

REPORT
HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND

VOL 6 No4 OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1982



10

11

12

13

In This Issue

The Human Rights Situation	1
Assassinations & Disappearances in Thailand	3
Profiles of Some Missing : Disappeared and Assassinated	6
Call for Action	12
Summary of Information on People Assassinated or Arrested or Who Disappeared	13
Misuse of Government Power	22
News from Thailand	25
Activities of CGRS	30

ADDRESS : Coordinating Group for Religion in Society (CGRS)
495/44 Soi Yoo Omsin, Jaransanitwong 40 Road,
Bangkok 10700, Thailand

4

5

6

7

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

Mass protests were persistent during the last three months, and could have threatened the government's stability if solutions had not been found to those crises. No sooner had the government satisfied the demand of the labour movement by increasing last September the minimum wage both in Bangkok and the provinces than it was confronted with three new issues. The first protest took place in early November, in which all trade unions in Bangkok and the student movement joined hands in demonstrating against the bus fare rise (25%). Though there was no big protest movement as in the past, small rallies at different points throughout Bangkok which lasted two weeks, and the criticism of the government by the Thai press, gradually brought pressure to bear on the government. The situation evolved into a crisis when 10 students and protesters resorted to a hunger strike. The government finally gave in to the demand by freezing the bus fare rise for 90 days.

One week after, on November 28, 1982, 5,000 farmers held a rally, reportedly the first of its kind since the 6th October 1976 incident. The rally took place in Suphanburi Province, Central Region, where the protesters threatened to hold a bigger rally in Bangkok on December 14, in which farmer representatives from 45 rice-growing provinces would participate. This threat was a cause for concern for the government which feared that some political groups would make use of this protest movement to create a political situation in their favour. However, the rally was called off on December 6 when the government announced a 10% increase in the guaranteed rice price. The farmers were satisfied even though this compromise fell short of what they had demanded.

Two days later, the government was confronted with another crisis. Khonkaen University student representatives made a 500 kilometre trip to rally in front of the Government House, demanding the ousting of the Rector and the revision of regulations pertaining to the nomination of the Rector, in the process of which the students are allowed no say. The government first took a tough stand and refused to negotiate with the students over the issue. The protest movement went on and the situation deteriorated into an impasse. Later, Army Commander-in-Chief Gen. Arthit Kamlang-ek, in his capacity as the Capital City Protection Director, intervened directly in the conflict on December 14, pressuring the Khonkaen University Rector to resign and promising to have the controversial regulations revised.

It should be noted that the three afore-mentioned protest rallies, though adversely affecting the government, were exempt from threats by any group of right-wing opposition as formerly was the case. Even if the Khonkaen University students' rally met with a strong reaction from the provincial governor, who went so far as to send rangers and policemen into the campus and to instigate a counter-rally in the city district against the students. All counter-actions were banned by the Army. These successive incidents not only showed the possibility that the people can have to air their grievances to the government in an extraordinary manner, but also reflected the new policy of the dominant group in the Thai Army that (apparently) supports an increasingly democratic atmosphere. This new policy is an attempt by the modern-minded soldiers who reportedly wish to see the Army play an active role in supporting a non-violent struggle in lieu of the armed struggle waged by the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) to attain its political objectives.

Another step in the Army's efforts to disintegrate the CPT armed units will be the abrogation of the Anti-Communist Act. On November 17, the Army announced its support for such abrogation, expressing its opinion that this Act is conducive to creating a war situation from which only the communists benefit. This position was welcomed by the people concerned who maintained that over the past 20 years this Act had been a means by which local officials suppressed dissident elements or those detrimental to their interests. However, whether the Act will be replaced by a new one with or without similar provisions is still problematic and has not been clarified by the Army itself.

While the government met with a big success in disbanding the CPT armed forces resulting in many mass surrenders, the latest being on December 1, the founding anniversary of the CPT, when 1,000 armed insurgents in the Northeast surrendered to the authorities -it has failed to suppress crimes which have increased both in number and in intensity in Bangkok. Harsh measures, including capital punishment, have been used to counter these crimes. During the last three months the death penalty was pronounced against 31 person, only 7 of whom saw their punishment reduced to life sentence and 3 to 60 year imprisonment. (See NEWS FROM THAILAND) Capital punishment was meted out at a time when severe crimes were reported to be occurring continuously both in Bangkok and neighbouring provinces. These crimes seriously impaired the people's morale, the press and some social action groups appealed to the government for strict measures to counter them. Some talked of the promulgation of a special law empowering the government to take such measure, thus by-passing the normal process of law which still leaves room for leniency. Although the government rejected such a demand, public reactions and criticism were such that they had a certain impact on the judges. Most of the sex murderers were blues sentenced to death without leniency whatever as formally was the case. Most of the cases were rapidly examined, and the verdict given, by the court. The three respective cases of Prasert Chimcharoen, Lamai Bodhisuwan, Surasak Khankaew and Karun Sairungkaew were exemplary, in which the four defendants refused to have their legal representatives and the court spent not more than two days examining the witnesses and sentenced the four sex murderers to death. There is little doubt that the imposition of the death sentence succeeded in calming down the public. In any case everything has returned to normal, there has been no attempt to suppress crimes at their roots, namely economic recession, social decadency. Capital punishment was made use of to lessen the pressure brought to bear upon the government, seemingly incapable of coping the crimes.

ASSASSINATIONS AND DISAPPEARANCES IN THAILAND

Assassinations, disappearances (not to mention abuses of power by officials) are becoming a normal thing in Thailand today. During the period 1981-1982, at least 43 persons were recorded as assassinated and disappearing for various reasons. There were only four out of these cases in which the suspects were arrested. There has been no progress whatever as to the remaining cases, in many of which there exists evidence that government officials were deeply involved.

These disappearances and assassinations can be divided into three categories:

1) Assassinations of village leaders, labour leaders and journalists. They had acted against the interests of influential local people, employers or against corruption.

Those assassinated during 1981-1982 were:

a) 7 Village Leaders

All were villagers in the North and the Northeast, and from various walks of life; teachers, village headmen, development workers, sub-district chiefs, provincial council members. No single suspect has been arrested as yet.

b) 5 Labour Leaders

All were trade-union leaders in Bangkok and neighbouring provinces, who had led workers to fight for their rights. There were only two cases in which the police arrested the suspects involved, in the assassinations of Mr. Samrong Naphachot and Son Kijjawat.

c) 11 Journalists

All were local journalists except one who was Bangkok-based. The police only arrested those suspects involved in the murders of Mr. Wnadee Thongprapha and Sumol Chumcheua.

2) Disappearances after arrest or assassinations for political reasons. They were suspected of communist or secessionist activities.

a) 6 Disappearances After Arrest

All the six persons disappeared mysteriously after they left their residence. Nothing was heard from them again. Only Ms. Darani Panbusayakul was released. She had been arrested and detained without warrant or charge at the Interrogation Centre of the Internal Security Operation Command (ISCC) in Bangkok. This case and others such as that of Mr. Phongsak Thiraphatphaiboon, showed that the authorities had been involved in such disappearances - especially those of communist suspects. The government has not come up with any explanation about these cases.

b) 6 Persons Assassinated

All were suspected of being connected with the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) and with a separatist movement in the South. Two out of these six persons had participated in the armed struggle waged by these respective movements, and had later surrendered to the authorities. The latter had promised not to take any action against them, especially those who had joined with the communists - in spite of which, however, some high-ranking officials in charge of disbanding the CPT force expressed some doubt as to the true intention of those who surrendered themselves. These officials feared that these elements might act as CPT agents to carry on subversive activities in urban areas. This suspicion might be the

cause of the above-mentioned deaths. It should be noted that at present to avoid political repercussions the authorities have stopped arresting arbitrarily those charged with communist activities. No communist charge against those who have disappeared has been reported.

3) Assassinations and disappearances of criminal suspects:

Eight persons reportedly were victims of such abuse of power. It was believed that the 'Death Squad Unit' set up by the Thai Authorities to combat crimes was involved in these killings. Although the government denied the existence of such a unit, news and incidents reported throughout the country seemed to indicate the contrary. The following are reports about this unit's operations in different regions, which show that the creation of such units throughout the country reflects not a suppressive policy only at local level, but a national policy endorsed and pursued by the highest authorities.

South

Mr. Sanong Rodphothong, governor of Surat Thani Province, told the press on June 25, 1981 that a 'Death Squad Unit' had been set up in his province to carry out a 'Prevent and Warn' crime-suppression plan, in conformity with the instructions given by the Ministry of Interior to governors of all crime-stricken provinces. This unit would eliminate hoodlums, criminals and local influential persons appearing on the 'black list' of the provincial officials and police. Mr. Sanong said further that the provincial authorities would first summon these anti-social elements to a meeting at which they would be asked to stop committing crimes and to swear an oath before the high-ranking provincial officials. "Whoever breaks such an oath will disappear without trace, and only relatives will know what happens to him," said the governor. This 'Prevent and Warn' plan is being implemented in the districts of Chaiya, Thachang, Naderm and Nasarn.

Central Region

On December 12, 1981, it was reported that the Regional Police Command 3 had set up a 'Ruthless Hunters' Unit', composed of single policemen, to suppress thieves, hooligans and local influential people in the five provinces of Phetburi, Rajburi, Kanchanaburi, Nakorn Pathom and Prachuabkhirikhan. This unit had been in operation since December 10.

On the same day, Interior Minister Gen. Sith Jirarot voiced his support for the plan, saying it was a 'good idea' since it helped to defuse the situation and to create a good atmosphere for the people.

Northeast

There were many reported assassinations in the provinces of Mahasarakham, Khonkaen and Buriram. The identity of the killers was unknown. Among the deaths there were Mr. Sai Saenbun and Kham Sichan, both killed in the same way. Mr. Sai lived in Ban Salong, Nong Songhong District, Khonkaen; he was killed by two persons who came in a pick-up truck and first asked after him. Kham Sichan was village headman in Ban Nongwaeng, Phuthaisong District, Buriram; he was killed in late April by two persons on a motorcycle who first asked after him. The two people were killed in front of many villagers, the killers took out the photos of the deadmen to check whether they had killed the right persons. The two deadmen were local influential persons who were reported to have been frequently involved in stealing other villagers' water buffalos. They reportedly had been backed up by some district influential persons. Another village headman in Pleuynoi District, Khonkaen, was also killed by a stranger who came in a fish sauce seller's truck. According to the Police Chief of Nong Songhong District, Khonkaen, this village headman figured among 11 persons on the district 'black list'. The impact of these killings was such that local influential people and other village headman in those areas had become afraid of strangers coming into the villages. There were reports of similar killings in other provinces such as Surin.

Conclusions

In 1980, the administration of Gen. Prem Tinsulanond announced its intention to rule the country in conformity with one of the most talked-of Prime Minister's Orders-66/B.E.2523- with a view to establishing a democratic system based on "an administrative policy which prioritizes the people's well-being..... the solution of political and socio-economic problems by fair and peaceful means". Instructions were given to improve attitudes towards the people, to give them fair treatment, and to treat as countrymen the communists who surrender to the authorities. However, while the government declared such an intention and felt proud of its effective policy to dissolve CPT force by using a 'political leading military' method, the number of assassinations and disappearances as reported above (which is believed to be below the real figures) has been increasing at an alarming rate - which has blatantly contradicted such a policy. This contradiction is the more enormous since in many cases evidence stands that the authorities at the highest level have been aware of and deeply involved in it. The government promise "to eliminate all forms of exploitation, to safeguard the lives and properties of the people" seems to be a far cry from the real practice. The best explanation about this contradiction seems to be that the government has only made use of this policy (i.e. 66/B.E.2523) to win over the CPT in the fight to get hold of the people, without any sincerity and intention to respect human rights and principles of law, without any aim to solve 'political, socio-economic problems by a fair and peaceful means' as stated, either.

PROFILES OF SOME MISSING ; DISAPPEARED AND ASSASSINATED

DARANI PANBUSAYAKUL

Name : Darani Panbusayakul (24)
Address : 34/36 Chumphol Road, Muang District, Chachoengsao Province
Family : Her father, Suraphol Panbusayakul, is a pigs raiser. She has 6 sisters and 3 brothers.
Education : She graduated from the Faculty of Law, Ramkhamhaeng University.

Incident : On May 8, 1981, Darani left her home informing her parents that she would go to Bangkok to sit for the Civil Service Commission examination to work in a governmental agency and would be back at the end of the month. But she didn't return home.

On June 4, 1981, her father, Suaphol, received a letter from an army lieutenant attached to the Third Army in Phitsanuloke, informing him that a girl named Darani had been arrested by soldiers, along with other communist sympathizers, and the suspects had been subjected to rough treatment.

On June 5, 1981, Suraphol brought the case to the Lawyers Association of Thailand.

On June 7, 1981, Suraphol and a lawyer from the Association went to ask for information at the Third Army Information Center in Phitsanuloke, but they were told that there was no suspect detained under the name of Darani. After that the Lawyers Association contacted the Internal Security Operation Command (ISCC) twice in June.

On July 16, 1981, it was reported in many newspapers that a communist suspect escaped from the ISCC interrogation center, Setsiri Road, Bangkok. This suspect had been arrested along with 2 other female suspects, including Darani. It was specified that they were arrested on June 11, 1981, at Dan Khao Rang checkpoint, Chondaen District, Phetchabun Province.

The Lawyers Association and Darani's relatives in July went to contact ISCC again.

In August 1981, it was learned that Darani had been released by ISCC.

Hypothesis : Darani was arrested as a communist suspect together with Chuak and Nari Thapmongkol. They were detained in Phitsanuloke for interrogation and were taken to the ISCC interrogation center in Bangkok before they were released.

SILPASERT PHOKAEW

Name : Silpasert Phokaew (30)

Birth Place : Ubonrachathani Province

Past Employment : Teacher at Ubonrachathani College of Education in 1973.
After the students' uprising in October 1973, enrolled in Srinakharintharawit University, Prasarnmit Campus, in a masters degree program.

Past Activities : Deputy Secretary of the National Student Center of Thailand in charge of Social and Education Section in 1975.
After the 6th October 1976 coup d'etat he escaped into the jungle to join the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT).

In 1980 he returned from the jungle and stayed at his hometown in Ubonrachathani without surrendering to the government or reporting himself to the Army. After that he continued his study at Srinakhatharawit University.

Incident : He disappeared around the middle of September 1981 after he left his residence in Bangkok to meet a friend at Chulalongkorn University and nobody has heard about him since then. After his disappearance, his father, Wacharin Phokaew, dared not tell anybody about the matter, fearing that it would harm his son.

At the beginning of 1982 he decided to appeal to the Lawyers Association of Thailand, believing that his son had been captured by government officers.

It was reported in Siam Mai, a political magazine, in March 1982 that Silpasert was killed with a bayonet while he was detained for interrogation at a military camp in the Northeastern region of Thailand.

Hypothesis : Silpasert might have been captured by officers for interrogation because he came out of the CPT without reporting himself to the government. The government officers and soldiers might have suspected him of still being an agent for the CPT and killed him.

TIM BOON-ING

Name : Tim Boon-ing

Birth Place ; Born to a farmer family in Chumpholburi District, Surin Province

Family : His wife, Samniang, is a teacher at Ban Nong Muang School, Satuek District, Buriram Province. He had 3 daughters and 1 son,

Employment : A teacher at Satuek School, Satuek District, Buriram Province.

Activities : A representative of the teachers in the Primary Education Committee, Buriram Province. As a diligent, faithful teacher he tried to get rid of corruption in educational circles and to work for the public interest as follows :-

1) With the help of Siang Buriram Newspaper he informed the public about the corruption of some officers and a rich man in Buriram, who claimed some public land (a cementary) to be their own. After complaints from the people against the illegal take-over of the land, it was returned to the public.

2) He disclosed that there was corruption in the naming of two head officers of educational departments in the districts of Buriram. The two posts were bought with bribes worth 170,000 baht (about \$ 7,395 US). This event caused Prateep Richanakard, the director of Primary Education of Buriram Province, to be transferred from his post.

3) He opposed the appointment of the members of the board of education of Buriram Province proposed by Manas Kanno, the Satuek School principal, because they were unqualified, and thus caused the school principal to become angry.

4) He criticized the administration of the school principal, especially the way he collected money from the parents improperly, the misuse of money for the student lunch program and the misuse of construction wood belonging to the school. For these reasons Manas was investigated by a committee established for this purpose.

5) He protested against the construction of a building with low standard materials under the supervision of Suphot Phongsawat, an influential man in Buriram.

Incident ; On December 28, 1981, at around 1 a.m. he was assassinated on the way back from sitting an examination for Vice-head-officer of Primary Education of the District at the Primary Education Office in Buriram. After his death he was accused of being a communist and was killed for this reason.

Hypothesis : He was killed because he tried to work for the public interest, therefore causing others to lose their interest.

Further Developments : The criminals are still at large. As the investigation began the police were treating the case as a conflict of love but later on switched to the communist accusation. After his assassination, teachers, government officers and people in Buriram Province have established the 'Tim Boon-ing Foundation' in recognition of his work.

PHONGSAK THIRAPHATPHAIBOON and KAMOL PHIENTHAMDI

Name : Phongsak Thiraphatphaiboon (24)
Address : 662 Soi Lang Talad Saeng Thip, Phrakhanong, Bangkok
Education : graduated from the Arts Department, Thungmahamek Technical Collage
Employment : Cameraman for advertisement in books, magazines and movies
In 1980 at the time of his disappearance he was becoming a government officer in the arts section of the Fine Arts Department's magazine.

Name : Kamol Phienthamdi (20)
Address : 3/2 Soi Chuliphorn, Thanon 71, Klong Tan, Bangkok
Education : student at Wat Thatthong Adult School
Employment : a minibus driver

Incident : Phongsak is a younger brother of Mrs. Wimol Phienthamdi, who later was arrested on charges of being a communist, and is Kamol's uncle.

On December 25, 1980, the two left their home by a small truck telling Phenrung Thiraphatphaiboon, an elder sister of Phongsak, that they were going to see their friends at Nakorn Sawan and would be back within 2 days. They have not returned ever since.

On December 29, 1980, Phenrung and her younger brother, Chanin, went to look for them, thinking that they might have had an accident on their way to Nakorn Sawan. They asked the checkpoint officers along the way from Ayuthaya to the last checkpoint at the highway patrol center near Chiraprawat Military Camp in Nakorn Sawan, where they learned that two men had been arrested and taken to the Internal Security Operation Command (ISOC). The description of these 2 men and the vehicle used are similar to that of their relatives and their car.

On January 4, 1981, Phenrung went to Nakorn Sawan again to check at several hospitals and to report to the police about the missing two.

On January 10, 1981, police searched the houses and took the following persons for interrogation at the Special Branch Office 6th Unit at Setsiri Road, Bangkok :-

- 1) Mrs. Wimol Phienthamdi, Phongsak's elder sister and Kamol's mother
- 2) Phenrung Thiraphatphaiboon, Phongsak's elder sister and Kamol's aunt
- 3) Chanin Thiraphatphaiboon, elder brother of Phongsak and Kamol's uncle
- 4) Nipha Phienthamdi, Wimol's daughter and Kamol's elder sister
- 5) Sarini, Phongsak's friend
- 6) Dr. Charunsak Suksasilph and his wife, Phongsak's relatives

After the interrogation they were released except for Wimol Phienthamdi who was detained and accused of being a communist. She was imprisoned in a temporary prison at Bangkok Private Police School at that time and was recently transferred to the Women's Prison of the Lard Yoa Frison.

On May 26, 1981, Phenrung and some relatives went to Nakorn Sawan to search for the two missing men again and met Col Chalao Chacmsophon, Vice Commander of the 4th Army, Chiraprawat Camp, Nakorn Sawan, and Pol Maj Gen Chintai, the Commander of Nakorn Sawan Police Force; and went to meet Col Chan Saguanwong Director of the Information Center Zone 6th in Phitsanuloke Province. But no clue or information of either persons was discovered.

After that Phenrung went to ask for further information several times from the Special Branch Office, 6th Unit at Setsiri Road but she was told that the two had not been arrested.

Hypothesis :

Phongsak and Kamol have been missing since December 25, 1980; it was assumed that they were arrested by government officers for the following reasons :-

- 1) When Phenrung and Chanin went to search for the two men at Nakorn Sawan on December 29, 1980, they learned from the high-way patrol officers near Chiraprawat Camp that the ISCC authorities had arrested 2 men whose descriptions were similar to theirs.
- 2) The search of the house and the interrogation of the relatives on January 10, 1981, might have some relation to the disappearance of the two men. While Sarini was interrogated she learned from the officers that her friend, Phongsak, was detained.
- 3) During Phenrung's interrogation on January 10, 1981, the officer told her that the 2 men were confined and were in good health.
- 4) While Wimol was detained at the temporary prison at Bangkok Private Police School, the officers showed her a letter and picture of her son, Kamol, and let her listen to his voice on a tape recorder.

SINGH PRAKORBTHIENG

Name : Singh Prakorbthieng (35)
Birth : August 27, 1947
Address : 71/4 Ban Thung Klang, Uan Sub-district, Pua District, Nan Province
Family : He and his wife, Duangchan, have 2 sons and 1 daughter.
Activities : A voluntary officer for agriculture in the Sub-district,
Banrai School committee member, Uan Sub-district
Village development committee member
A committee member of the Sub-district council
Wat Thung Klang Temple committee member
Village Cremation committee member
Co-operative manager (Phayung Thai Store)

In 1976 after moving from Tha Wang Pha District to Ban Thung Klang, he first ran a grocery and a tailor shop and then he started farming. Later he was chosen to a voluntary officer for agriculture in the village to help advise farmers. He worked very hard took good care of farmers and he also devoted himself to village development. Thus, he won the hearts of the villagers, especially for being honest and devoted.

In 1981 in order to solve the problem of high commodity prices Singh and his friends together opened a co-operative in the village on November 15, with Singh as manager.

On February 1st, 1982, 87 villagers registered as members of the co-operative and the capital grew to 14,700 baht (about \$ 639 US).

Incident : At around 8 p.m. of April 27, 1982, while Singh was working on accounts alone in the co-operative, he was shot through the front of the head by 2 bullets. He died instantly and the gunman fled from the scene.

Hypothesis : 1) Singh had a conflict over a love affair before moving to Ban Thung Klang village. However, it happened 7 or 8 years ago.

2) Singh had quarrelled with the head of the Sub-district in a meeting of the Sub-district council over corruption in the village development project, in 1980.

3) The establishing of the grocery co-operative caused some shop owners in the village to lose their profits.

Further Development : The gunman is still at large and the causes of the assassination have not been determined yet. His wife and his 3 children have moved back to Singh's hometown in Tha Wang Pha District, Nan Province. Sagan and Saneh, Singh's friends, were threatened. Sagan escaped to Bangkok and has stayed and worked there. Saneh, despite the threats, still stays with his family in the village.

GIVE SOLIDARITY SUPPORT TO
FOUR THAI HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS
IN ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST
WIDE RANGE ASSASSINATIONS AND DISAPPEARANCES IN THAILAND

CAMPAIGN STARTS DECEMBER 10TH, 1982

On December 8th, 1982 four human rights organizations in Thailand namely the Coordinating Group for Religion in Society, the Union for Civil Liberty, the Commission for Justice and Peace, and the Lawyers Association of Thailand, submitted an open letter to the Prime Minister, giving him a list of 43 persons who have either disappeared or were assassinated for various reasons during 1981-1982. Following remarks were made to the Prime Minister:

1. There should be an acceleration in the investigation on cases of assassination of rural leaders, labour leaders and journalists. The assassin or any person involved in the assassination should be arrested, and legal action should be brought against them.
2. On cases that there is an assumption that the disappearance after arrest and the disappearance are due to political reasons, thorough investigation should be carried out. A special committee should be set up to bring clarification to the cases, and the relatives of the victims should be informed.
3. The death squad is clearly illegal. If the Ministry of Interior has such a policy, it should revise and announce its policy publicly, and state the facts to the public.

YOUR SUPPORT ACTION IS URGENTLY NEEDED

The four human rights organizations have spent several months gathering information and studying the cases, to get accurate and evidential information before launching a campaign which starts December 10th, marking the international Human Rights Day and the Constitution Day of Thailand.

We urge that you support the campaign by sending urgent letters and/or telegrams to the Prime Minister of Thailand, expressing your concern and distress over the disappearance and assassinations in Thailand, the political assassination and the death squads. Or you may support the three demands of the four human rights organizations.

Though the Human Rights Day has already passed, we still request that you continue to write. Your letters and cables are still of great value even then.

Please send your letter/telegram to
Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinasulanonda
Government House
Nakorn Pathom Road, Bangkok 10300
Thailand

	Age	Profession/Position	Date of incident	Description and place of incident	Source of Information
5) Mr. Singha Prakorb-thieng	35	manager of trading Shop Cooperative, Thungklang village, Uan sub-district, Pua district, Nan province	27 Apr 82 8:00p.m.	shot dead in the Cooperative Shop in Thungklang village	-Social Development magazine, Vol 10 NO 3 (May-June 82)
6) Mr. Thao Ehoodi	57	village headman, Nakut-sin village, Moo 3, Sainawang, Kaowong district Kalasin province	15 May 82	shot dead in front of his home after returning from the village temple fair	-one development worker
7) Mr. Prakaipheth Nasonjai	44	-member of Provincial Council, Khon Kaen province -editor of Kaensan newspaper -committee member of Social Democratic Party	3 July 82	shot dead at his home in City district, Khon Kaen province	-Matuphoom newspaper (5 & 14 July 82) -Matichon newspaper (6 & 15 July 82)
1.2 Labour Leaders Reason: They led or represented the workers in the course of justice					
1) Mr. Samrong Napa-chot	25	president of Sahafarm company (Bangkok) labour union	15 Oct 81	shot dead by 2 assassins while waiting for a bus after the union meeting	-Bangkok Post newspaper (16 Oct 81)
2) Mr. Son Kijiwat	23	member of the Sahafarm company (Bangkok) labour union	15 Oct 81	shot dead by 2 assassins while waiting for a bus after the union meeting	-Bangkok Post newspaper (16 Oct 81)

Summary of information on people assassinated or arrested or who disappeared

(during 1981-1982)

	Age	Profession/Position	Date of incident	Description and Place of incident	Source of Information
<p>1. <u>Assassination of Leaders</u> <u>1.1 Rural Leaders</u> Reason: they have conflict with local influential people 1) Mr. Paisan Potiladao</p>	24	teacher, Payakkaphoomvithakarn school, Phayakka-phoomphisai district, Mahasarakam province	14 Oct 81	mysteriously found dead at his home at Nasinuan village, Nasinuan sub-district, Phayakka-phoomphisai district	-his friend -Social Development magazine, Vol 10 No 3 (May-June 1982)
<p>2) Mr. Tim Boon-ing</p>		teacher, Satuek school, Satuek district, Buriram province	28 Dec 81 01.00.00	shot dead on his way home from the Provincial office of Primary Education in Buriram	-document of the coordinating center for fund-raising campaign to set up a foundation in memorial of Teacher Tim -documents published by Buriram Teacher Group -Siam Mai magazine (July 1982)
<p>3) Mr. Pai Pralas</p>	59	Kamman, head of Phadaeng sub-district, city district, Prae province	10 Mar 82	shot dead by 3 assassins at the festival in Pratatsahae temple, phadaeng sub-district, Prae province	-Thai News newspaper (10 Mar 1982)
<p>4) Mrs. Boonchong Photitanom</p>		member of Provincial Council, Uthaithani province	23 Mar 82	shot dead at her home in Taptan market, Moo 1, Taptan sub-district, City district, Uthaithani. She was then 3 months pregnant.	-Thai Rath newspaper (27 Mar 1982)

	Age	Profession/Position	Date of incident	Description and place of incident	Source of Information
4) Mr. Somsak Weerasai		editor of Sieng Lopburi newspaper, a local paper of Lopburi province (Central)	28 Feb 82	shot dead in Lopburi	ditto
5) Mr. Chotipat Chattra - non	22	reporter of Bangkok Post newspaper	18 Feb 82	shot dead in front of a night club in the city of Nakorn Pathom province (Central)	ditto
6) Mr. Prasit Thappin	43	editor and owner of Sarn Manchon newspaper, a local newspaper of Phetchaburi province (South)	7 Mar 82 9.45 p.m.	shot dead by 2 assassins in the press office	ditto
7) Mr. Manchai Hatthachumphon		editor of Sieng Nakorn Pathom newspaper, a local paper of Nakorn Pathom province (Central)	14 Mar 82 6.45 p.m.	shot dead in the city of Nakorn Pathom	ditto
8) Mr. Mandi Thongprapha		editor of Khao Tawan newspaper	3 Apr 82	shot dead by 2 assassins in front of the press office in Bangkok	ditto
9) Mr. Kukiert Phatthanaalongkorn		reporter of Sieng Tawan-oak newspaper	17 May 82	shot dead by an assassin with an A.K. machine gun on the road from Chonburi to Ban Bueng district (East)	ditto
10) Mr. Somphong Wichaimekphat		reporter of Thai Rath newspaper and a local paper in Nakornrachsi-ma (North-east)	8 July 82	shot by an assassin with an 11 mm. pistol. He died in a hospital.	ditto

	Age	Profession/Position	Date of Incident	Description and place of incident	Source of Information
3) Mr. Chamlong Raksuk	30	Labour leader at Thai Special Steel company, Samutprakarn province	6 Mar 82 12.00p.m.	shot dead in front of his home, near the factory in Samutprakarn province	-The Nation newspaper (7 Mar 82) -Matichon newspaper (9 Mar 82)
4) Mr. Prachun Waichan		labour representative of Burapha Lek Kla (Steel) factory	9 June 82	shot dead in the factory's cafeteria	-Matuphoom newspaper (11 June 82)
5) Mr. Ang-kim Sae Bay	48	head of the workers at the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO)	1 July 82	shot dead by 2 assassins at Yanawa district, Bangkok, after the meeting in the FMO	-Matichon newspaper (3 July 82)
1.3 Journalists Reason: They reported on the wrong deeds of government officials or local influential people.					
1) Mr. Somchai Nithiang		editor of Phetchaboon (northern province) local newspaper & reporter of many Bangkok newspaper	9 Feb 82 7.30 p.m.	shot dead by 2 assassins while having dinner in a restaurant in Lomsak district, Phetchaboon province	-information gathered by Mr. Thongchai Thongpao (a lawyer), printed in Justice and Peace newsletter - Phuthai - (the Liberator), July-Sep 82
2) Mr. Sumon Chumchue		reporter of Thai Rath newspaper in Nakhonsrihammarat province (South)	12 Feb 82	shot dead by M.16 assassin on the road from Nakhonsrihammarat to Promkiri district	ditto
3) Mr. Anan Apiwatudom-khun	40	reporter of Bangkok newspapers in Nongkhai province (Northeast)	14 Feb 82 7.45 p.m.	shot dead in a coffee shop in the city of Nongkhai province	ditto

	Age	Profession/Position	Date of incident	Description and place of incident	Source of Information
3) Mr. Silpasert Phokaew	30	Vice-secretary of the now defunct National Student Center of Thailand during 1975. He joined the Communist Party of Thailand after the October 1976 incident, and surrendered to the government afterwards	Sep 81	disappeared after he left home to meet his friend at Chulalongkorn University. It was supposed that he was arrested and by now might have been killed.	-Bangkok Post newspaper (11 Oct 81) -Siam Mai magazine (27 Mar 82) -a petition letter from his father, Mr. Wacharin Phokaew, to Mr. Thongbai Thongpao, a lawyer
4) Mr. Wiriya Ratanawicharn	81	a student of Ramkhamhaeng university. He was a nephew of Dr. Chaiyenthira, a medical doctor who voluntarily gave service to rural people in remote area in the North-east and was thus suspected to be communist, and was threatened	81	disappeared after he was called by the paramilitary force for an interrogation at the district office, Sawangdaendin district in Sakon-nakorn province. It was supposed that he might have been killed and his body burnt.	-Matuphoom newspaper (9 July 82) -Thailand newspaper (9 July 82) -Matichon newspaper (10 July 82)
5) Ms. Darani Phanbusayakul	24	a graduate of Faculty of Law, Ramkhamhaeng University	11 May 81	disappeared after having left home in the city of Chacherng-sao for Bangkok. It was found out later that she was arrested and detained at the interrogation center of the Internal Security Operation Command in Bangkok. She was released after various efforts and appeals from her parents.	-a petition letter from her father to the Lawyers Association of Thailand. -Thai Rath, Matichon, Matuphoom, Bangkok Post newspaper (11 July 81)
6) Ms. Naree Thapmongkol	22		11 June 81	arrested with Ms. Darani Phanbusayakul. She was detained at the interrogation center, ISOC. There was no report of her release.	-Thai Rath, Matichon, Matuphoom, Bangkok Post newspaper (31 July 81)

	Age	Profession/Position	Date of incident	Description and place of incident	Source of Information
<p>2.</p> <p>Cases of people being assassinated or arrested or who disappeared, which are supposed to result from political reasons.</p> <p>2.1 Cases of people being arrested or who disappeared</p> <p>Reason: They were suspected to have performed communist activities.</p>	<p>44</p>	<p>reporter of Sieng Muang Chon newspaper (a local paper of Gronburi province-East) and some Bangkok papers</p>	<p>25 Aug 82</p>	<p>shot dead by an assassin with an 11 mm. pistol, while he was with his girl friend (Ms. Sutin Chittemsantisuk) in his room. The girl was also killed.</p>	<p>ditto</p>
<p>1) Mr. Phongsak Phiraphatphai boon</p> <p>2) Mr. Kamol Phienthamdi</p>	<p>24</p> <p>20</p>	<p>a free lance photographer for advertisements</p> <p>student at the adult school in Thathong temple in Bangkok</p>	<p>25 Dec 80</p>	<p>disappeared on their way to Nakornsawan province. They were suspected to have been arrested by the officials. There was no report about them ever since their disappearance.</p>	<p>a petition letter from their sister & aunt, Ms. Phenrung Phiraphatphai boon</p> <p>statement of Mrs. Wi-mol Phienthamdi</p> <p>many newspaper during April-June 82</p>
		<p>Remarks: The two are the brother and the son of Mrs. Wi-mol Phienthamdi, a defendant in communist case.</p>			

	Age	Profession/Position	Date of Incident	Description and place of incident	Source of Information
<p>6) Mr. Suchat Bariphan</p>	21	<p>a rubber farmer living at Yangkhom Sub-district Nakornsithammarat Province. He has some relatives in the CPT.</p>	Sep 82	<p>killed by an assassin supposed to be a ranger (paramilitary force) staying at Nua village, Moo 9, Yangkhom Sub-district, Nakornsithammarat Province.</p>	<p>-a person from Phipoc District (name cannot be disclosed)</p>
<p>3. Cases of people being arrested and who disappeared, or were assassinated by a death squad Reason: They were criminal suspects or influential persons.</p>			27 Mar 82	<p>shot dead in Chompol Road, Lard Phrao, Bangkok. His father, Surin Churuang, mentioned that the assassin was a policeman attached to the Prakarn (God if Death) Force.</p>	<p>-Matuphoom newspaper (1 Feb 82)</p>
<p>2) Mr. Sai Saenboon</p>		<p>an influential villager living at Salong village, Nong Song Hong Sub-district, Nong Song Hong District, Khonkaen Province</p>	82	<p>shot dead by 2 strangers in the village. Many villagers witnessed the incident.</p>	<p>-a development worker (name cannot be disclosed)</p>
<p>3) Mr. Kam Sichon</p>		<p>village headman of Nongwaeng village, Ban-ku Sub-district, Buriram Province. He was suspected to be a buffalo thief.</p>	Apr 82	<p>shot dead by 2 strangers who came to the village and asked for him. He was shot in front of many villagers.</p>	<p>-a development worker (name cannot be disclosed)</p>

	Age	Profession/Position	Date of Incident	Description and place of incident	Source of Information
<p>2.2 Cases of people being assassinated: Reason : They have joined the CPT or the separatist movement or were suspected to have performed communist activities.</p>					
1) Mr. Yoo Soh Loh	37	He used to belong to the southern separatist movement and surrendered to the government in November 1981.	18 Dec 81	shot dead in the market place in Pattani	-Matichon newspaper (19 Dec 81)
2) Mr. Hama Samuding		Islamic teacher at Dhamaiddhaya Foundation School in Yala Province	23 Dec 81	shot dead in the city of Yala	-Chao Thai newspaper (6 Feb 82)
3) Mr. Rawyani Ahmed	30	Islamic teacher at Kalohbugeh School in Sungaipadi District, Narathiwat Province	1 May 82	shot dead in the district railway station, in front of the police station	-his friend (name cannot be disclosed)
4) Mr. Somphong (last name unknown)	41	a truck driver living at Kangkong village, Rangang Sub-district, Srikonaphom District, Surin province	July 82	shot dead in a bus to the village witnessed by other passengers	-some people from Surin (name cannot be disclosed)
5) Mr. Sornthong (last name unknown)	23	a farmer living at Dong village, Prakaew Sub-district, Sang-Kha District, Surin Province. He joined the CPT in 1977 and surrendered in 1981.	Aug 82	shot dead on his way home	-ditto

	Age	Profession/Position	Date of incident	Description and place of incident	Source of Information
4) Two young men from Ban Tachi sub-district Nasarn district, Suratthani province		one of these 2 men was a thief	June 82	arrested by the officer and killed afterwards. Their dead bodies were found at Ban Don village, Nasarn district, Suratthani	-Thai Rath newspaper (23 June 82)
5) Mr. Udom Chiamsamai 6) Mr. Suriya Kitsali	15	son of Mrs. Sumontha Chiamsamai. The two lived at Pako sub-district, Udonthani province (North-east)	July 82	arrested by the policemen of City district police station, Khon Kaen province and disappeared ever since. Their relatives questioned the police officers, but they denied their responsibilities.	-Thai Rath newspaper (12 July 82)
7) Two Technical students from Phipoon Technical College, Nakornsitham - marat			Aug 82	the 2 students were involved in a robbery and fled. The police got them, and inspite of their appeal for life, the police shot them to death.	-a Nakornsritthamma-rat resident (name cannot be disclosed)
8) Mr. Sao (last name unknown)		village headman of Jaroke village, Dan sub-district, Kabcherng district, Surin province. He was suspected of corruption.	82	shot dead in the village	-a development worker (name cannot be disclosed)

MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT POWER

A Border Patrol Police Shoots Dead 2 Fishermen

Trat

On October 3, Pvt. Somchai Thepparat from Border Patrol Police Unit 220 Ban Kao Wong, Klong Yai District, Trat Province, shot dead 2 fishermen who quarrelled with his 2 colleagues in the Klong Yai District police station.

The incident happened when two fishermen, namely Suchin Wannarat (42), and Somnuek Kreuwiset (30) were waiting at the police station for interrogation about the case in which they quarrelled with 2 Border Patrol Police. After shooting them dead, Somchai threatened everybody in the police station who was involved in the case.

Realizing how significant the incident would be to the image of the Department of Police, the Director General Narong Mahanond himself gave a special order to arrest Pvt. Somchai. However, until the present, Pvt. Somchai's whereabouts are unknown. (Daily News 5/10/1982)

2 Policemen Murder a Bank Manager

Nakhorn Pathom

Two policemen and a man were arrested on Dec. 19 on charges of robbing and killing a bank manager. on Dec. 9.

Pol.Sgt Maj.Somsak Indarachai (40), Pol Lance Corporal Sanong Rongritthikrai and Narong Thanarak (27) were arrested in Nakhorn Pathom on charges of kidnapping Vira Atthapaisan, the bank manager of the Kanchanaburi branch of the First Bangkok City Bank while he was waiting for a bus in Nakhorn Pathom early on the morning of Dec. 9.

The three defendants shot dead Vira, rang his neck with an electric line and immediately burnt his body which was disposed of in a big pond near Pol Sgt Maj Somsak's house. They also robbed him of 1,050,000 Baht worth of cash and valuables.

The two policemen were sentenced to death on Dec. 27 after a speedy one-day trial with 16 witnesses on Dec.23, although they confessed to the charge and accused Narong as the murderer. Narong, however, hanged himself before the trial began in his solitary cell in a police station two days after his arrest. (Daily News 24/12/1982, Nation 28/12/1982)

Head Officer District Filed on Torture and Illegal Detention

Sakhon Nakhorn

Bubpha Chaisak (35) a villager of the 5th village, Bong Tai Sub-District, Sawang Daen Din District on Nov.8 filed a lawsuit against Chamroon Chamrak, head officer of Sawang Daen Din District, and one of his deputies for torturing and detaining him arbitrarily.

According to him, Chamroon had tortured him by tying his mouth and hands and leaving him out in the sun for a day in May 1982. Chamroon, the district head officer, was well known for his severe communist suppression activities.

There were at least two publicized cases of villagers who came to Bangkok last October to complain of the tortures and the disappearances of themselves and their relatives allegedly caused by Chamroon. These cases were brought into the House of Parliament's Military Affairs Committee for investigation but the conclusion has not yet been reached. (Matuphoom 14/10/1982)

A Village Leader Shot Dead After Reporting on Illegal Log-cutting

Kanchanaburi

A village leader of Sri Sawat District and an ISOC agent was shot dead on Oct 2 after filing a report to his superiors implicating a police officer's wife in an illegal log-cutting ring there.

Samrerng Amtham (42), a member of Dan Mae Chalaeb Sub-district Council, after reporting an illegal action involving Mrs. Suchira Huankit on Sept. 26, received a threat allegedly made by Mrs. Suchira's husband, Pol Lt Col La-iad Huankit, a crime suppression police officer in the province. He was killed by a gunman at 1.00 am on Oct. 2 in a temple of Village No. 6 during a religious ceremony, 4 days after the threat was made.

The alleged plotters were arrested on Dec. 14 in a house in Sena Hives Housing Estate in Bangkok after the suspected gunman, Nikorn Phumart, had been arrested on Oct. 26 and was quoted as telling police investigators that he had been hired to kill Samrerng by the couple. However, the couple denied any involvement in the killing of the village leader. La-iad was dismissed from police service on Oct. 29, the day an arrest warrant was issued on him. (Matichon 4/10/1982, Nation 15/12/1982)

A Young Man Brutally Shot Dead

Mahasarakham

A young man was shot dead by two teams of policemen and his body immediately buried.

Kriengsak Phanikom (17) of Ban Noi Koo, Nong Sorn Sub-district, on riding back home after visiting relatives in other province, was called to stop by two teams of policemen from Chieng Yuen and Nam Phong District police stations. For unknown reasons, Kriengsak did not stop and was then shot in his right thigh and in different parts of his body until he died, despite of his ask for mercy. The policemen then performed a rapid autopsy and claimed that the young man committed suicide and told his relatives to bury Kriengsak's body hurriedly.

Being told by the witness of the police's involvement in Kriengsak's death, the relatives had his corpse dug up for the proof. It was found that the bullets were not the ones claimed by the police and his father believed that Kriengsak did not commit suicide as reported by police. (Daily News 28/11/1982)

Murder Suspect Shot Dead

Bangkok

A policeman was arrested on Nov. 5 and charged with murder for shooting a suspected killer in a scuffle shortly after the man was arrested.

Sgt Maj Tanyasan Chankrachang was arrested on charges of murdering a suspected killer, Suthep Ngarmwongnoi, 23, who was arrested earlier by a team of policemen on Oct. 23. While he was being taken to the police station, the police car had to stop because of a burst tyre on a road. After being permitted to get out of the car, Suthep tried to snatch a pistol from a policeman. When he tried a second time with another policeman after the first attempt failed he was shot by Sgt Maj Tanyasan and killed.

Sgt Maj Tanyasan was later released pending further investigation into the incident. (Bangkok Post 6/11/1982)

Policemen Held for Murder of District Health Officer

Nakhorn Pathom

Four policemen in Nakhorn Pathom were arrested by a team of crime suppression policemen on Oct 9 in connection with the murder of a former senior district health official in the province in July.

The four police suspects, identified as Pol Sgt Maj Songwan Kongsri, Pol Sgt Maj Udom Sukko, Pol Sgt Maj Nakhorn Tanyaprasert and Pol Sgt Maj Somsak Puengching, admitted to the murder charge of Dr Niyom Naksasuk, a former chief of the Bang Lane Health Office. He was brutally shot to death by several weapons including M-16 rifles in his car near the police station on his way home on July 22. (Nation 10/10/1982)

NEWS FROM THAILAND

Two Mass Defection and Proposal to Amend the Anti-Communist Act

Muk Daharn

On Dec 1, the founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT), over 1,000 communist insurgents and their sympathizers led by Sawat Mahisaya or Comrade Niroj marched out of their jungle base in Muk Daharn and surrendered to the government represented by Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Arthit Kamlan-ek and several high ranking army officials. The mass defection was the largest in the history of the outlawed communist party.

Sawat, 55, the secretary general of the CPT provincial committee in charge of Zone 444 said that the insurgents decided to defect because of their dissatisfaction with the outcome of the fourth congress of the CPT, while the government anti-communist policy No 66/B.E.2523 gave them confidence in surrendering. He also said the government had promised not to treat them as "losers". They were referred to as "people joining Thai national development" by the government.

The defection came after months of negotiations between the insurgents and army officials, starting last September.

Another mass surrender of about 1,500 communist sympathizers, mostly from the Hmong and Karen Hilltribes, defected to the government in a ceremony presided over by Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Arthit Kamlang-ek on Dec.27 at the airstrip of the Second Border Patrol Division in Umphang District, Tak Province. It is the result of the Third Army Region's suppression of insurgency in June 1982.

Commander of the Special Brand Division Pol Maj Gen Opas Ratanasin on Dec 30, said the number of armed fighters of the CPT in the North and Northeast has dropped by 50% because of continuing mass defections and the communist insurgents still remaining in the jungles of the two regions is believed to be 3,000-5,000 whereas the number of insurgents in the South is about 1,500-2,000.

Assistant Army Chief-of-Staff for Operations Lt. Gen Chaovalit Yongjaiyuth, in a conference of the Army Task Force Center (which is composed of several operation units including the Internal Security Operation Command (ISOC)) to review the fighting situation with the CPT and strategies for the period after the armed struggle, on Nov 17 proposed to abrogate the Anti-Communist Act and to amend the Election and the Political Party Act, as well as the Constitutional provisions concerning political parties, in order to stop armed struggle and expand individual freedom.

In late December Meechai Ruecnuphan, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office, said that the draft of the Security Act, proposed by the law sub-committee of the National Security Council to replace the Anti-Communist Act, is going to be finished soon. The draft will be sent to be considered by the Prime Minister before being sent to the Department of Legislative Redaction to be improved.

Student Leader Shot and Killed

Prachuab Khirikhan

One of the student leaders who was active in the protest against the busfare increase in front of the Government House in November this year, Montchai Soranakhom, 22, was shot dead by an unidentified gunman in his hometown in Tabsakae Sub-district, Tabsakae District at about 10 pm on Dec 3 while he was on his way to his residence.

Montchai, a third-year student of the Faculty of Law, Ramkhamhaeng University, joined in a fast in protest against the busfare rise.

The Seven Faculties Party of Ramkhamhaeng University, on Dec 12, called Prachuab Khirikhan police to step up the investigation into the killing of their colleague. On Dec 15 they also submitted a petition to university administrators urging the police to investigate the allegations.

Special Branch Police commander, Pol Maj Gen Opas Rattanasin denied any political motive in the killing. He also denied that policemen had intimidated some students who were involved in the hunger strike. Two hunger strikers, Nikhom Freechakul and Duangdao Wisaramvong were warned by a number of policemen not to take part in any protest in the future. Nikhom also claimed that a group of policemen came to search his house.

Labour Leader Arrested on Charge of Lese-Majesty

Bangkok

President of the National Congress of Thai Labour (NCTL) Sanan Wongsuthee, accused of lese-majesty, was arrested at 6 am on Oct 15, 1982, at his residence in Bangkok by Cha-am police of Petburi Province and was brought to Cha-am police station for detention.

Cha-am police brought the charge against Sanan in September, 4 months after he had joined a seminar in Cha-am District on May 23-29, and allegedly made a contemptuous statement against the throne.

The NCTL vice-president Savit Chitman said that the Special Branch Division (SBD) had earlier summoned Sanan for interrogation over the charge and had ruled that it was not justifiable.

Another NCTL executive remarked that the legal action should have been initiated by SBD rather than Cha-am police.

Sanan claimed in a recent interview with a weekly magazine that the charge against him was part of a plot to tarnish his image as he is a candidate vying for the NCTL top post.

31 Were Sentenced to Death

In the past three months (October to December) death sentences were handed down by several provincial courts to 31 persons in 28 cases, which outnumbered the same period last year. 7 sentences (No 6,8,13,19,20,26, and 28) were commuted to life imprisonment and 3 cases (No 9,18, and 21) to 63 and 60 year prison sentences. The case are as follows.

No	Name	Charges	Date of Incident	Name of the Provincial Court	Date of Sentencing
1.	Prasert Chimchareon(31)	raping & murdering	17/10/1982	Samut Sakorn	27/10/1982
2.	Poon Sakunchote(22)	murdering	1981	Nan	28/10/1982
3.	Lamai Phothisuwan(27)	raping & murdering	12/10/1982	Samut Prakarn	5/11/1982
4.	Surasak Khankaew(23) Karun Sairungkaew(25)	raping & murdering	8/10/1982	Bangkok	10/11/1982
5.	Somphong Khamthong(26)	"	29/8/1982	Songkhla	12/11/1982
6.	Daeng Saenthaveesuk (27)	"	27/6/1982	Bangkok	15/11/1982
7.	Insorn Chaithong (20)	murdering	-/6/1982	Lamphun	17/11/1982
8.	Krajarn Boonchu	"	22/4/1982	Nakorn Srithammarat	19/11/1982
9.	La-or Nartsomboon (25)	raping & murdering	5/9/1982	Chaiyaphum	24/11/1982
10.	Chusak Boonmee (23)	murdering	12/6/1982	Bangkok	25/11/1982
11.	Boonlue Naew-we (29)	robbing & murdering	9/2/1981	Khonkaen	9/12/1982
12.	Prasuth Pianetr (33) Payoa Katekwang (24)	murdering	14/10/1981	Bangkok	13/12/1982
13.	Pativat Loykul (19)	robbing & murdering	16/7/1982	Bangkok	13/12/1982
14.	Amnuey Senathong (19)	murdering	11/12/1982	Nakorn Srithammarat	14/12/1982
15.	Suriya Kerdklang (43)	murdering	-/10/1980	Bangkok	20/12/1982
16.	Wirot Thamsuwan (25)	murdering	22/4/1982	Trat	22/12/1982
17.	Thong Chakkaew (Mrs)(23)	robbing & murdering	-	Nan	22/12/1982
18.	San Thammasiri (25)	raping & murdering	-	Nan	22/12/1982
19.	Duangta Sansuwan (27)	robbing & murdering	-	Chiengrai	22/12/1982
20.	Saensuk Sae-sim (22)	murdering	5/2/1982	Bangkok	22/12/1982
21.	Srilai Laemthong (23)	raping & murdering	4/10/1982	Kampaengpet	24/12/1982
22.	Fud Changnam (25)	murdering	5/3/1982	Petchaburi	25/12/1982
23.	Somsak Intharachai Sanong Rongritthikrai	robbing & murdering	9/12/1982	Nakorn Pathom	27/12/1982
24.	Nivat Nirandorn (23)	robbing & murdering	23/8/1980	Bangkok	28/12/1982
25.	Sutham Bai-khiew (27)	robbing & murdering	24/5/1982	Chaiyaphom	28/12/1982
26.	Montri Somsri (23)	raping, robbing, murdering	7/9/1982	Bangkok	28/12/1982
27.	Somsak Udomsophakit (24)	murdering	25/4/1981	Chiengmai	29/12/1982
28.	La-iat Phongthien (21)	raping & murdering	11/11/1982	Bangkok	30/12/1982

The death sentence was handed down frequently following the high frequency of murders and other serious crimes. These crimes were so common that people called for severe measures, especially capital punishment and the former Article 17 of Constitution B.E.1958, which empowered the Prime Minister by the consent of the cabinet to hand down summary punishment. However, Marut Bunnag, the Minister of Justice opposed such measure, reasoning that the Article 17 would be against democratic principles, and pointed out that the present Criminal Law which was amended on August 3 this year empowers the court to give severe sentences, including capital punishment.

Nevertheless, since people are so interested in the matter, certain trials especially trials for raping and murdering have been much quickened; for example the trial of Prasert Chimcharoen (No.1) within 6 days after the case was brought into the court is believed to be the shortest court case in Thailand.

Employers' Aggressive Tactics

Paisan Thawatchainan, president of the newly-formed Thai Trade Unions Congress said on November 25 that certain employers have used "aggressive tactics" to create conflicts and divisions within the labour movement through dismissals and lay-offs. He added that the campaign by the employers started late last year.

Two such mass lay-offs occurred recently. On October 6 Thai Melon Polyester workers held a demonstration in front of the factory to protest against the company's unfair dismissal of 97 employees. Most of the number were members of the company labour union and seven were committee members. They had earlier tried to negotiate with the management for higher wages. While the employers reasoned that losses and low sales forced them to dismiss the workers, the workers alleged that although the laid-off workers had been given severance pay, the company still violated the Labour Law by failing to inform them about the dismissal in advance. Thai Melon Polyester factory, with 2,000 workers, is the biggest polyester company in South East Asia.

Another lay off took place on September 30 when the United Dredging Company terminated the employment of 82 of its 102 workers and ordered them and their families - a total of about 400 people- out of the company's living quarters. The management reasoned that operating losses forced it to dismiss the workers. The workers, however, claimed that the lay-off was intended to pressure the government to reverse an order by Fourth Army Region Commander which strictly forbidding mining in certain locations in the South where the company had planned to mine

Supreme Commander Proposes "War Reserve Contingency Pool"

Supreme Commander Gen Saiyud Kerdphol on December 6 proposed the establishment of a "War Reserve Contingency Pool" to be maintained by the United States in a Pacific location, from which member nations could draw war logistical items in emergency situation.

He continued that the pool would maintain large quantities of high-use equipment items such as small arms, F-5 engines and assorted parts, tactical radios and ammunition of all types. Allied nations would be able to purchase shares in

the pool, which would be made available under Foreign Military Sales auspices. Member nations would then be allowed to draw material from the WRM pool in contingency situations subject to conditions set down when the Logistics Operations Application was signed.

Three Big Protest and Demonstrations in Bangkok and Supanburi

During November and December three prominent demonstrations and protests were held on different issues ranging from bus fare increase, minimum rice price and regulations on selection of university rector.

The busfare protest took place following the decision of the cabinet to increase busfare by 25% in November, which stirred the move of students and labour unions in Bangkok and surrounding provinces. Speeches attacking the government and signature collecting were organized in crowded areas as part of the protest. The protest was highlighted when seven students began a hunger strike in front of the Government House on November 16, after ten days of the movement. The number increased to 20 when more students and people joined the hunger strike on November 19 and a man also threatened to burn himself if the government insisted to maintain its decision. The protest died down when the Prime Minister announced a busfare reduction on the evening of November 20.

One week later, about 5,000 farmers in Supanburi and five other provinces in the area staged a rally on November 28 to call on the government to increase the basic paddy price and declared that their fellow farmers from 45 rice-growing provinces throughout the country would jointly hold a demonstration in Bangkok on December 14 to put more pressure on the government. Their eight demands, including a minimum from 3,000 baht to 3,750 baht for 1,000 kilogrammes of rice, received no favourable response from the government agencies concerned during the first week of rally. However, after serious negotiations between government representatives and the farmers' representatives from all regions throughout the country in Bangkok, the latter decided to cancel the demonstration in response to the promise of the government to increase the rice price by 300 baht per 1,000 kgs. The rally which is regard as the biggest one ever held by farmers after October 6 bloodbaht finally ended in December 6.

In front of the Government House on December 8 was another rally organized by students of Khon Kaen university, which is 500 kms from Bangkok, in protest against the university council's decision to reappoint Dr Kawee Tungsubutr as the rector of the university for three more years. They also called for change in the regulation on the selection of the university's rector. In responding to the more than 1,000 student rally, the government officials refused to take any step into the issue. No negotiation was made while the situation became tense until the Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Arthit Kamlang-ek interfered the case on December 14 by forcing the rector to resign from his post and the university council to have the regulation reviewed. The move of Gen Arthit consequently put an end to the rally which highlighted the powerful position of the present Commander-in-Chief in Thai politics.

ACTIVITIES OF CGRS

The Coordinating Group for Religion in Society (CGRS) is composed of laymen and young activists from the Buddhists, the Catholic and the Protestant who share a common belief in non-violence, and feel that religion and spiritual value have a central role to play in development of Thai society. CGRS was founded early in 1976 but has become actively involved in human rights since the October 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 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 non-violence 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 October - December 1982

I Human rights activities

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.

Campaign against wide-range assassinations and disappearances

To mark the 50th anniversary of the bestowal of the first permanent constitution for Thailand and the 34th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, of which Thailand is a signatory, CGRS with 3 other human rights organizations in Thailand namely the Union for Civil Liberty, the Commission for Justice and Peace and the Lawyers Association of Thailand, submitted on Dec 8 an open letter to the Prime Minister, urging him to have the problem of disappearances and assassinations investigated. A list of 43 persons who have either disappeared or were assassinated for various reasons during 1981-1982, given to the Prime Minister, was summarised into 3 categories. (See more details on pp)

The four human rights organizations called for an acceleration in the investigation of the assassinations of labour and community leaders, the setting up of a special committee to clarify the disappeared cases and the revision of the government's policy on death squad.

The petition was widely reported in many local newspapers and magazines , which show the common concern over the problem. In addition to this, support groups and people concerned were called upon world wide to support this campaign, which was another attempt to disclose the present situation of human rights in Thailand.

II Rural development activities

The "Tod Pa-pa" ceremony in Thailand is a special time in which people can make donations to a Buddhist temple to earn personal merit as well as assist a poor temple, usually in the rural areas. Gifts of money, robes and other necessities are collected for donation to the monks in the temple.

The word "Tod" means to make an offering to a monk. "Pa-pa" refers to the cloth from the forest. This ceremony is an ancient part of the Buddhist religion, and dates back to the time when believers would leave cloth in the forests for monks to find and sew into the robe which they wore. Now the donations are usually made directly to the temple rather than left in the forest, but the meaning remains the same.

During October and December, CGRS organized in collaboration with 9 other organizations a "Tod Pa-pa" ceremony for December 5-6, to help raise money and necessary supplies for community development activities in 21 villages in 11 different provinces. These development activities which are initiated by villagers and local monks themselves are meant to cope with the lack of four basic needs, namely rice, water, medicine and knowledge in their villages. Their work includes the setting up of rice banks, medicine cooperative, helping provide tanks for catching fresh rain-water, publishing special materials for use by the rural people, etc.

In this campaign, the general public are widely informed of the depressed situation of the forgotten rural people and are urged to take part in improving their lives by making donations of medicine, rice, money and other necessities. In addition to this ceremony, a "Happiness Can Be Shared" Fair where donated second-hand commodities were sold at cheap prices was organized during November 19-21. This fair served to involve the youth who do not fully understand the meaning of the Pa-pa ceremony to participate in rural development.

This is the second campaign, following one in 1980 when CGRS and 5 other organizations organized a Rice Tod Pa-pa ceremony for a rice cooperative in a village of Chaiyaphoom province. But this time the campaign was aimed to educate a wider sector of the population. Both ceremony and fair were widely publicized and could successfully involve people from all walks of life in contributing a considerable amount of funds. This fund has been donated to Promaraj Temple of Nakorn Ratchasima province, which later allocated it to all community development projects.

This campaign is ranked as one of the largest scale campaigns ever held by development and philanthropic organizations in Thailand.

III Child labour activities

CGRS 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.

In October CGRS in collaboration with the Center of Concern for Child Labour conducted a survey in 3 villages of Srisaket, one of the most poverty-stricken province in the northeast, in order to collect data for avocational training project to be organized in an attempt to stop children from migrating to Bangkok to sell their labour. However, much more exploration is needed before starting the project.

Realizing that the working children's health is neglected, CCCL in October and November organized 2 medical check-ups in 3 Bangkok sweatshops, where 54 children are involved in producing sweets and dolls. CCCL also organized in November and December 2 recreation trips for 43 children from 4 factories in Bangkok which produce candy, balloons and metal work.

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, 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.

Wat Kae slum is one of the four slums CGRS is dealing with. About 120 families have lived there for three generations, on the land of the Department of Religion, where public utilities are inadequate. In December the slum dwellers together built a child care center with support from CGRS. A large number of slum dwellers shared their labour in building the center every Sunday for two months. The center will be opened early next year.

Apart from field work CGRS initiated a study group attended by many organizations concerned with slum problems. This study group was the outcome of consultation meeting of 50 social workers held by CGRS in September.

V Micro media activities

Micro media activities of CGRS is aimed to spread knowledge, 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 culture 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 October-December micro media activities were carried out as follows:

- preparing a slide set on "Child Labour". It is the second set on the same issue, focusing on the tactics the agents use to deceive rural children who came to sell their labour in the city. Measures to prevent children from being exploited in the sweatshops are to be proposed in this slide set.
- preparing a new drama titled "A Story without Hero". It is a symbolic drama of the struggle and disaster of two rival groups represented by geometric symbols in different kinds of characters ranging from animals to weapons.
- organizing a training course on micro media for 33 development workers from different NGOs during Dec 5-9 in Nakorn Rachasima province. The training aimed to give basic skills and to develop techniques of producing and using media for their educational work in rural areas.

