manager.

Plohit

Two professional gunmen, Mr. Amphorn Deesri, 28, and Mr. Kaewmanee Pantadee, 28, on April 20, were sentenced to death for the second time on charges of murdering Mr. Lee Bunnark, 54, in Wang District, Plohit Province on July 15, 1981.

Their first death sentence on November 24, 1981 was also on a murder charge for the death of Mr. Leung Wittithyikom, a Sub-District Officer of Wang Krod Sub-District, Bang Kooonark District in Plohit and Mr. Satti Sitraserit, head of a village.

Bangkok  
Three prisoners were executed on April 29, 1982 at Bang Krang Central Prison in Bangkok by the sentence of the military court of Buriram Province and Saraburi Province.

Mr. Man Thavornam from Buriram was executed on charges of robbing and murdering. Another 2 prisoners Mr. Thavorn Fulsin and Mr. Burtham Hanngsuk from Saraburi were executed on charges of robbery and murdering.

Bangkok  
Nine police officials and a civilian were sentenced to death on May 10 by the Criminal Court after they were found guilty of collaborating in the murder of 3 villagers and abuse of authority in connection with the conflicts at the mineral-rich hill of Kao Soon in Makorn Si Thammarat, a province in the South, in 1976, and later covering up the crime by claiming that the victims were cattle thieves.  
The nine police corporals sentenced to death were Vira Smit, Chamma Chongkarn-Chat, Lak Ratanaburi, Anant Chanothod, Vithai Kerdmal, Sechai Nitchoakdi, Preecha Parthong, Kavee Songkumarn and Praphas Koomuan. The only civilian also facing a death sentence is Manop Chaisith.

14 Muslims accused of subversive activities

Bangkok  
14 active Muslim youths, 8 of them students of Ramkhamhaeng University, allegedly belonging to southern terrorists movement called Barisan Revolusion Nasional (BRN), were arrested in surprise pre-dawn raid in Bangkok on April 1, 1982 and were charged with carrying out subversive activities affecting national security by planning to disrupt the Raktanakosin (Bangkok) Bicentennial and gathering with over 5 persons.

They were nabbed in two rooms at Klong Chan Apartment of the National Housing Authority. The policemen also found communist propaganda materials and anti-government posters in the rooms.

According to Thongchai Thongsoo, a famous lawyer for human rights, the 14 Muslims wrote a letter to him stating that they had been forced to confess while being detained at the Bang Khon Police Private School and they denied being involved in any separatist movement of sabotage attempt. Regarding the communist literature, they claimed that they could be bought in any bookstores and the propaganda leaflets and posters did not belong to them, but to a man who had stayed briefly in one of the rooms and was released after being questioned.

The daily newspaper MATHEM and CEKUTUAL political weekly magazine closed and other 3 daily newspapers and one political weekly magazine were warned.

Bangkok  
On April 20, Police Chief General Sunphol Chulaprem in his capacity as the printing officer for Bangkok ordered the revocation of the license of MATHEM a daily newspaper on the ground that an article on March 30 "The Heart Given to a Beloved Wife and Mother at the Crematorium" defamed in sarcastic fashion on the



Royal Guard Military units based in Bangkok whose major task is to provide safety for HM the King and Royal Family. The article was considered detrimental to public peace and morale.

On June 15 CHATURAKI a political weekly magazine was also given the withdrawal order of its license on the grounds of obscenity and detriment to public morale caused by the pictures accompanying the article 'Wahle Pictures in the New Dimensions'. In May, the Special Branch Division of the Police Department in its capacity of printing authority in Bangkok warned editors of 3 daily newspapers and one political weekly magazine. The NEMM and DMO SIKM daily newspaper's editors were warned twice, PHAYA KRUTH daily newspaper and THE SIAM PAI weekly magazine received one warning each.

National Assembly Reform Council (NARC) order 42 abated

On June 11, 1982 The Senate considered the NARC order 42 which authorized the Press Officer to withdraw licenses of publishers, editors, advertisers and owners of publications if he deemed that articles or reports appearing in those publications were detrimental to the nation or the government. The Senate decided that those whose licenses were withdrawn could submit petitions against the Press Officer's order to the provincial law court or to the civil causes court in Bangkok.

The civil code would be applied to the consideration procedures. During the consideration the law court could give order against the withdrawal order of the Press Officer unless the Press Officer protested against the order.

Thai Army claimed Communist Party of Thailand defeated

Maj. Gen. Charalit Yongchaiyuth director of Operations of The Army, claimed on May 12 that the government has completely won over the communist insurgents after the army destroyed most of their strongholds at Phakut and Phu Klang in Loi Province in the Northeast, at Camp 508 in Surat Thani Province in the South, the CPI's Zone 7 at Doi Puij in Nan Province and Zone 8 in Chiang Rai in the North.

He cited 3 reasons to support his statement that the government had won over the CPI. Firstly the government troops have destroyed the guerrillas. Secondly, the masses have come back to the government side and thirdly, the CPI is being plagued with internal bickering.

He said further that the government objective for the next 6 months is to eliminate all the front organizations of the CPI. He quoted that the front includes dictators and influential groups who could revive the role of the communist insurgents.

The Fourth Army Region Commander Lt. Gen. Harn Jeannond also stated a similar opinion on June 20 to an audience at the Army Club after the successful Fourth Army Region 'Thai Rom Yen 11' offensive against the communist strongholds in Satun, Phatthalung and Trang. The CPI at present could not win over the government militarily as the military has liquidated their strongholds and their armed forces, necessary tools for the CPI to seize power from the government. But the Thai Army still could not win on the political front.

He urged the government to launch a "political offensive" to wipe out the armed struggle of the outlawed party ones and for all, or else the army will not be able to absolutely destroy the CPI's armed forces and would have to continue to

crack down on them indefinitely. The importance of cooperation from the people to help solve the problem was also stressed.

Hundreds of Thai children have been stolen to be sold in Malaysia

An Officer of the Thai Embassy in Malaysia revealed on March 19 that several hundred Thai children have been sold in Malaysia and the Embassy had to send them back to Thailand to the Southern Provincial Public Welfare Office to be looked after. The children were taken to Malaysia by 2 methods: firstly by stealing the children to sell to Chinese-Malaysians who do not have children, at the price of 9,000 - 18,000 baht or US\$ 391 - 782. The price would be higher if they were babies. Secondly, the brokers bought from the parents directly without the approval of the Provincial Public Welfare Officer. Thus, the children were arrested at the check point and were sent back to Thailand.

A hundred thousand labourers dead or injured in 5 years

The Workmen's Compensation Fund of the Labour Department, Ministry of the Interior, revealed that in the past 5 years (1977 - 1981) there have been more than one hundred thousand workers killed and injured on work and the Workmen's Compensation fund has had to pay out more than 440 million baht.

There were 111,564 killed and injured workers; in this number 1,287 killed, 46 disabled, 3,799 lost some parts of their bodies and 104,472 have had to temporarily stop work.

The number of injured labourers increased every year from 15,334 in 1977 to 25,334 in 1980 and to 27,391 in 1981. The cause of the increasing number is the employers' neglect of working conditions and the lack of efforts made by government officials to inspect the factories which do not act according to the law.

Union leaders shot dead and harassed

Mr. Prachum Metchan, one of the worker representatives of the Bhurapha Steel factory labour union was shot in the dining room of the factory and died later on June 9.

Mr. Prachum was the leader of a strike in October 1981 and was charged with criminal acts by the employer.

Apart from Mr. Prachum there were several other cases in which workers were killed and harassed.

Mr. Narong of the Thai Klang Gee Co. Ltd. was attacked by 7-8 gangsters in the beginning of April this year and his 2 friends were also attacked in the end of April. Mr. Narong was one of the active workers who organized the strike in May 1981. The attack was meant to obstruct the workers' movement before submitting their demands in May this year. At present the 3 workers dare not to go to work for reasons of personal safety.

Mr. Vinai Museawt, an active president of the fishnet industry labour union located in Thachumburi-Paktow Rd., Phasicharoen District in Bangkok was hit on his head while he was leaving the factory after work on June 3, 1982.

The attack was due to his active role in the 50 day strike last year and the organizing of the factory labour union. The attack happened during the preparation of new demands to the employers.

Mr. Wichai Pitnol, president of the York Tyre and Rubber Factory labour union in On-Nai Sub-District, Krathumban District, Samut Sakorn Province who has been leading a strike of 200 workers since April 6 this year, was attacked by 2 young men on his way back home on April 22, at 10.00 p.m. The workers had submitted 11 demands to the employers before the strike but the employers refused negotiation.

Mr. Somchai Chonupakdi, 21, a worker of the Thai Siamant Rubber Factory at Rajurana District in Bangkok was fired late last year on the charge that he was unqualified and did not work with full responsibility. He sued the employers at the central labour court which decided that he could either go back to work or demand 3 months compensation of 6,000 baht (US\$ 260). He decided to go back to work. He was transferred later to work at the Wat Kru Nai Factory in Samut Prakharn Province, a branch of the Thai Siamant Rubber Factory, where he was hit on his head and arms one morning by a worker of the mother factory, after he had worked there for more than a month. He spent 15 days recuperating and did not go to work again for reasons of personal safety.

Mr. Banna Yongyrai, 27, a sub-committee member of the Iron and Steel Federation of Thailand in the Thai Bicycle Factory in Samut Prakharn Province was hit on his head on May 23, 1982 after a meeting of the factory labour union while he was entering the lane where the factory is located. He and his friend Samsat who was almost stabbed have now resigned from the factory after being threatened.

Mr. Sinarua Sinjo, 28, a deputy secretary of the labour union of the Thai Metro Industry, who has now been forced by the employers to resign on the ground that the factory is suffering a loss and thus has sued the court to fire all the workers, had been earlier persecuted and attacked in the factory in order to provoke him, so that he could be fired on criminal charges. In the beginning of May, he was hit by 6-7 young gangsters after work around 5 o' clock. A few days after the incident he was again attacked.

Mr. Kamron Sae Ung, 28, a deputy secretary for public relations of the Union Metal Factory labour union, who was one of the leaders of the April 10 strike, was hit on his head in the beginning of May this year.

Mr. Angkha Sae Bay, 48, the head of workers at the Fish Marketing Organisation (FMO), a state enterprise, was shot dead by 2 youngsters in Yanawa District, Bangkok, in the morning of July 1, 1982 after the meeting to solve the conflicts on the kinds of bucket used to fill fishes.

Plastic buckets which provide 1 baht interest (1 US\$ = 23 baht) for the FMO have been recently been introduced to be used instead of rattan buckets which provided only 0.25 baht for the FMO. Since the plastic buckets are not qualified, the workers, thus, proposed the FMO to return to use rattan buckets. It is suggested that the above conflicts is the cause of the murder.

In those cases there were 5 members of the Iron and Steel Federation killed and attacked during January to June this year. There were 552 workers in the Iron and Steel Federation fired during the same period.

Rural organizer shot dead

Man Province

Mr. Singh Pichokthong, 35, a rural organizer of Ban Thung Klang, Town Sub-District, Pua District of Man Province, was shot dead at about 8.15 p.m. on April 27, while doing the accounts with the shop keeper in the village cooperative which he initiated last November.

Singh was known to the nearby villagers as an honest, sacrificing, diligent and helpful man. He was elected a village development committee member, and a committee member for education in Ban Pui School. He often helped to take patients to see the doctor, who lived several kilometres from the village.

He organized development groups within the district and founded the cooperative to help solve the problem of high priced goods and to increase unity in the village. The cooperative was a successful one with 2,800 baht (about US\$ 120) and 18 members in the beginning, and had grown to 14,700 baht and 87 members by February 1982.

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

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

#### Activities of CGRS during April-June 1982

##### I Human rights activities

###### Helping prisoners

During the past three months CGRS has continued with its regular work of helping prisoners facing injustice both in Bangkok and up-country. In addition to providing these prisoners with necessary assistance, it also gave regular assistance to poor families of some prisoners.

###### Providing legal aid

CGRS tries to ensure that political prisoners and prisoners facing injustices have legal protection, legal representation and, hopefully, a fair trial in just courts. CGRS has not only given direct assistance, such as finding experienced defence lawyers for the prisoners, helping raise and arrange bail, etc., but has also given assistance to lawyers defending political cases, organized campaigns for the release of prisoners and encouraged the changing of laws, and so on.

#### The Adul Bun-Rueng Case

This is one of the political cases supported by CGRS since 1980. Adul Bun-Rueng (20 at the time of arrest in 1979), a former student activist of Sampatong Vithayakom School and Technical College in Chienmai Province, was very interested in politics. He founded the Social and Democratic Club in his school and organized several academic exhibitions. He was elected a committee member of the student council in that school. During his studies he was also involved in several campaigns on promotion of Thai goods, anti-American military bases in Thailand, and protesting the return of former leaders of the dictatorial regime. He helped the National Student Centre of Thailand to disseminate information about the new farming rent among villagers, etc.

He dropped out of the Technical College in 1976 since his family could not afford his studying. He went back to help his mother in farming and looked after his 2 younger brothers at his home in Sampatong District.

He was arrested on August 2, 1979 around 8.00 p.m. at the check point of Sampatong District. As he drove past the dark check point on his way back home with a friend, he noticed that the policemen there did not wear uniforms. Nothing illegal was found on him or his friend. But a policeman recognized Adul as his activist schoolfriend. Adul then was detained and sent to the Mang District police station. During his detention he was interrogated as a communist, without other charges. A fortnight later on August 16, 1979 he was charged with murdering a policeman and releasing Mr. Saeng Sapsak, a communist detainee on August 15, 1978. He denied all the charges.

He was sent to be imprisoned in a very dark and small cell of the Special Prison of Orlengmai Province although he had not been convicted of any crime, and the duration of his imprisonment was not fixed. The Lawyers Association of Thailand aired his grievances to the Minister of the Interior, the head of the Penitentiary Department and the Director of the Special Prison of Orleng Mai in March 1980. Later he was moved from the dark cell to a normal cell but also put in irons.

In this case officers from several departments provided evidence and witnesses to prove that Adul was a communist and had committed the crime. The 1800 officers sent Adul's biography to the court without the consideration of the prosecutor and without witnesses, and the biography was not identified as evidence in court. The policeman also made files of the case in which witnesses were named who could identify the murderer of the policeman. Mrs. Payon Marung, a witness who informed the court that she could not remember the murderer, was threatened by the police to sign the paper indicating that she could remember. She also informed the court that she never signed the memorandum of identification of the murder but the police made a false one.

Instead of being charged with engaging in communist activities, Adul was charged with a criminal act, as the police could not find enough evidence to substantiate their claim that he was communist.

Since the statement before the court by 10 prosecutor's witnesses was confused and contradictory, the court has mainly used the police record of investigation to support its judgement, despite the fact that the only witness of the accused in Adul himself. He was therefore sentenced to death on March 30, 1982.

Although his sentence was reduced to life imprisonment on the occasion of the Bangkok Bicentennial celebration, he was later charged by the Bangkok Military Court with endangering national security.

The Sor Kumphol Case

Mr. Sor, 44, a farmer of Ban Moe District, Lopburi Province and another 8 relatives and friends were arrested by Pol. Major Muang Panyuen on September 27, 1981 and charged with robbery in Nakhorn Sawan Province.

The cause of the arrest was actually a personal one, since Sor had charged Pol. Maj. Muang with robbery of his 2,000 buckets of rice from the rented field of Pol. Maj. Muang's wife on December 1, 1980. The case was being heard when he was arrested and almost all of the arrested were Sor's witnesses in the rice robbery case. Later, five of them were released whereas one more villager in Ban Ladthipharoi in Nakhorn Sawan was arrested. The Pol. Maj. told Sor that he would release all the arrested if Sor would withdraw the rice robbery charge. But Sor refused the proposal. In December 1981 the rice robbery charge was lifted and Sor has been released on bail.

Campaign for the Forgotten 200

After many campaigns launched by the relatives and human rights organizations to seek justice for prisoners detained without trial since 1976 under Special Decree 21, 27 and 200 issued by the Prime Minister under the interim constitution, on May 11 OGRS and 6 other human rights groups submitted another letter to the Prime Minister asking for justice to the forgotten prisoners (now reduced to 59) and encouraging the government to use the measure of reducing their terms, earlier proposed by an interministerial committee, to provide more justice to the prisoners.

On June 7, about 200 of the prisoners' relatives held a rally at the Prime Minister office protesting alleged government inaction in freeing the "forgotten" prisoners and asking for an official statement of the government on the issue. In the afternoon of June 8, they received a letter from the Prime Minister's office refusing to give a pardon to the prisoners as proposed by the inter-ministerial committee six months ago, on the ground that the government had a mandate given a mass pardon in the general amnesty granted in conjunction with the Bangkok bicentennial celebration in April. It should be noted that the mass pardon was to cover any detainees, even those who are guilty. But what the relatives and human rights organizations called for (and later got a positive response from the government on) was special measures to provide justice to those who should not serve their jail term without trial. The latest statement of the government is very contradictory to what the Prime Minister said last year. (See HRH Vol. 5 No. 2 page 9)

The campaign against Sex Tours

OGRS is extremely concerned about the status of women abused as sex objects. In Thailand there are 500,000 - 700,000 women involved in sex service throughout the country. One factor causing the increase in prostitution is the uncontrolled growth of "sex tourism" organized by foreigners from rich countries to take advantage of their economic superiority to exploit Thai women who are in need of money.

On April 6, 1982 OGRS together with 3 groups of feminists and human rights workers staged a protest at Bangkok Airport against the 27 Netherlands sex tourists in a group organized by the "Thailand Express" Tour Agency to participate in the Bangkok Bicentennial celebration. The "Thailand Express" manager claimed that sex tourism would help the rural poor and as a result help relieve the Thai economy in general. During the rally banners, placards and statements were shown and distributed.

This protest was launched in coordination with the Concerned Asian Women Group in Utrecht, Netherlands who also protested the "Thailand Express" sex tour group at the Amsterdam Airport before they left the Netherlands.

Knowing of the protest to be held at Bangkok Airport, this sex tour group later cancelled their trip when the plane landed at Rome Airport.

The protesting groups also submitted a letter to the Prime Minister encouraging the government to solve the prostitution problems and set clear policies for sex tourists.

II Child Labour Activities

OGRS is concerned about the situation of child labour, number of which is growing considerably. In 1978, 44% of children aged 11-14, which is schooling age, were employed in various sectors due to poverty and drought in rural areas. 200,000 of them migrated to Bangkok and worked in factories, many of which were so called "slave" factories because of their bad and inhuman condition that make children suffer severely. In 1978 there was a case that two children died while another three were crippled after working for three months. Last year OGRS established the Center of Concern for Child Labour with collaboration of seven other organizations.

In order to increase rural people's awareness of the problems in sending children to work in Bangkok and the maltreatment of child workers, in April the Center of Concern for Child Labour (CCCL) published pamphlets of warning and recommendations for the families who are forced by poverty send their children to work in the city. This publication was sent to every governor and government agency in the North-eastern and Northern provinces, to be distributed among the villagers. The pamphlets were also sent to provincial labour officers, and local newspapers. The pamphlets were also sent to the Northeastern provinces from which a large number of children are sent to work in Bangkok.

In May-June CCCL organized 3 recreation programmes for 60 children in 5 Bangkok factories in Kamnan and Bang Mod Districts, producing underwear, clothes, paper bags, metal copying and balloons. The recreation provided opportunities for the children to relax and gain wider experiences in life. Puppet shows, slide shows and drama for children were provided for the children in 2 outings. In another outing children working in a balloon factory were taken to visit the zoo.

In April OGRS with the cooperation of the Division of Occupational Health Officers organized a welfare service team to check the health of children who work clandestinely with kerosene in repair shops. Records of the check-ups were reported to the Labour Department to ensure that protective measures for the children will be provided.

During April and May 4 children who managed to escape from their cruel employer were sent back to their hometown by OGCW workers. OGCW is also concerned about the missing child workers whose fate is unknown by their parents. In the past 3 months OGCW has been informed about 3 cases of missing children. After a hard search, OGCW workers finally found 2 of the lost children and enabled their parents to take them back. Missing child workers, many of them from the Northeastern provinces are at present a serious problem since the number is increasing. Some employers who lost their child workers suggested that the private job procurement agencies might fetch them back and send them to other employers or factory owner to earn more money. It is said that this is a very common method used by those agencies.

### III Religions Relations Activities

Though the vast majority of Thais actively profess adherence to one or other of the major world religions, in general, they and their religious leaders adhere more to the outward expression of their religions, rather than the content and the real meaning. If the conflicts in society are to be reduced, and a wholesome and violent civil war avoided, it is absolutely essential that religious groups and leaders become involved in really practicing their principles, and take on a social responsible role. They must really become involved in tackling, nonviolently, the evils of society.

On June 12 OGRS and the Committee for Justice and Peace in Thailand held an inter-religious activity to celebrate International Peace Day, which is usually held on New Year's Day under the auspices of the Vatican. The International Peace Day in Thailand aimed to educate and encourage religious people and laypeople to cooperate in searching for peace for society.

This year the rights of the child was the theme for International Peace Day. Activities to celebrate the Day consisted of an exhibition and information on children's problems and their rights as well as competitions in drama, slide shows, verse and slogans promoting the rights of the child. Thai classical music performed by children, stage shows, drama and a panel discussion on "The Life of Thai Children" were also presented on that day.

### IV Slum Activities

The number of squatters in Bangkok is increasing rapidly due to rural poverty. It is estimated that at least 750,000 people live in approximately 400 slums in Bangkok. These people are faced with various problems such as bad living conditions, lack of education, poverty, unemployment, narcotic drugs, etc. In addition they also face the constant threat of eviction. In spite of this, however, slums are growing rapidly in size and number, and have become a big social problem.

There is an urgent need to solve slum problems. One important factor that would help reduce or solve the problem is for the slum people to understand why they are in such a situation, for them to see how their problems relate to the political and economic structures of the society, and for them to see that they all have the power to change their lives for the better and to develop their community.

In Rama IV slum OGRS with a community volunteer organize a seminar for the community committee to evaluate the struggle against eviction and the strategies of the struggle, and to promote understanding of the committee's responsibility to the community. The seminar was held during May 22 - 23.

On June 20, 1982 OGRS organized a seminar for the Rama IV slum leaders and Ban Wangnangasilla slum leaders who have been struggling successfully for their land. It was meant to be a forum for sharing experiences both failures and successes.

In the Land Bua-Kao slum OGRS concentrated its activity on the eviction problem. After the slum dwellers' representatives tried to negotiate with the high ranking officers, a meeting of the 4 factions involved was organized in the beginning of June. The participants are the slum dwellers' representatives, the land owner's representatives, and the authorities involved - National Housing Authority representatives and the District Head Officer. The meeting, however, failed to come to any agreement as the land owner's representative refused to make any settlement as far as the land is concerned.

### V Macro Media Activities

The objectives of the micro-media work of OGRS is to spread knowledge, science, information and understanding in different fields to the people in order to bring about understanding of basic problems and the way to the solutions; to exchange ideas, news, and information of the way of life and cultures between cities and rural areas; to improve the standard of living in rural areas while maintaining the good tradition and culture; and to cooperate with concerned organizations and interested groups in designing various forms of mass communications in order that the poor in rural areas are better served.

During April-June macro media activities were carried out as follows:

- producing a slide show on "The Development of Thai Drama"
- his slide show is about the history of Thai Drama and influences which changed Thai drama from the time of King Ramay to the present time.
- cooperating with the Mass Media for Children Promotion Group in arranging programmes for children during the National Week for Books in Chulalongkorn University. A drama on "War - Peace" (in fantasy language), a puppet show on "Butterflies, Flowers and Wild Birds" and a pantomime on "Newspaper" were presented in the programmes.
- cooperating with other groups on special occasions e.g. poetry reading on National Writers Day on May 5 and on Sri Buppha Day (a famous writer) competition in drama, slide shows, painting and poetry on the theme "child's rights" to commemorate International Peace Day.
- producing a poster and a series of 14 posters on the danger of MSG formula in order to educate people both in the city and rural areas. These posters will be disseminated to development groups in slums and in the country.

The Union for Civil Liberty (UCL)

The UCL was founded in November 1973 with an objective to study, disseminate and safeguard in Thailand the universally accepted principles of civil liberty. It is an organization open to all individuals who wish to participate and join in the efforts to uphold the principles of human rights. The UCL has its members from practically all walks of life; be it students, intellectuals, professionals, workers, peasants or civil servants. This organization is to work towards the common benefit for all, not just that of any particular group.

Following a bloody massacre on the 6th of October, 1976, the UCL was consequently forced to suspend all its activities under a martial law. It was not until the middle of 1979 that the political condition seemed to improve starting with the new constitution which was proclaimed in December 1978. This constitution apparently guarantees the civil liberty for the citizen and the general election was consequently held in April 1979. Under these political condition and climate, the UCL took the opportunity to resume its activities with the hope that it can once again take an active role for a just cause.

Objectives

The Union for Civil Liberty has the following objectives :

- To study and to disseminate the principles of civil rights and liberties in accordance with the democratic system.
  - To provide general service against any abuses and/or violations of civil rights and liberties.
  - To cooperate with other organizations and/or associations with similar aims.
  - To raise the level of consciousness on civil rights and civil liberties of the people throughout the kingdom so that actions can be effectively taken at the community level.
  - To safeguard and protect the rights and liberties of the citizen within legal means.
- As one principle of the UCL is that it will neither seek political power nor align itself with any political group, the UCL intends to limit its services to legal counselling, conscientization, community organization, etc.

Organization

The UCL has organized itself into a form of association and is in a process of duly registering as such. All members are to elect a committee to both administer and organize various activities and services.

At present, the UCL has 5 divisions :

- Worker's Rights
- Legal Aid
- Peasant's Rights
- Documentation and Dissemination
- Administration

All the above divisions are administered by fulltime workers who work closely with the committee members. There are also some volunteer worker involved in the UCL activities.

Target Groups  
The UCL committee deems it necessary to direct its efforts towards the following target groups :

- Special target group for 1982
- Prostitutes, especially those who have been coerced, lured, forced and/or even sold to brothels in the country or abroad.
- Special target group for 1983
- Prisoners and detainees under the supervision of the Department of Corrections
- Regular target groups for 1982-1983
- Workers in Bangkok Metropolitan area, especially those dismissed from jobs without proper justification, non-unionized workers, and women workers.
- Individuals whose rights were violated and were not in a position to defend themselves properly in court, mainly because of poverty.
- Poor farmers in the northeast especially agricultural workers and farmers who have problems seeking their own market outlets for their produce.

The UCL committee also would join its efforts with those of the concerned individuals such as members of the UCL, community organizers, etc. as well as other organizations working towards democracy and human rights.

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Recent slide sets on Thailand : The Next Step of Thai Labourers

This slide-set is about the cooperation of Thai labourers before the great change from Absolute Monarchy to Democracy in 1932, the development of their fightings until a legal organization was established, and the joining of The World Federation of Trade Union. But in 1952 when General P. Phiboonsongkram passed a statute preventing any act of Communism, a lot of labour leaders were arrested. Labour movements and various groups of people were under dictatorship for a long time. Then an important incident happened on October 14, 1973 when students, workers, farmers and different groups of people rose up and accomplished in demanding for their rights. A new era of Thai people was born once again. The labour movements spread more widely. There were improvements in their demanding for their labour rights and in their fighting methods. There were also encouragements from other groups of workers and people. At the same time the government officials and those who lost their interest from the strikes of labourers tried to weaken the strength of labourers, students, and people until a tragic event happened on October 6, 1976.

90 slides, 25 minutes  
commentary (Thai & English) on cassette  
price US\$ 120 include mailing and recorded  
by WEADEM GROUP, Thailand.

Business on Bodiean

This slide-set is a story which shows the present economic condition of Thailand that drives the majority of people to try to struggle for themselves. The state of unemployment and the labour selling of the country people put a pressure on a group of young women to turn to selling their bodies as a way to earn their living. There are views of the prostitution and the opinions toward the prostitution problems and about "Year of Tourism" of the director of Thailand Tourism Promotion Organization.

At the end it emphasized the inside of the deceived new-coming rural girls' waiting room, life shows such as writing, smoking, etc, and it also shows injustice in the wages the prostitutes receive.

76 slides, 12 minutes  
commentary (Thai & English) on cassette  
price US\$ 145 include mailing and recorded  
by MEADOW GROUP, Thailand.

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