

experiment in producing fertilizer from water hyacinth was carried out in a province not far from Bangkok as the first step for promoting a local industry.

The Appropriate Technology Association (ATA) was requested to join and cooperate in this project. However, the experiment was not satisfactory because of too much water content which was partly due to the materials. Thus more experiments and survey have to be carried on.

#### 5. Training Programme for Migrants

In order to provide useful information for northeastern migrants, CCRS together with the Thai Interreligious Committee for Development organized a training programme every week end in March in Bangkok. The training programme also aimed at providing an opportunity for them to exchange ideas and experiences and discuss way to help each other and for religious institution namely the monks and temple to

help country people. The information provided to the migrants included religious development and cultural adaptation, labour protection law, health care and an introduction to the activities of some NGOs.

About 30 Northeastern migrants (most of them from Ubonratchani) visiting in Bangkok and nearby industrial provinces attended the programme. The training programme will continue and will be organized according to the requirement of migrants.

#### Religious Activities

An evaluation of the "Buddhism for Youth" Programme was organized during January 13-15 at a temple in Rayong province. Although criticism has been voiced about problems in the audio visual facilities and some lectures were rather difficult to understand. However, most of the participants realized the importance of Buddhism as a way and means for individual and social development. They proposed to continue the programme and will provide opportunities for exchanging views and Buddhist practice.

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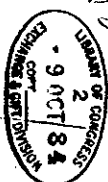
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# HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND REPORT

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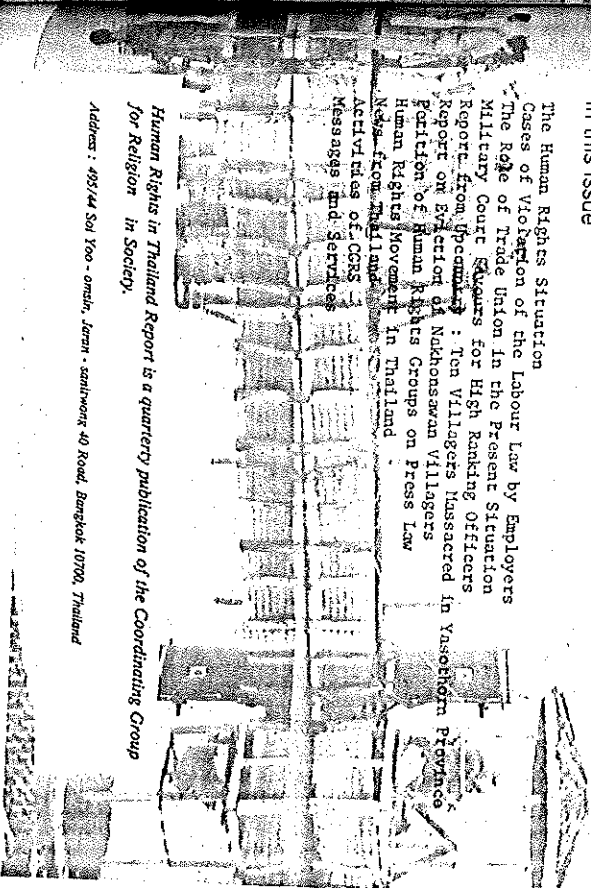


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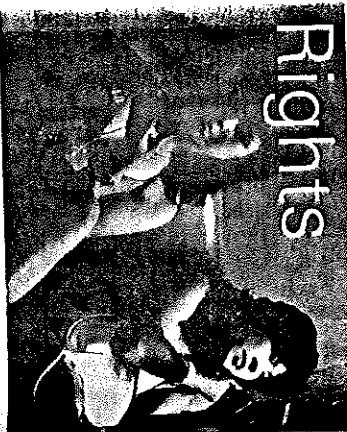


# The Human Rights Situation

## The Human Rights Situation

It is auspicious that during the last three months there were recommendations and draft bills submitted by some government agencies with a view to strengthening human rights in Thailand. On May 22, 1984, the Cabinet approved a recommendation made by the Ministry of Defence to lift martial law in 29 provinces (including Bangkok), to maintain its full imposition in four provinces, i.e. Prachuabkhirkham, Ranong, Trat and Nakhonsi, and its selective imposition in certain districts in 40 more provinces. This approval was motivated by the fact that the security situation in some areas had improved, while in some others it is still precarious due to persistent threats both internal and external, thus justifying the maintenance of martial law in those areas.

Although martial law has not been lifted throughout the country, such a Cabinet decision is unambiguous a good sign. In areas where martial law has been lifted, the regulations covering cases relating to the National Administrative Reform Council's Order, No.1 (issued in October 1976) have also been abolished. These regulations, which are still in force in the areas where martial law has not been lifted, cover cases relating to national security, crimes under the Communist Activities Prevention and Suppression Act, and lese-majeste which are to be examined by a military tribunal without any right to appeal.



The Police Department, through its committee on the updating of the Anti-Prostitution Act, has recently drafted a bill to increase the punishment of those engaged in prostitution, namely prostitution organizers, brothel owners and pimps. A prostitution organizer who now is liable to a term of up to three months imprisonment or a fine of up to 1,000 baht or both, will be liable to a term of up to one year imprisonment or a fine of up to 10,000 baht or both. A brothel owner or a pimp will be liable to a term of from three months to three years (at present up to one year) imprisonment or a fine of from 3,000 to 30,000 (at present up to 4,000) baht or both. These revisions are largely due to continuous campaigns launched by human rights and women's rights groups in the wake of a fire in late January this year in the southern province of Phuket, in which five prostitutes were burned alive in a brothel. However, the bill has no provision, as demanded by these campaigns, forbidding the arrest of prostitutes.

Furthermore, on May 24, 1984, the court sentenced eight policemen (and whom was a police station chief) and a Tambon (sub-district) chief to 15 years imprisonment. The accused had been found guilty of the murder and burning of the corpses of seven innocent villagers alleged to be robbers. The incident took place on February 4, 1981 along the Sarnab Lomsak road, Chababdan District, Lam Puri Province. This case shows a great

abuse of authority. The court stated at one point in its ruling that the accused, as government officers, had tried to cover up their crime during their investigation of the incident, and would have been sentenced to a heavier term had it not been for their long years of service. (See details in News from Thailand.)

Despite movements by various groups to strengthen the process of law, there still exist other unjust laws and orders, and other reported cases of abuse of authority. For instance, whereas the government's controversial press bill, which will grant an extended authority to press officers to curb freedom of expression, is going to be submitted to the House of Representatives during the present session (May-July 1984), the Minister of the Interior in his capacity of the Chief Officer under the 1941 Press Law, issued an order on April 10, 1984, appointing nine military officers as additional "press officers" under the said Press Law. It should be noted that the press officers had originally been the Police Director (for Bangkok) and provincial governors (for provinces), and that only three military officers had been nominated, not as press officers, but as "advisers". The new order was published in the Royal Gazette on May 8, 1984, and empowers the nine officers to examine information or stories in certain publications that may affect "military figures and the Thai armed forces". Acting as press officers under the 1941 Press Law, these military officers have thus the power to censor or close down newspapers throughout the country. These nine military officers are all from the Information Office of the Supreme Command. (1) Point 5 of this new order allows room for a nomination of one or more unlimited number of operation officers (i.e. sub-lieutenants) as press officer(s), allowing the military to better control the press all over the country.

On June 12, 8 press associations in a special-convened meeting opposed

the order of the appointment of 9 military press officers by the Minister of Interior which was seen as boosting the authority of military press officers. They also agreed to seek a clarification from the Interior Ministry on the movement.

One exemplary case of abuse of authority is the one in which Air Vice-Marshall Boonsong Damrongrat, Commander of the Kamphaengsaen Aviation Training School, shot dead Mr. Phairot Sae Tang in the early morning of December 11, 1983. A girl called Suban Khathant, 15 years of age, was on her bicycle when she was hit by the air force officer's car at the beginning of Samsatidej Lane, Pracharat Road, Nonthaburi Province. A group of people living in the area, including Mr. Jui, Mr. Phairot's father, rushed to the scene and asked Air Vice-Marshall Boonsong to send the wounded girl to the hospital or pay medical expenses. Boonsong refused and slapped Mr. Jui, who then shouted for help and asked his neighbours to block the attacker's escape. When Mr. Phairot rushed out to the scene, he was shot dead. The Air Vice-Marshall was arrested and put on trial on charges of imprudent driving, wounding and killing other people. The military prosecutor dropped all charges on April 7, 1984, on the grounds that the girl had hit the air force officer's car and in the brawl between the defendant and Mr. Jui, no one was seriously hurt. In the case of Mr. Phairot's death, the Air Vice-Marshall had acted in self-defense since Mr. Phairot allegedly was about to hit him with a water pipe. Since the defendant in this case is military, he must be tried by the military court and only a military prosecutor can decide whether or not to sue him, according to the 1955 Military Tribunal Constitution. This leaves room for all sorts of favoritism and selective practice, and a civilian plaintiff cannot do anything in this matter. In this case, it was obvious that the police did not dare to do anything in favour of the plaintiff either, as the defendant was a military

high-ranking officer.

In another example, on April 25, 1984, a well-known human rights defense lawyer, Mr. Thongchai Thongno, said in an interview that "remaining prisoners convicted, without any due process of law, under Articles 21, 27 and 200 of the respective Constitutions of 1976, 1977 and 1979, were in the process of collecting documents and data with a view to launching a justice campaign. Mr. Thongchai would assist them in this undertaking."

On March 29, 1984, a leading army officer gave a resume in a press conference of anti-communist suppression drives during the first six months of Fiscal Year 1984 (October 1983-April 1984), stating that the number of armed forces of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) had been reduced to 1,000-2,000. Lt. Gen. Maavallit Vongjalyut disclosed further after the press conference that the next step in the strategy to combat communism was to destroy communist front organizations and the CPT, and that the destruction of the latter had been prioritized, that is to uproot the communist ideology since the problem of communist front organizations was for more complex and dangerous.



With the reduction of CPT forces the Army has now set a policy of "eliminating or strengthening the army supported masses, by urging former army reservists to organize themselves in the 'Reserve for National Security' Regular training of these reservists has been organized since 1983 under the responsibility of the Coordinating Centre for the National Reserve Force (CCNRF) which sets an objective in 1984 of training 400,000 reservists and organizing 50 villages with an emphasis on the development of village cooperatives. These mass reservists undergo military training and are assigned a special task to oppose all other forms of government and support intelligence - gathering activities of the Army and other government agencies concerned. This is a highly efficient pressure group, able to be easily and rapidly mobilized, which can constitute an army main reserve force. Squadron Leader Pitsong Soonsiri, Secretary General of the National Security Council, in his capacity of chief of the political section of the CCNRF, stated his view that if need be these reservists will be armed in the future.

It should be noted that this is another attempt by the Army to organize the masses as its base, as it has done all along with other groups in other forms, such as Village Scouts, Thai Volunteers for National Defense, Development Volunteers for Village Defense - always as an army mechanism to maintain "national security." What remains as a big question mark is whether or not these organized masses will be used to suppress innocent people as was the case in the past.

The Parliament, another institution in developing democracy, has also become the object of criticism during these days. On the opening day of a present session, May 3, 1984, the House of Representatives considered a no-confidence motion against the Ministers the Interior, submitted by the opposition party - a motion transferred from the preceding session. However, since the opposition leader refused to



my statement in defense of his motion, the House Speaker, based on Regulation 4 of the House Procedures, considered it technically withdrawn or non-existent. On the same day, the opposition party submitted another urgent no-confidence motion, this time against the Prime Minister and five other ministers. The Government, taken by surprise, was so worried about the impact of this motion that, later, a group of 84 belonging to the majority proceeded to submit a counter-motion to the Parliament to re-examine whether the House Speaker's above mentioned decision had not violated Article 137 of the Constitution. The implication was that if that decision were declared void, that is the first no-confidence motion had not been constituted, then a new decision to be made by the Parliament would have a retroactive effect, it would mean that the motion against the Minister of Interior must be put to a vote by the House and, consequently, that the second no-confidence motion

against the Prime Minister and five Cabinet Ministers must be withdrawn from the House since constitutionally two no-confidence motions cannot be submitted to the House during the same (annual) session. This counter-motion was accepted by the Parliament, and the House put the first no-confidence motion to a vote without any debate on May 24. This motion was rejected by a majority vote of 167 against, with the absence of the opposition party. The House Speaker had protested against the Government's move by refusing to chair the House discussion of this issue. This constitutional manoeuvre became the object of wide criticism since it amounted to denying the public a chance to keep abreast of the administrative affairs of the motion, thus to treating the public with contempt, and also to denying the opposition party any further attempt to submit a no-confidence motion throughout this parliamentary session, as the first motion had been rejected by a majority vote. The Government would, therefore, be saved from any further constitutional attack by the opposition until the next session. It should be noted that before the constitutional manoeuvre came to an end the opposition party had been threatened, despite repeated denials by the Prime Minister to this effect, with a House dissolution - a sort of political blackmail to dissuade the opposition from pursuing any no-confidence move.

- (1) 1. Director of the Information Office, Supreme Command.
2. Deputy Director (Administration), IO, SC.
3. Deputy Director (Operation), IO, SC.
4. Director of the Institute of Psychology for Security, IO, SC.
5. Operation Officer (S), IO, SC.
6. Chief of the News Division, IO, SC.
7. Chief of the Civilian Affairs Division, IO, SC.
8. Chief of the Psychological Affairs Division, IO, SC.
9. Chief of the Public Relations Division, IO, SC.

# Cases of Violation of the Labour Law By Employers

Cases of Violation of the Labour Law  
by Employers  
(Legal Assistance Section, Union For  
Civil Liberty)

Chalit Meesit

## 1. Introduction

The following data and statistics are collected from cases in which the Union For Civil Liberty was involved, either through giving legal advice to industrial employees or through granting local defense to these employees. Cases of violation of the Labour Law by the employers can broadly be classified as follows:

- Infractions relating to the minimum wage;
- Infractions relating to the Labour Protection Act; and
- Infractions relating to the Labour Relation Act.

## 2. Infractions

### 2.1 Relating to the Minimum Wage

2.1.1 The S.K. International Exim Co., Ltd., is situated in the Ram-Indra area, Mahabul District, Bangkok, has 150 employees, makes and exports utensils and furniture. Most of the employees are women of 15-17 years of age, and more than 50 of them are not paid a minimum wage. They were paid only 36 baht a day while the minimum wage was 54 baht, and still got the same amount when the legal wage was increased to 61 baht per day. Only two employees, i.e. Miss Orphan Saplad and Miss Nipha Saplad, appealed to the

Labour Court and got paid 12,769 baht, equivalent to the sum due to them under the legal minimum wage system. Other employees did not follow suit for fear of being laid off by the Company.

### 2.1.2 The Nanyan Kambing

Utusakam (Nanyan Industrial Textile Co., Ltd.), the Thai Fancy Textiles Co., Ltd., and the Battery Co., Ltd., are all situated in the industrial area of Bangkok, Samutskhorn Province, and have altogether 150-200 employees. That said companies have violated the law on minimum wage is widely known. Only on women workers who have worked for three or four years are still employed, that is they receive only 40 baht and not 54 baht per day according to the law. No employee has ever appealed to the Labour Court.

### 2.1.3 A plastic bags company

situated in Phasi Charoen District, Bangkok, has about 150 employees, most of whom are rural migrants from the Northeast. They were paid only 40 and 52 baht per day in 1980 and 1984, respectively. The management argues it has paid an extra sum of about 600 baht per employee per month to cover the expenses derived from lodging, water, and electricity. The matter is now under consideration by the Phasi Charoen Labour Inspection Unit.

### 2.2 Relating to the Labour Protection Act

2.2.1 The Sahapant Phant in-mitted Partnership, acting on behalf of the Saengsom Co., Ltd., employs and sends people to clean bottles at the latter company in Samphran District Nakhon

Pathom Province. The workers in question have worked for more than three years. In 1983, the Saengsom Co., Ltd., encountering a difficulty in renewing a contract to produce spirits, requested the employees to work every other week and thus paid only for their working days. They were not laid off since the Sahapant Phant management was not willing to pay a high amount of compensation. Finally, the Saengsom Company was closed down since the employees should have been paid throughout the period of their suspended employment. Facing the Sahapant Phant's refusal to comply with the regulations, 30 employees brought the case to the Labour Court, won it, and got paid a total sum of 289,344 baht. The remaining 90 employees received 700-1,000 baht each and voluntarily ended their contract with the company. They did so following the advice of the Kamman (Sub-District or Tambon chief) who had introduced them to the company. The matter took place in June 1983.

### 2.2.2 The S.S. Joint Trade

Co., Ltd., a construction company, after finishing the construction of an expressway (Bang-na - Tharue) issued an order assigning Mr. Sani Si-ueh and eight colleagues a job constructing a Chachengsao bridge, allegedly as part of a company project. The employees later discovered that this construction work was in fact under the responsibility of another company, the Rungsit Construction Co., Ltd. The construction work being almost finished, the employees asked their employer who was in charge of the work and from whom they should get their remuneration, and how to calculate the duration of their work. The company gave no reply and the employees thus decided not to work at the new construction site for fear that their acceptance of transfer to a new job would amount to terminating all the consequences that would entail. Furthermore, they had not been paid the full sum for overtime throughout the three preceding years. The Labour Court

ruled that the nine employees be paid compensation and overtime pay to the amount of 68,678 baht. The matter took place in early 1983.

### 2.2.3 The Bangkok Starch Industrial Co., Ltd.

, situated in Samphran District, Nakhorn Pathom Province, producing bicycle and vehicle tyres, has 400 employees. The Taiwanese employer laid off 15 casual starch workers without any compensation or any prior notice. The cause of their dismissal was allegedly that the employer was



displeased with the fact that the laid-off workers had appealed, through their trade union president, to the Labour Court for payments of living allowances and other assistance funds. The case went through the Supreme Court and ended with a victory for the workers, who got a due payment of 44,250 baht. As to their lay-off, the case is still under consideration by the Labour Court.

### 2.2.4 The Saengthal Industrial

Co., Ltd., which is situated in Tambon Om-noi, Krathumban District, Samutskhorn Province, and produces rubber belts, has 150 employees. A number of workers were laid off on the

grounds that they repeatedly committed the same errors despite a prior warning. It was alleged, among other things, that the workers concerned had over-stretched rubber belts so much that the belts were swollen or badly shaped. In fact, the poor quality might have been caused by many factors such as defective machinery or workers' negligence. The latter factor had not been proved but had been presumed to be the cause by the employer, who immediately dismissed the workers concerned, especially those who were union members. The workers lodged two lawsuits against the employer. In one case, the Court of the First Instance gave a ruling in favour of the workers. The second is still under consideration by the Court. It should be noted that many other affected workers had not brought their case to the Court because of lack of legal knowledge and of money to engage a defense lawyer.

Another noteworthy point is that the company made 20 employees work uninterrupted, with only a short noon pause of 20 minutes instead of one hour a day, as stipulated by the law. These employees had thus worked overtime, 40 minutes a day without any extra pay. Most of them were willing to accept 700 baht each from the employer, but a small number of them brought their case to the Court, which ruled that each worker be paid 2,500 baht, the accumulated sum of two-years overtime payment. The matter took place in early and in mid-1983.

2.2.5 The Tra-ood Industrial Co., Ltd., situated in Tambon Om-noi, Krathumbun District, Samutakhorn Province, producing bicycle and vehicle tyres, has 500 employees. They have to work six days a week according to the regulations of the company. In November 1981, the company ordered about 480 employees to stop working on Saturday to reduce production. The company labour union then submitted a request for an agreement on a work stop on Saturday without any reduction in usual remuneration. The request was attacked by the employer as contraven-

ing the law since it had not received a prior endorsement from the union members and, in fact, no union meeting was convened to this effect. The request was thus null and void. Had this case gone through the normal process of law, the Court would most probably have given a ruling in favour of the labour union, or the company might have gone bankrupt since the sum due to the workers was fairly high. The controversy ended in such a way that the employer agreed to provide some welfare measures for the employees and as a wage rise, medical expenses, and distribution of work uniforms.

2.2.6 The Siameng Canned Food Co., Ltd., situated in Tambon Thapin, Bangkok, producing canned food, has 20 employees. In January 1983, the Bangkok Universal Trading Co., Ltd., failed to deliver raw materials to Siameng, which was thus obliged to close down the factory for almost two months during which the employer paid assistance of 400 baht to each worker. The workers were asked to sign a blank paper in which, without their knowledge and agreement, a statement was printed which read: "Upon receipt of an assistance payment, the undersigned is willing not to make any further claim during the closing period." The employees thus made a joint demand for one-half their salaries during the factory closure. The management refused to comply. The employees later submitted their claim, estimated at 300,000 baht, to the Court, where the case is still under consideration.

2.2.7 The East Asia Textiles Co., Ltd., which has many factories in important industrial areas of Bangkok and its neighbouring provinces of Samutakhorn and Samutprakarn, violated the Labour Protection Act by making garment workers work three extra hours a day and paying overtime of four instead of four and half hours a day, as stipulated by the law. Twenty women had worked on this basis for four years yet they were giving compensation for only two years. The Company's infractions were discovered when a worker

who had been suspended for seven days from his work appealed to the provincial labour officials in Samutakhorn for assistance. The affair was later examined by the Labour Court which ruled that the Company pay a due sum of 32,270 baht to every worker concerned.

### 2.3 Relating to the Labour Relation Act

#### 2.3.1 Terms of Employment

(1) The Thai-starch Industrial Tyres Co., Ltd., which is situated in Samutakhorn Province and produces vehicle tyres and rubber products, has 300 employees. At the outset, there was a regulation that the management would pay a living allowance to all employees. Eventually the employees had to demand this allowance and an agreement was reached by the two parties on general terms of employment, without nullifying the employees' right to a full living allowance. However, the Company only paid the workers a partial rate as agreed to under the said agreement on general terms of employment. 480 employees thus submitted their case to the Labour Court which first requested the two parties to solve the problem between themselves. Finally, the employer agreed to pay a living allowance to all employees, to the amount of 700,000 baht.

(11) In mid-1981, 15 employees of the Bangkok Starch Industrial Co., Ltd., (see supra, 2.2.3) put a demand, and the two sides reached an agreement on general terms of employment. Following which however, the Company refused to pay a living allowance and an assistance fund to all Samutakhorn starch workers, on the grounds that they were not employees of the Company and were only paid on a lump sum basis. The workers submitted their case to the Court, and the Supreme Court finally ruled that the company must pay the 15 workers a total sum of 4,750 baht.

(111) The Charoensawat Synthetics Co., Ltd., which is situated

in Samphran District, Nakhornratcham Province, and produces textiles, has 1,100 employees. In 1981, the two parties reached an agreement on general terms of employment under which the Company would pay each worker an annual bonus of work, irrespective of changing economic or other factors. In 1983, the Company did not pay a bonus to 300 employees on the grounds of the Company's losses. The case was submitted to the Court which ruled that the Company pay each worker a bonus equivalent to one month's salary.

#### 2.3.2 Other Infractions

(1) The Bangkok Starch Industrial Co., Ltd., arbitrarily laid off 1,000 workers. Some of these workers, without prior approval of the Central Labour Court, in so doing the employer was liable under the Criminal Law for up to one year of imprisonment or a 1,000 baht fine. In this case, the employees sued their employer for reimbursement of their wage and damages. The latter agreed to pay 10,500 baht each, and no criminal case was pursued.

(11) The Bangkok Textiles Co., Ltd., which is situated in Bangsue, Bangkok, and has 1,000 employees, laid off Miss Bunnung Soisavan who had been engaged in a labour demand, on the grounds that she and her colleagues had not respected the general terms of employment agreed to by the two parties. According to the law, because of his involvement in a labour demand, except when that employee has committed a serious error. Nor could he be dismissed on the grounds that he has worked up to the level set up by the employer. The Court of the First Instance ruled in favour of the employer, but this ruling was reversed by the Supreme Court which demanded the employer reintegrate Miss Bunnung into the Company and pay her 100,000 baht as compensation for her suspended employment. The matter took place in January 1983.

(iii) The Charoensawat Synthetics Co. Ltd., (see supra, 2.3.1 (iii)) took several discriminatory measures in 1983 against its own employees who were members of the Nakhonpathom Textiles Labour Association, of the Labour Tripartite Committee and of the Company's trade union.

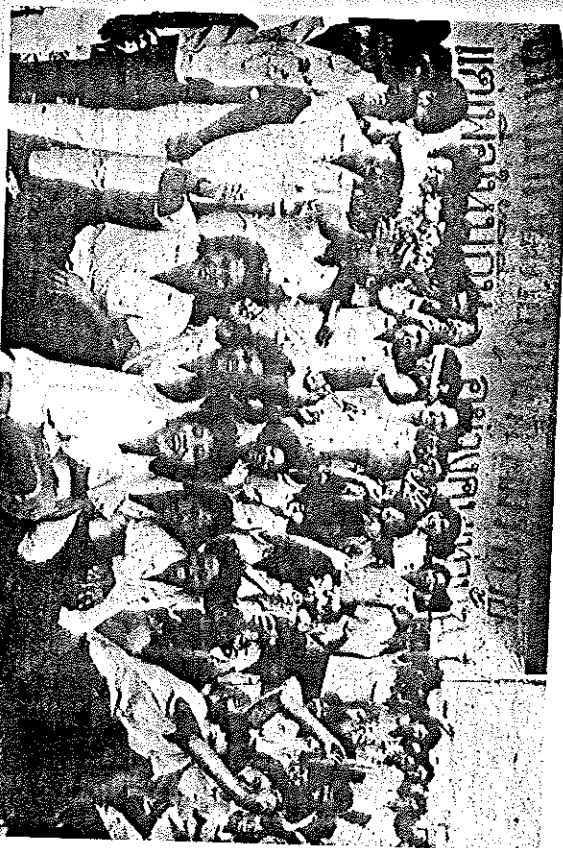
a) The Company laid off Mr. Nivras Rodriska and Miss Thomsap Phokrajyongse, both members of the Nakhonpathom Textiles Labour Association, even though they had not contravened the working regulations or the Labour Relations Act. The real cause of their dismissal was that they had played a leading role on behalf of their trade union in suing the Company for payment of a due bonus to all employees.

b) In September 1983, the Company laid off all employees, except one, who were union committee members. The latter were dismissed only one day after being nominated as such by the Nakhonpathom Textiles Labour Association. However, these affected employees later received a compensation, according to the law.

c) In September 1983, the Company dismissed 14 employees, members of the Company's trade union, from their dormitory on the grounds that they had acted in an unacceptable manner in the dormitory: inciting workers to disobey the employer, launching an unauthorized signature campaign in the dormitory, making the dormitory unclean and causing nuisances to other residents. The affected employees brought their case to the Court. During the trial, several of them were asked by their employer and foremen to be no longer involved in trade union activities and eventually to resign from their trade union, following which they would be all readmitted to the dormitory. No employee gave in to this demand. After that they were under close surveillance by the management, and any slight error or breach of discipline would be enough for them to be

taken to task before other employees. Being so harassed continuously by the management, an employee was so much ashamed that he quit his job without any compensation. Meanwhile, the above mentioned trial continued its course until the stage at which the Company's witnesses were to give their testimony. It was then that the Central Labour Court proceeded to reconcile the two parties since, after all, all employees concerned were still working with the Company. As to the latter, it probably thought that these employees had suffered long enough from their eviction from the dormitory. Moreover, as it could not easily win the case, it readmitted all affected workers to the dormitory and paid a compensation sum of 600 baht to each of them. A further agreement was reached by the two sides that the Company during a period of one year will, under no circumstances, lay off any employee on the grounds of its losses, the closing of one or more sections, or reduction of its productive capacity. The Central Labour Court in its ruling endorsed such an agreement. At present, all these employees are still working with the Company and staying in its dormitory.

d) The Bangkok Telecommunications and Electricity Co. Ltd., dismissed Miss Suwamol Chuay because in November 1983 she had disclosed too many facts about the Company to a Bangkok District Labour Inspection officer. Her testimony revealed that the Company had not acted in conformity with the Labour Protection Act relating to overtime payment, payment for holidays and scheduling of traditional holidays. These revelations prompted the Labour Department to send a written warning against such infractions to the Company, which retaliated by dismissing Miss Suwamol. The case was brought to the Court which ruled that the employer must pay 8,000 baht to the employee for damages. (The employee was laid off anyway since she had worked only for four months.)



2.3.3 Labour Demands and Trade Unions

(1) The Yakult (Thailand) Co. Ltd., situated in Bangkok District, Bangkok, laid off Mr. Somchai Nujaij and three other employees on the grounds that they had disobeyed their superior, and that the Company had decided to reduce its productive capacity. The real cause of these lay-offs lay in the fact that the personnel manager had been informed that the employees concerned were key persons in preparing the setting up of a trade union and were about to register it with the Labour Department. The personnel manager had reportedly said to one of them: "You shouldn't have done that!" The employees submitted their case to the Court which ruled that the Company pay compensation to the four persons. The matter took place in February 1984.

(ii) The Saengthai Industrial Rubber Co. Ltd., (see supra, 2.2.4) laid off Mr. Bunsueb Rodthong and

two other employees, allegedly on the grounds that they had caused damages to the Company or that they had violated the Company regulations. As a matter of fact, they were dismissed because in late 1982 they had submitted a demand to the employer, who immediately laid them off. This case was examined by the Labour Relations Committee which requested the two sides to come to terms. The employer agreed to pay a sum of money to the affected employees.

(iii) The Nanyang Kangthor Utsachakam Co. Ltd., (see supra, 2.1.2) violated the law very often as reported in the following examples:

a) On May 20, 1983, the Company issued an order to transfer Mr. Thongphet Photthai from the thread-dyeing to the godown sections on the grounds that he had been in bad health and had disobeyed his superior about his overtime. Mr. Thongphet was a workers' representative and had submitted a labour demand to the employer before his transfer.



b) In May 1983, the Company suspended Mr. Pravej Prada, another workers' representative, from his work for a period of 15 days on the grounds that he had fallen asleep for 20 minutes during his work. This



Seven employees, ignorant about their rights and in one, gave in to the threat..

Some employees received a certain sum of money from the employer and signed a paper which read, "Resignation. To return home." Others appealed to the Labour Relations Committee which ruled against the employer's unjust acts. The employer was ordered to pay compensation to these employees.

The employees in the two above-mentioned cases appealed to the Labour Relations Committee for justice. They even defended themselves (since they didn't know how to contact defense lawyers) and lost their own respective cases. The Committee rejected the accusation that the employees had ill-treated their respective employees.

(iv) The Union Text-Knitting Co. Ltd., is situated in Tambon Om-nol, Samutshorn Province, and has 400 employees. In June 1982, the employer laid off Miss Malai Plangsei who had worked for nine years with the Company. At the time of her dismissal, Miss Malai had been the acting president of the Company's trade union for two days. The Company alleged that she had abandoned her work for the second time, despite a prior warning when she did the same for the first time. It is true that according to the law, the Company has the right to dismiss without any compensation, any employee who continues to violate the same regulations despite a prior notification. However, in this case the employee had requested permission from the personnel manager, who had raised no objection to this request, to assume the responsibilities of the trade union acting president. The personnel manager later denied having given any verbal permission, as alleged, to Miss Malai to do so, and asserted that when they met each other he simply nodded his head to greet her! The latter submitted her case to the Labour Relations Committee and to the Central Labour Court, respectively. The employee had a lot of difficulties defending her case. Since eyewitnesses dared not give their testimony. The case went through the Supreme Court, which confirmed the Court of the First Instance's ruling that all evidence and testimonies pointed to the fact that the employee had effectively requested such permission, and ruled that the Company pay her 33,705 baht for damages.

# The Role of Trade Union in the Present Situation

## The Role of Trade Union in the Present Situation

The economic recession during the past decade and poverty have culminated in pushing more and more rural people to migrate into urban cities. The survey reveals that the period 1981-1983 showed a high rate of such migration. The aim of these rural migrants was to look for jobs in factories or to sell their labour in various ways. In 1983, the labour force was estimated at 25.9 million. Of 7.3 million engaged in non-agricultural sectors, 5.5 million were employees, 51% of whom worked in small factories.

These factories mostly depend for their financial support on out-of-system sources, either through their relatives or the "share" system, and mostly experience a problem of capital circulation whenever there is a tight money situation which normally leads to massive lay-offs. During 1981-1983, eighty thousand employees were put out of work in this way. The consequences were serious, such as increased unemployment, surplus labour, lower wages, etc. These factors combined to weaken the workers' bargaining power, to expose these workers to more exploitation, particularly in the form of lengthening working days. According to an ILO standard, industrial workers or workers in general should not work more than 48 hours per week. Thai workers mostly

work 56 hours, 66% of them are paid a daily wage and only 9% of them a monthly salary. Only 51% of Thai workers are given full overtime pay which, according to the law, must be equivalent to 1 1/2 times that of normal working hours. Only 41% and 6% of them are accorded other allowances and a free lunch, respectively. Only 51% of the employers legally pay free medical expenses to their employees.

No government can control or eliminate these employers' infractions. There exist, furthermore, no effective legal measures to cope with these infractions. As a rule, all corrective measures should be initiated by the Parliament, which should legislate in favour of the working class. However, only a few Members of Parliament have any knowledge of or interest in labour problems. Political instability also militates against any move by MPs or politicians in this direction. At times, government agencies or civil servants fully authorized to cope with these problems do not perform their duties according to the government's directives.

As records stand, neither government agencies nor civil servants always render justice to workers in conflict with their employers. The Labour Department has no authority to deal effectively with such problems as child labour, or non-payment of the legal

wage. At best, employers are only fined by the Department. The workers' only alternative is self-reliance, that is uniting themselves to defend their interests through their trade unions. However, attempts at forming trade unions usually meet with resistance from the employers, who sometimes resort to harassment, threats or assassinations of workers' leaders. There is, anyhow, no better alternative than trade unions. They can play their role at these four following levels.

1) A trade union with members conscious of its role can help workers solve their basic problems, such as and in particular those relating to their working conditions. One research study reveals that factories with trade unions tend to continually improve their working conditions and give better remuneration than those without trade unions. The working conditions in most of the textile factories in the Rangsit area, where there are strong trade unions composed generally of 80-90% of workers in each factory, for example, are much better than those in the Om-noi area.

2) Workers are mostly of rural origin and still keep in touch with their respective family members in the rural areas - for example, 40% of them are found to send their money back to those members. If their trade unions fight for and win better pay, not only can they improve their living conditions but they can also send more money home. This fact renders unfounded a charge that a wage rise will cause injustice to rural people or that it will lead to price increases in rural areas, since workers' families will also benefit from a wage rise. A research study also confirms that the main income source for Northeastern and Southern households is non-agricultural, and they derive most of income from employment in other, especially manufacturing, sectors. It should be noted that variable capital and remuneration of executive personnel represents at the most 20% of the total production cost.

3) Politically, a trade union is

seen as a basic democratic unit and is most conducive to developing the people's democratic way of life. Since trade union members are elected, regular elections are instrumental in developing democracy. Another example is that trade unions deliberate and reach decisions by consensus, strengthening cooperative efforts by workers themselves. Workers' solidarity is all the more consolidated as trade unions promote workers' participation, either through jointly laying down rules and regulations, or through settling together the objectives of a plan. Trade unions, when consulted by their company or factory, need in their turn to consult their members as to a move to make. Through negotiations with the employers, workers participate in the management of their factories. This is how industrial democracy is born.

4) When workers' basic democracy in the form of a trade union develops in strength, it will constitute a good basis for the development of democracy at a national level. This is borne out by the situation in countries with a strong democratic system, where one can find a good basis for democracy and a strong industrial democratic system. For example, in Japan, employers admit their employees' participation in the factory management, thus leading to a virtual absence of rather a low rate of big labour conflicts.

As labour problems do not only stem from labour circles but also from other factors - either political or economic - within the system, one cannot count on a trade union alone to overcome those problems. Government agencies and other people's organizations, political parties, intellectuals or those who are cognizant of social problems, all have a role to play in this regard. Government machinery is instrumental in solving these problems, and yet the present government has no real administrative authority to resolve problems whatsoever. Therefore, in the present situation trade unions can play an effective role only when 1) they are organizationally strong, and 2) count as

their own movement as a focal force and consolidate themselves by extending its scope of activities in the form of cooperatives or a political party, as in other countries. Trade unions as basic productive units can run their own activities such as department stores, banks. As to political activities, strong trade unions can set up a political party - which is possible only when their internal cohesion is high, or they can support any political party which defends workers' interests. In Thailand today, such developments are still not possible due to many factors, both external and internal.

#### External Factors

1) The development of Thailand's labour movement lacks continuity. It has been disrupted both by legal measures taken by successive dictatorial regimes and by self-defeating factors within the movement itself - that is trade unions are dominated by some "aristocratic" or self-promoting leaders, and do not develop workers' understanding of and their participation in the unions' activities.

2) Another factor is infiltration of the labour movement. No employer welcomes the creation, spurs himself the thought of destruction, of a trade union in his factory. Even the State also tries to divide the workers' movement. A strong labour movement can resist such attempts and even impress its demands. Such is the case in Scandinavian countries where trade unions can influence political parties and the government, and can bring pressure to bear on them to serve the workers' interests.

3) Workers are in general not well-educated, thus not critically-minded and tend to believe false news and reports. Moreover, the mass media in particular radio and television under the government's control and provide workers with only one-sided views.

#### Internal Factors

1) Tradition and workers' consciousness: Most of the workers are not conscious of their exploitation by their employers since their education breeds a submissive type of consciousness. It is traditional that the "junior" must look to the "senior" that the employer must depend on and see their employees as someone providential. That the former should disobey, protest or demand anything from the latter is socially unacceptable, especially in rural society. This militates against workers' unity, in particular among women workers.

2) Ignorance: This factor is important in weakening the labour movement. The trade unions' strength lies in workers' participation in their activities. However, because of the first internal factor most of the workers are still under the spell of the old consciousness and see trade unions as only embodied by their presidents and committee members. They tend to follow any course of action as deemed appropriate by those leaders.

3) Excessive competition: Competition among workers' leaders within the labour movement is not in itself a negative factor and favours instead the development of a democratic climate. But the competition which is developing in the Thai labour movement today is rather excessive or violent, and competitors resort to dirty tricks to destroy one another.

4) Absence of historical lessons: The Thai labour movement has never drawn lessons from past activities. It would otherwise be relatively easy, for workers to prevent the employers or the State from using old but still effective methods to destroy their trade unions.

\* This article is a resume of a lecture given by Mr. Narong Phetrpraser, a lecturer of the Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, at ANA, organized by the Union for Civil Liberty on March 12, 1984.



# Military Court Favours for High Ranking Officers

## Military Court Favours for High Ranking Officers

The case of Air Vice-Marshal Boon song Damrongrat, Commander of the Kam-phongsan Aviation Training School, who shot dead Mr. Phaitrot Sae Tang, 25, a merchant, in the morning of December 11, 1983, after a brawl with Phaitrot's father concerning an accident caused by the Air Vice-Marshal which injured a girl in City district, Nonthaburi province was highly criticized in the Press and among the public because of the favour shown the Air Vice-Marshal.

The Air Vice-Marshal was helped in many ways by the military court and officers concerned. After the incident, when he was surrounded by the people near the accident site, he showed his identification card in order to protect himself from the angry crowd. After a short interrogation by the police, he was fetched by the Air Force military police. He hid himself for more than one week before reporting to the police on December 19, 1983. Then the Air Force sent their officers to investigate the case. This procedure was regarded as a legal investigation which could affect the case. Moreover, two judge-advocate officers of the Air Force also participated in the police interrogation of the defendant and the witnesses, while Mr. Phaitrot's relatives were refused the same opportunity. Finally, the case was summarily sent to the military court, despite the fact that the police could have brought the case to be tried in a civil court since civilians were also involved in the case (according to the Military Court Act 1955 Article 14(1)). This left

no room for the relatives of the dead who are civilians to sue the accused in military court, for only a military prosecutor can sue if the case concerns military officers. The military prosecutor finally dropped the three charges against the Air Vice-Marshal of negligent driving, wounding others and killing other people. The judgement was strongly criticized by the Press and the public, as it obviously favoured the defendant. The judgement reasoned that the injured girl was responsible for hitting the Air Vice-Marshal's car and not the Vice-Marshal's imprudence; the conflict between the defendant and Mr. Jui - Mr. Phaitrot's father was a brawl and there was no one seriously injured; the murder charge was dropped since the Air Vice-Marshal had acted in self-defense against Phaitrot who had tried to attack him with an iron water pipe. This story, however, conflicted with the relatives' story that Phaitrot was going to help his father who was slumped by the Air Vice-Marshal and fell down. And according to the relatives, it was Phaitrot's sister who hit the Air Vice-Marshal's car with a water pipe.

The dropping of the charges was blamed on the weak investigation of the police, but according to human rights lawyer, Thongchai Thongso, the military prosecutor can ask the police to reconduct the investigation.

A highly respected lawyer of Nonthaburi province commented that the Air Vice-Marshal had other alternatives for self-defense if he was attacked, e.g. to shoot into the sky, or at the arms or legs of the attacker.

Although the relatives did not sue for compensation in civil court in late April, 1984, they were paid 100,000 baht for Phaitrot's death. This will be spent for his two children's education. The Press, on December 19, 1983, was given notice by the Air Force Secretariat not to blame the Air Vice-Marshal Boonsong without a proper investigation by the authorities.

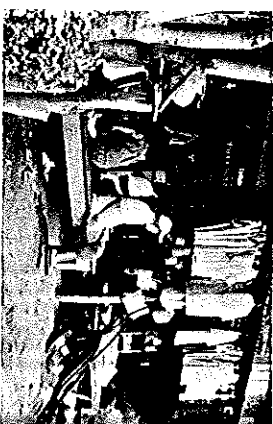
# Report from Upcountry

## Ten Villagers Massacred in Yasothon Province

It was a relaxed Sunday afternoon, of December 18, 1983 in Kham Nam Sang village of Yasothon, a Northeastern province, which drew a big crowd of more than 70 persons to watch a boxing TV programme in front of a small grocery. Mr. Theng Sombatlai, 48, the village headman was sitting with 5-6 villagers on an old bamboo bench, while the rest was sitting around.

Kham Nam Sang is a well planned village with several cross crossing roads and that in front of the grocery is a main one. Mr. Theng has been village headman for several years. Most of his villagers know that he is a gangster, but none of them have ever been threatened by him. They only know that he has influences in nearby villages. Although there was a rumour of his life being threatened a few days ago, they didn't take it seriously.

While the fourth boxing pair of the programme became exciting, the boxing fans didn't notice that a small orange van without license plate, carrying 5 men in green suit (similar to that of Village Defence Volunteer) and armed with M.16 machine guns, stopped near the grocery. One of two men, who jumped from the car approached the crowd, threatened a boxing fan with his M.16 gun and asked him where Mr. Theng was. With fear, he pointed out at him. Suddenly the man fired bullets towards Mr. Theng and the crowd. 5-6 villagers who shouted that the village headman had been shot were also felled down. Many fell down the rest for their lives.



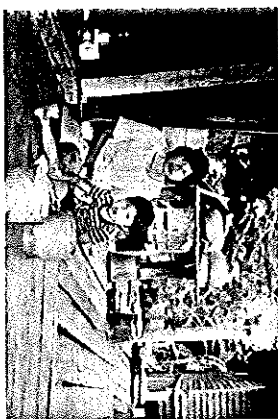
Mr. Nien Sridara, (about 48) a survivor from the incident said that he noticed the dead van, but didn't pay attention to it, thinking that the "bosses" (meaning official) were normally coming to warn those who gambled over the boxing matches.

A witness said that after 2 hours of bullets, a friend of the murderer told him to stop shooting. The murderer, a northeastern, with round dark face, walked to the corpse of Mr. Theng and used his gun to turned up the corpse and made sure that he was dead, then walked slowly back to the van which drove passed the grocery out of the village, while tens of the villagers around were stunned by such an incident which had never happened since they settled in the village.

After the event the injured were sent to provincial hospitals of Yasothon and Ubonrajthani, because the district hospital lacked enough blood and life saving equipments. Ten villagers were found dead and 9 seriously injured. One of the injured lost his left eye and his bridge was broken. A part of the lip and the neck of another person were damaged and he had to stay for several months in the hospital but still could not turn his head. Eight of the dead were head of their poor families and had looked after their families economically.

## Details of the dead at Kham Nam Sang Village

1. Mr. Theng Sombatlai, 48, the target of the massacre, was shot at his head and his body. His family fled



- to another place.
2. Mr. Jen Srichana, 40, a field labourer; his wife - Mrs. Kang Sri-Chana, 35, also a field labourer, they had 4 children. He was shot at his abdomen and his legs and died on the way to the hospital.
  3. Mr. Ben Srichana, 32, owned a farm land of 15 rai (2.5 rai = 1 acre). His wife is Mrs. Kawi Srichana, 28. They had 2 children, a son 8 years old and a daughter, 6. He was shot below his breast.
  4. Mr. Sanga Srichana, 37, is a farm labourer. His wife is Mrs. Ban-Sorn, 35. They had 5 children; the eldest son is 14 years old and the youngest daughter is 2 years old.
  5. Mr. Phala Sawangpong, 28, a farmer, was shot dead at his side through his body and his thigh. His wife is Mrs. Phang, 27; they had no children and no home. Mrs. Phang stayed with her husband's parents and she is an employee of a grocery in the village.
  6. Mr. Khamsang Sriakot, 26, a farmer working with his parents. His wife is Mrs. Noi Srichana, 25; they had a 6 years old daughter. At present Mrs. Noi has remarried and abandoned her daughter.
  7. Mr. Fang Phampheng, 21, a farmer; his wife is Mrs. Ti, 20; they had a three years old son.
  8. Mr. Boon Phampheng, 36, owned 40 rai of land; his wife is Mrs. Khun, 28; they had 5 children. The eldest son is 17 years old and the youngest son is 5 years old.

9. Mr. Prayoon Phokhan, 29; his wife is Mrs. Sin, 22; they had 4 children; the eldest daughter is 9 years old and the youngest one is 3 years old. Mrs. Sin farms on the land of her husband's parents to feed the family.
10. A boy student of 14 years old from another village who came to visit his friend in Nam Nam Sang Village and came to watch the TV.

After the incident, police came to investigate, arrested 4 persons namely the driver of the mini van and the owners of the houses in the next village who offered food and accommodation to the gangsters and sent the case to the court. The court has already cross examined the prosecutor's witnesses. However, the police could not identify the gang of murderers although information could be obtained from the 4 detainees. There is, thus, a tendency that the case will be judged without the majorland persons and the murderers being punished. At the end the incident will be forgotten while the victims' families will have to bare the sad consequences, psychologically and economically, without receiving any compensation.

This is a shock event to the villagers who become very much afraid of strangers. The chief of the Khud District police station should speed up the investigation and arrest the gang of murderers and people involved so that justice could be made and compensation provided to innocent victims.

## Report on Eviction of Nakhonsawan Villagers.



Since 1983 CGRS has concentrated on the problems of 42,300 villagers of Nakhonsawan province in the Central Region who face eviction from their land which has been occupied for more than two centuries by their ancestors. The military claims that they have the right to the 23,712 acres of land according to a 1936 Royal Decree.

In April 1983, strong military measures have been carried out to harass the villagers causing damages to their crops, cattle and even their lives. Several petitions of the villagers asking for justice and abrogation of the Royal Decree were presented to officials concerned and also to their Majesties the King and the Queen of Thailand. Meetings with political party leaders were also conducted. These resulted to some positive responses.

By the end of March, concerned military units and governmental agencies agreed to grant the rights of land ownership for villagers who own title deeds and to legalize two other kinds of ownership evidences. Although this is a favorable response from the authority many villagers petitioned concerned agencies claiming that this

was not what had been agreed on. The discrepancy was due to the lack of coordination among governmental agencies. The actual strategy is to persuade villagers, who do not have specific kinds of ownership evidences or have no evidences at all, to rent the land yearly so that those who "do not have the rights on the land" would be figured out and legal eviction might be later on implemented. As the persuasion to rent the lands in most areas was not successful, local leaders got the blame and were threatened. It was also learned that plan had been set up to divide land into pieces for the diverse military uses e.g. crops growing for foodstuffs, forest growing, drilling etc. Villagers feel tense with anguish.

The meeting among concerned military units and governmental agencies on March 22, 1984, concluded that they would guarantee the rights of villagers who have ownership evidences dating before the promulgation of the Royal Act 1936, they would also legalize 2 other kinds of evidences, namely, Nor Sor 3 and inspection paper identifying land ownership as title deeds. Other kinds of evidences e.g. Sor Kor 1, Phor Bhor Thor 6 (land tax receipt), if confirmed by village or sub-district headman or neighbours could also be legalized as title deeds. However, those who have no ownership evidence at all would have to rent the land from the Royal Property Section, Treasury Department. The villagers, thus seek the authority's help for legalizing their evidences of ownership as title deeds. But their request was turned down by the local officials who claimed that they received no written order to do so.

On March 27, Mrs. Krae Sorada with another leader sent a letter to Dr. Pal boon Phumprast of the Office of the Under-Secretary to the Prime Minister asking for help on this issue. They later sent another letter in April to the Third Army asking for confirmation of the agreement so that officials could issue title deeds. They also wrote letter to the Director General of Treasury Department to confirm their rights over the lands and stated that they will not rent their own lands.

In May, the villagers also sent a number of letters to the political party leaders and Members of Parliament urging them to bring the case to the consideration of the Parliament.

In the beginning of June, a group of village leaders made a complaint with 2 political parties. One of them, in the opposition, promised to bring the case to the Parliament.

However, since there are a lot of drafted laws and other matter awaiting consideration, little hope could be expected.

#### The Action of the Authorities

After the meeting on March 22, official teams have been sent to explain the conclusion of the meeting to the villagers and persuade them to rent the lands. They emphasized that the lands belong to the Royal Property Section which leased the land to the military and the villagers who should like to farm on these lands should rent the land from the Royal Property Section.

In the first step these teams were sent to areas near Chirapwat Camp e.g. Moo 3, Nakhon Sawan-Ok Sub-district and Moo 2, Klang Dad Sub-district where it is claimed to be military reserved areas for drilling and to have been used by Animal Foodstuffs Division after the second World War and the villagers did not possess any land ownership evidence. In these areas the

villagers used to sign a contract with the Animal Foodstuffs Division for farming on the land but without paying any rent. But this time the Royal Property Section and the district officers would like them to rent the lands from the Royal Property Section and pay a rent of 20 baht per rai (2.5 rai = 1 acre) per month. However, confused they are many villagers, finally consented to sign the rent contract but still could not pay the rent. In the middle of May, the 4th Precinct Army sent troops from different sections to grow trees in the areas of Moo 3 Nakhon Sawan-Ok sub-district. The soldiers ploughed on 40 rai of land where sorghum had already grown to 10 cm high. The villagers were thus alarmed, the sorghum field owner shouted to the soldiers to stop destroying the sorghum. He fattered several times. The villagers and the sub-district had man later asked the soldier to stop the action and also asked them to inform district officers before taking any action. The next day, a big group of soldiers came with encyclopaedia trees and agricultural equipment. They faced with villagers' resistance and exchanged words. However, on the second day, the chief of staff of the 4th Precinct Army came to settle conflict and informed that the military would let the villagers cultivate the lands for another year and this year the military would grow trees on the dikes and in some areas but would leave some space for the villagers to grow sorghum.

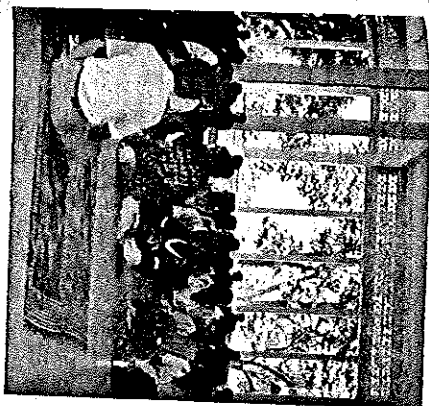
To persuade villagers to rent the lands the officials announced that 300 villagers near Chirapwat Camp have already agreed.

The Union for Civil Liberty and CRRS planned to organize a legal trialing about land at Pracha Suksa Temple, Yang Than Sub-district, Krok Phra district which was scheduled on June 3. However, the district head officer had sent a letter to the abbot of the temple asking him to prohibit the trialings reasoning that it will cause disorder to the community and the district head

officer even went to ask Mrs. Krae to cancel the training early morning of that day. She answered that it did not depend on her own decision but the community's. The official was angry and told her to be careful of herself and that he would report to the Third Army Commander. He came again at 8.00 a.m. of the training day with 20 armed policemen both in uniforms and plain clothed. The provincial 1500 officers, the military officers, and deputy district officers also came to observe, photograph and record the training which were attended by 60 villagers.

On that day Mrs. Krae Sorada, one of the active leaders, was told about military displeasure by Colonel Somchai, head of the Civilian Affairs of the Third Army who came directly from Ritsamuloke. But Mrs. Krae answered that the villagers just only wanted to know the laws about land.

Later in the middle of June Col. Somchai came to ask Mrs. Krae to help persuade farmers to rent the lands, but Mrs. Krae refused to rent the ground that the villagers would not believe her.



The military radio broadcasting from Chirapwat Camp in that area in the morning of that day stated that groups who encouraged villagers' resistance to rent the lands would be arrested.

Late in June, the Abbot of Wat Pracha Suksa was urgently called to attend a training on the national security policy and development organized by the Third Army with other 9 abbots by a representative of head of Krok Phra district monks in a letter dated June 20. The letter was sent following the "order" from the head officer of this district. The training was scheduled to be started on June 26 in Ritsamuloke. The letter also emphasized the abbots to cooperate with the Governmental policy in this matter and should not be absent from the training.

In order to control the villagers movement, the military also organized a training for army reservists and organized them into "Reservist for National Security" Group in April. This is a programme of the Ministry of Interior of organizing masses on security reasons. Village Committee was also set up to watch the movement of villagers.



## Petition of Human Rights Groups on Press Law

The following petition to the Minister of the Interior is to protest against the new Press Law which is more repressive than any other press law ever issued and will be discussed in the coming session of the Parliament during May-July.

495/44 Sol Yoo Om-sin  
Jamsantwong 40.  
Bangkok 10700

July 16, 1984

Your Excellency

Subject: The new Press Bill of the Ministry of the Interior

We are writing to Your Excellency in connection with the above-mentioned new Press Bill, which has been approved by the Cabinet and is going to be submitted to the Parliament for consideration. The main provisions of this Bill clearly restrict freedom of the press and publications in diffusing news and information to the public, affecting thus freedom of speech, and freedom of expression under the Constitution. These restrictions are, among others:

### 1. Extension of the Press Officer's Authority

1.1 The authority of the Press Officer is extended to cover cases of "detriment to national security", and not limited to, as under the Press Act, those affecting the good morals of the people (Article 9 and 10).

1.2 The Press Officer can revoke the licence of any publisher or printer, or close down any newspaper, without prior warning, if he considers that publisher, or printer or newspaper, to be acting in violation of "law and order or the good morals of the people", or being "seriously detrimental to national security" (Articles 23 and 44). This authority is usually made use of only in time of war or emergency.

1.3 The requirement that publisher or printer must be registered with the Press Officer who could turn down such requests (Article 13).

1.4 An individual can issue a newspaper only when authorized by the Press Officer (Article 25), who in practice could reject a request to issue a political newspaper.

2. More powers are granted to administrative officials or senior police officers as specified by the Criminal Code, customs officials empowered by the Customs Act or officials of the Communications Authority of Thailand to search and seize publications or newspapers (Article 9).

3. Diffusion of news and information relating to government agencies must be decided on by officials of those agencies, or by the Department of Public Relations, or by the Press Officer (Articles 45 and 92).

We, undersigned, consider these provisions in breach of the Section on Rights and Freedom of the People, of the 1978 Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which all member countries of the United Nations, including Thailand, have ratified. We would seek, therefore, Your Excellency's kind assistance in modifying the main provisions of this Bill in the light of the following recommendations we are going to submit for your consideration.

1. The Press Officer's authority should be maintained at the same level as that under the Press Act of 1941, which, among other things,

1.1 Empowers the Press Officer to deal only with newspapers acting in breach of "law and order and the good morals of the people".

1.2 Authorizes the Press Officer to suspend the licence of a publisher or a printer, or to close down a newspaper, only after prior written warnings—except when in time of war or emergency.

1.3 Stipulates that a publisher or a printer need not be registered with the Press Officer. The qualifications of a publisher or a printer may be specified, falling which he may not be granted a licence.

1.4 Authorizes the free publishing of any newspaper following a notification to the Press Officer to this effect, to whom a copy of each number of that newspaper must be submitted for record.

Our justification of these above-mentioned principles is that extension of the Press Officer's authority under Articles 9, 10, 13, 23, 25 and 44 will constitute a breach of freedom of expression of the people vis-a-vis the administration, which with the imposition of those restrictions will fail to keep abreast of the true feeling and the real needs of the people. Moreover, responsibilities arising from infractions should be borne by a publisher or a printer individually. Their responsibilities should not lead to the closing down of a newspaper, which otherwise will affect those other innocent employees who depend on the newspaper for their living.

2. To prevent officials other than the Press Officer from searching and seizing publications or newspapers, since the authority to search and to seize should be exercised with extreme care. Otherwise, innocent people will be most affected.

3. Any government agency should not be allowed to check and control any news diffusion since any infraction of any sort is already prohibited under the Criminal and the Civil Codes.

Your kind consideration of our request for a revision of the new Bill along these lines would be most appreciated.

We would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely

Cochon Arya  
for the Coordinating Group  
for Religion in Society

Chanachit Lampiyakorn  
for the Union for Civil Liberty

## Seminar on Military Court Procedures

This May CGRS and the Union for Civil Liberty organized an informal seminar on legislative aspects of the military court which might be unfair to civilians involved in case under the court. Two cases of high ranking officers who were charged with murder and sale of heavy weapons were discussed. By summarily dropping the case of Air Vice-Marshal Boonsong Dantongrat who shot dead a civilian, the military prosecutor saved him from being tried in the court. (See details in Human Rights Situation and Military Court Favours for High Ranking Officers) In the case of Maj Gen. Sawong Pitiny attached to the Ministry of Defense, who was found guilty of buying and selling heavy weapons of several kinds worth more than 50 million baht (more than US \$ 2,000,000) without authority in 1982, the defendant was sentenced to only 2 years and fined 2,000 baht (23 baht = 1 US \$) in October 1982. However, his sentence was suspended by the military court, which reasoned that as he had long served the government the opportunity should be provided for him to do good to serve the country.

The seminar concluded that the human rights groups concerned will propose to change the law by adding to the Military Court Act article 14 (5) that if a case involves victims outside the military court authority and the conflict does not concern military activities, such case should be tried in the civil court. The proposal will be presented through several channels, e.g., the Prosecutor's Department, Lawyers Council and political parties. Information on crimes committed by military officers and the procedures of the military court will be collected and released on Prince Rapee's Day (Thai National Law Day) on August 7. Information on other unjust laws will also be published and presented to the public.

## The Amendment of Criminal Procedure Code to protect rights of the accused

On June 17, the Central Legal Aid Institute and the Faculty of Law, Thammasat University organized a seminar on the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code to protect rights of the accused with the aims to exchange views on the draft amendment among governmental officials and groups concerned and to collect the opinions before it is due to be debated in second reading in the House of Representatives. More than 50 people, comprising of representatives from the Prosecutor's Department and the Ministry of Justice, politicians, lawyers, lecturers, students and human rights activists participated in the seminar.

The seminar considered the draft amendment proposed by the government and 2 MPs which was accepted in principle by the House of Representatives on June 23, 1983. The draft modified by an ad-hoc committee of the House of Representatives. This draft presents added rights to the accused as follows:

- the accused can privately meet his lawyer
- the accused can receive visitors
- the accused has the right to medical care if he is sick.
- the accused can appeal the order prohibited temporarily release to higher courts.

- In cases of punishment not exceeding 10 years the court can proceed with the hearing of witnesses without the presence of the defendant.

- the court must provide lawyers for poor defendants and defendants who are less than 17 years old.
- Both prosecutor and defendant can call witnesses who are going abroad, for a hearing even before the case is sent to the court. Both lawyer of the defendant and prosecutor can cross examine the witnesses. In case the defendant has no lawyer the judge will defend for him.

The seminar concentrated on the further rights proposed by the MPs.

namely, the detainees can meet their lawyers and can ask their lawyers to be present during the investigation, the relatives should be informed of the arrest and the whereabouts of the accused.

Several cases of malpractice of the police including severe beating of the accused and even shooting dead the accused were cited in support of the presence of lawyers during detainee's interrogation. Whereas the police representative and some experts are against the presence of lawyers reasoning that it will cause the delay of the investigation and help lawyers to plan for the case which will make it difficult to prepare evidences against the accused. The police are also accused of not following the steps of investigation, ignorance of law (e.g.,

arresting without warrant) and in most cases forcing the accused to confess under torture. (a confession would be considered as a success of the investigation.)

The seminar concluded that the participants support the draft amendment which promotes further rights to the accused and agree with the proposal of the MPs to including the following rights: the rights of the accused to ask for the presence of lawyers or relatives during the interrogation and the rights to inform relatives of the arrest.

However, on June 21, 1984, the House of Representatives passes the government version of the amendment in the 2nd. and 3rd. readings and the draft act is expected to be endorsed by the Senate in the following weeks.

## News from Thailand

## 8 Policemen detained for murdering 7 innocent people

Eight Policemen, namely Pol. Lt. Col. Samruang Wutikham, chief of Bangprachan District police station (former chief of Chababhan District police station), Pol. Lt. Wicharn Thongsunachate, Pol. Sgt. Maj. Boonsong Pochiew, Pol. Pvt. Samarn Sangchanchev, Pol. Pvt. Boonchu Nilayoo, Lance Col. Jomsak Saosuan, Pol. Lance Col. Waphong Yodthun, and Mr. Arun Pravit, former sub-district headman of Muangphom sub-district, Chababhan District, on May 24, 1984 were found guilty of shooting to death 7 innocent people including a woman. The policemen

accused the seven of being a car robbery gang and resisting police arrest on Feb. 4, 1981 on Saraburi-Lomsak Road, Muangphom sub-district, Chababhan District of Lopburi province. Their sentences were reduced to 15 years imprisonment, due to their long service to the government.

The incident took place after the group of policemen had been informed that a suspected car robbery gang were sitting beside the road. The police first classified the case as "uncommon murder." However, the relatives of the victims, encouraged by a big newspaper, made a complaint accusing the police of brutally shooting people and charging

ing them with robbery. The case was accepted and the trial lasted for more than 3 years, during which all the accused police were released on bail and were not fired from their work.

According to the court, the charge of the victims being robbers was not substantiated because of the lack of evidence. Regarding the evidence of the police, the pictures of the police car being shot were found to be from another incident, with a different direction of shooting. The picture of the victims' injuries showed that the shooting was from a very near distance and thus the victims were not fighting with the police. The picture of the place of the incident showed that the corpses of the victims were brought as a group with some old tyres for cremation, and the court found that the policemen, immediately after the performance of an autopsy, cremated the dead to destroy all the evidence. The court rejected the claim of the police that the villagers nearby cremated the victims.

The case caused a great loss to the victims' families: five young children of a husband and wife who died in the incident have to face great distress. The relatives were not paid any compensation.

#### Child Worker Tortured

Lamduan Khamee, 15, from Udon Thani, a province in the Northeast was found semi-conscious with ulcerated lips, a badly crushed little finger, a knife wound on her right shoulder and a huge wound on her buttock, locked in a wardrobe in the house of her employer - Mr. Chaturaporn and Mrs. Sunn Sanyarnitak-in Bangkoktham, Thonburi by policemen and taken to hospital. She was also found to be undernourished by doctors. She had reportedly refused to eat the excrement of the child of her bosses, thus had boiling water poured on her mouth by the couple, her little finger crushed with a hammer, her right shoulder slashed with a kitchen knife and was locked up in the wardrobe after she had been caught stealing rice from

a cupboard. The couple were arrested on charge of unlawful detention the day of the rescue but were released on bail. The Labour Department is planning to file a child slavery charge against them as they were found in violation of the Labour Act by employing a child under 15 without permission.

Lamduan was employed by the couple to cut herbal grass through a job placement agency near Hua Lampong railway station last August. Her parents were promised 4,500 baht for Lamduan's service, but they received only 1,250 baht.

#### Misuse of Power

13 May 1984 Police Pvt. Suriya Yongchit, 23, attached to the "191" anti-crime unit shot dead 2 men during a brawl in a road-side coffee-shop in Soi Cheeyapung in Bangkok, Bangkok. The two men were Sompong Kiknamoo, a bartender at P'jit Pochana Restaurant and Voraphot Trietpoom, a mechanic who was seriously injured and died in hospital.

Pol. Pvt. Suriya will be charged with murder, while another policeman involved in the case, Pol. Pvt. Kamnuch will be charged with collaboration in the killings.

A pistol, the same type of weapon used in the murder, was seized from Pol. Pvt. Suriya shortly after the killing.

24 May 1984 Two policemen-Pol. Pvt. Samdej Nopharat and Pol. Kwit Kaeleong attached to the Pakphang district police station, Nakhon Si Thammarat, were arrested on the charge of collaboration in murdering Mr. Thana Chanhongrit, Phat, brother-in-law, of Mr. Sophon Kiprasan, the alleged murderer of the chief judge of Phuket and a rich and famous case of Phuket in April last year.

Mr. Thana and five men had lodged a complaint to the Minister of the Interior, charging a high-rank

policeman and his team of brutally beating them to confess to the murder. He was shot dead three days after he had given information to the police for the last time on January 10, 1984.

30 May 1984 Mr. Thaveesak Yaomyim, 22, Mr. Boonchuay Rungchut, 15, from Nong sea district, Prachuap Thani province were reportedly hit on their testicles with batons after having been arrested by police in Samphran district, Nakhon Pathom with other 8 persons from the same village and accused of robbing about 30,000 baht (23 baht=1 \$US) in cash from the owners of a rice field. Mr. Rasm and Mrs. Yuthin Uanachan, in which they were working. They were brought by their relatives to Bangkok for treatment of severely swollen testicles after being released on bail. They took their case to the Press. Boonchuay later had one of his testicles removed in an operation on June 8. Five policemen involved in the case were later ordered to be detained and would face both disciplinary and legal actions. They were fired out from their job on June 14. They were Pol. Sub Lt. Surasit Sutthippan, Pol. Sgt. Maj. Thavee Petchin, Pol. Sgt. Boonsong Netpho, Pol. Pl. Prathum Thongsat and Pol. Col. Saeat Duangsum.

The chief of the police station would also be investigated for failing to inform his superior about the incident before it was reported in the Press.

#### Landlord Murdered

Thongchai Lampongpan, 39, former leader of the Marine Transport Labour Union, was shot dead by a pillbox-riding gunman shortly after he left his office and got into a truck near Sanphradit intersection, Yama, Bangkok at about 11.30 a.m. on 15 April. Thongchai, chief control of farm crops in 2 companies had organized a demonstration to demand the free export of rice, at the time when prices in the world market were high last year. This caused dissatisfaction to big companies

as who had been assigned quotas for export. It is assumed that business conflicts led to his death. Neither the murder nor anyone involved was arrested.

#### Suspects in bad shape



#### 7 CPT members arrested

In the early morning of May 8, 1984, a group of Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) members were arrested in 2 houses in City district, Nakhon Pathom province. Mrs. Sukjai Sae Lim, 33, a fish retailer, and Mr. Kiknam, Mrs. Sukjai's elder brother, and Mr. Piam Walphiphithawong, 45, were found in the first house with a large number of CPT documents, traditional herbs, and pictures of other CPT members. Mr. Thongkham and Mrs. Siwan Buranatham, 52, Mrs. Sunan Thiratham makorn, 43, and Mrs. Phalin Amphoncham, 49, were found in the second house. Questioned by the Governor, Mrs. Sukjai accepted that she was a member of the CPT and used to be an assistant medical doctor. However, after having left the jungle, she helped the party by supplying food, medicine and sending documents to other members. Her better economic status after 4 years of disappearance, and her receiving of strangers, raised suspicions that she was a communist sympathizer. All of the arrested were sent to Civilian-Military Unit 7 in that province.



### Death Sentences

During April-May, 1984, 36 persons involved in 14 cases of robbery, murder, rape, trafficking and brawling were executed and sentenced to death. However, 9 persons in 8 cases had their death sentences confirmed, while the others had their sentences reduced to life imprisonment and less due to their confession and their ages.

2 May - Mr. Prasert Chinchareon, 33, was executed after being found guilty of robbing and murdering a woman worker in Kratumban district, Samutsakorn on October 17, 1982.

4 May - Sin Kanekankijjanich, 38, an alt-conditioner repairman in Pattaya, Choburi, was sentenced to death on a charge of trafficking in heroin weighing 20,791 Kgs. on June 8, 1983. Two other convicts in the same case also got death sentences but had them commuted to life imprisonment due to their confession.

18 May - Mr. Chuanan Iathwetchai, 35, after being found guilty of murdering 2 persons and trying to kill another 2 persons during a brawl with another 2 people in Phasiachoen district, Bangkok, on November 12, 1982, was sentenced to death. The other 2 involved were also sentenced to 10 years 6 months and 10 years respectively.

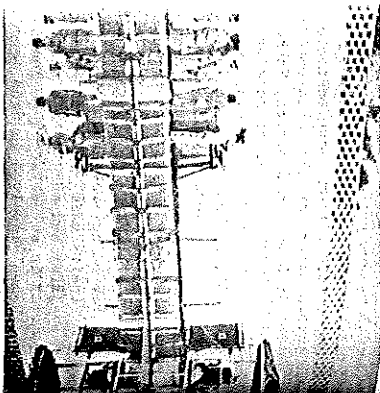
22 May - Phitsachai Pringsakul, who murdered the rape of 2 women and murdered them as well as a policeman in Surat Thani on May 13, was sentenced to death. Four other teenagers involved in the case were sentenced to life imprisonment.

The three victims were sitting in a public park on the night of May 13 when the five approached them in a boat and raped the two women in front of the policeman.

After the events the five defendants also injured a man and robbed him.

28 May - Pol. Pvt. Praderm Sirvongniam attached to the special operation unit in Amohawa district, Samutsongkram, was

sentenced to death after being found guilty of murdering his chief-Pol. Sr. Pratum O-sodharnon who had reported of Pol. Pvt. Praderm's fleeing the scene and thus caused him to be investigated on May 25, 1984.

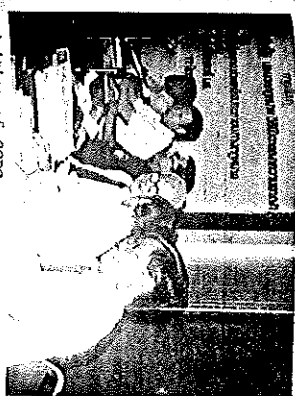


31 May - Mr. Chuanrong Wee-mark (21) and Mr. Saranet Thepphot (22) were sentenced to death after being found guilty of robbing and murdering a goldsmith owner in Bangkok, Bangkok on May 25, 1984. They also wounded a policeman while trying to escape.

31 May - Mr. Banroed Labphochai, village headman of Ban Nong Jik, Sub Wang sub-district, Wang district, Roi-et was sentenced to death in the appeal court where he was found guilty of hanging a villager to death on August 31, 1983. Five other persons including the victim's wife involved in the case also got death sentences but their sentences were reduced to life imprisonment due to their statement which benefited to the judgement.

6 June - Mr. Prasert Phrao-Wang (20) was sentenced to death and his co-defendant - Mr. Somsak Sue-Dej (17) - to life imprisonment on charges of murder, rape and robbing of a pregnant woman in Wang district, Rajaburi in the night of April 18, and 19, 1984.

# Activities of CGRS



Activities of CGRS

The Coordinating Group for Religion in Society (CGRS) is composed of layman and young activists from the Buddhist, 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'état. For over seven years CGRS has carried out its activities openly, hostile of repressive government and brutal law. During this period the activities of CGRS has expanded considerably from merely helping political prisoners and their families and others suffering from conflicts in the society, to exposing misuse of government power and campaigning for its victims, for the release of the political prisoners and for abolishment of unjust laws; helping form other groups organized 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 justice 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.

### Human Rights Activities

During April-June 1984, 8 projects have been carried out as follows:

#### 1. Helping and Visiting Prisoners and Providing Legal Aid

In the past 3 months, CGRS has provided legal aid to 2 cases as follows:

- Mr. Baecha Saengsuk, a young man of 16 years old, of Phibulmangshum district, Ubonratchani was arrested in March this year after a brawl with a gang of youngsters in another village and took away from his residence to be questioned. He was found beaten and burned to death the following day. CGRS provided legal aid to sue the policemen who are alleged to commit the crime.

#### - Rape case of student in Prachin district, Nakhon Rajasima

CGRS helps provide legal aid through Noman Rights Protection Centre, attached to Friends of Women Group in favor of the students who were raped by their teacher in Prachin district, Nakhon Rajasima.

#### 2. Seminar on "Human Rights Promotion in the Northeast"

In order to provide information and access to due process of law, CGRS together with the Central Legal Aid Institute, the Union for Civil Liberty and the Lawyers Club in Khon Kaen organized a seminar on "Human Rights Promotion in the Northeast" in Khon Kaen Province during May 5-6. Twenty five lawyers from 60 northeast provinces and twenty six development workers and human rights activists participated in the seminar. A coordinating committee of the Central Legal Aid Institute for the Northeast was set up for coordination on legal aid purpose.

Situation of human rights violations e.g. misuse of power by the authorities, the beating of the detainees by the police or military, un-

controlled influential groups, unjust laws, land problems, lack of access to legal process and lack of effective organizations of villagers, were discussed.

### 3. Seminar on law concerning victim's rights under military jurisdiction and detainees' right under penal code

On May 19, 1984, CGRS and the Union for Civil Liberty organized an informal seminar among lawyers and human rights activists on some aspects of military court legislation which might be unfair to civilian or too favorable to high ranking officers.

CGRS also supported a seminar on rights of the detainees organized by the Central Legal Aid Institute on June 17, 1984 in order to support the draft bills proposed by the government and MPs which gives better guarantee to victim's rights under penal code. (See more details in Human Rights Movement in Thailand)

### 4. Providing assistance and counsels to the villagers of Nakhon Sawan who face eviction

CGRS continues to provide support to the villagers of Nakhon Sawan who face eviction. (See Report on the Eviction of the Nakhon Sawan Villagers)

### 5. Training on laws about land

Considering the eviction problems which frequently happen in the past, CGRS and the Union for Civil Liberty organized a training on laws about land to villagers in the Northern, Northeastern and Southern provinces, including Nakhon Sawan, on June 28-29. This seminar provided an opportunity to exchange views and experiences on land disputes.

### 6. Fact finding on case of misuse of power in Kasetsorn Province

CGRS went on fact finding visit regarding the case of 10 villagers including a sub-district headman who were fired to death by five armed men in army uniforms in a grocery where a

crowd was gathering to watch relay-sation in Nam Nam Sang village, Khom Nam Sang sub-district, Kuchum district, Yasothon province at around 3 p.m. on 18 December, 1983.

### 7. Coordinating with the Committee of Human Rights Organizations in Thailand (CHROTH)

CGRS joined the Committee of Human Rights Organizations in Thailand, formed in July 1983, to campaign on Human Rights week which will be organized in December this year. A project to campaign against "traffic in women" is being planned in order to try to oppose the traffic in women, help the forced prostitutes and consolidate the rural people and the public on this issue.

### 8. Dissemination of human rights problems

CGRS has produced a slide-time programme on "Nakhon Sawan Eviction case" and leaflets about AI and torture campaign.

### Rural Development Activities

The campaign for job creation in the rural areas project

At present, the Northeast, Thailand's most drought- and poverty-stricken region, sees an increasing number of farmers confronted with the difficulty of solely earning their living from their farmland. A big number of these people have migrated to other labour-demanding areas, especially Bangkok where prosperity, business and economic opportunities are so much concentrated that it is cynically said that "Bangkok is Thailand". However, Bangkok itself has been facing a high rate of unemployment and will certainly be in no position to cope with the increasing number of rural migrants in the future. It is in this light that CGRS deems it most urgent for all concerned to find some preventive measures, and tries to bring about local

coordination of such measures among local government agencies, among landlords or groups concerned, and among the rural people themselves - with a view to creating jobs for these rural people, to increasing their self-reliance with more income earned from non-agricultural activities, and to preventing their migration to other areas so that they will become an active force to develop their native region.

In 1983, CGRS conducted surveys in 6 model villages in the target province, Ubonratchani, which of 16 northeastern provinces, is known to be mostly composed of poor areas. Northern migrants in various places in Bangkok and industrial provinces were interviewed. CGRS also collected documents and research papers to study this problem and sought for cooperation with both public and private institutions concerned with the migration problem and job creation programmes.

In 1984, during April-June, following projects have been carried out in Ubonratchani and in Bangkok:

### 1. Nutrition Programme for pre-school children (0-5 years old) in Song Mon Village, Ubonratchani District, Ubonratchani

The nutrition programme, started since December 1983 on every Saturday was suspended at the end of January, 1984 after 9 weeks, due to the lack of participation of the parents. However, in April, the programme was discussed by a group of parents who would like to see the continuation of the programme. And it was started again on April 7 with about 30 children. The parents participated in cooking for their children. Nevertheless, after 6 weeks, it was stopped due to the lack of participation again.

### 2. Service Workshop in Songkhon Village

After 3 months training (January-March) in welding and bicycles repair-

ing in 2 workshop in the city district of Ubonratchani, only one of the two young trainees went back home and start the service workshop in Songkhon Village with support from CGRS. The service starts with bicycle repairing in May, the other trainee went to seek job in Bangkok since he felt uncomfortable to take the responsibility of running the workshop.

### 3. The Fertilizer Production Experiment

Since June feasibility study of fertilizer production from water by-product has continued in Ubonratchani where raw materials is plentiful.

### 4. Activities for migrants in Bangkok

CGRS visited several Northeastern migrants who join the training programme in March in various workshops and organized a short trip for them on May 1, to build good relationship among workers. A training course for sewing is planned for organized every Sunday in July. In addition, CGRS also encourages them to form a group to help each other.

### Religious-Oriented Activities

Another training programme on "Buddhism for the youth" similar to the one conducted last year is taking place. The lecture and seminar programme will be organized in Thammasat University and in temples in upcountry from July onwards once every 2-3 weeks until December. Topics range from information about Buddhism, Buddhist institution to applying Buddhist principles to daily life and society emphasizing more on emotional experiences. A short Buddhist practices will also be organized during this period and an intensive one in January next year. Forty young members comprising mainly students and development workers, will participate in the training programme which, however, will be opened to the public as well.

# Messages and Services

## Friends of Women Group

The "Friends of Women Group" was founded in 1980 as an outcome of successive meetings of men and women from various professions. They share a view that the opportunities for women to develop and show their ability and social and economic conditions. All these factors lead to the conclusion that sex constitutes the whole determination of differences in ability and social status. Such understanding organizes social determination, which has resulted in the exclusion of a large number of women from taking part in the development of their society. Realizing this, the participants of the meeting have agreed to set up a coordinating body so that men and women who share the common purpose of working for equal rights for women can work together towards these aims. The group is called "Puen Ying" or Friends of Women, its principle and objective are as follows:

### Principles

The Friends of Women Group shall act in accordance with following principles:

- 1) The group is a private body. It shall cooperate independently with member groups and organizations
- 2) The group shall speak for women in their struggle for equal rights in accordance with the principle of Human Rights.
- 3) The group shall act towards the elimination of sexual discrimination and encourage joint effort among men and women in the development of their society.
- 4) The group shall not be an instrument for seeking political power or interest.

### Objectives

- 1) To seek understanding of conditions of women in Thai society.
- 2) To raise women's consciousness on their role and their effective ability to participate in social development.
- 3) To encourage the setting up of women's groups in various milieu and professions.
- 4) To provide services to contribute to the protection of women's rights.
- 5) To join in the effort to seek effective means to resolve problems concerning women.

- 6) To encourage cooperative among groups and organizations which share these common objectives.

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A Siamese For All Siamese, collected articles by and about Puey Ungphakorn, with additional unpublished documents. Komol Keomthong Foundation, 9 March 1984, pp. 383, 130 Bht. (US \$5.65)

If Thomas Yore was a "man for all seasons," then "a Siamese for all seasons," a term given to Dr. Puey Ungphakorn couldn't be more appropriate. "A Siamese for all seasons" gives an insight into the thinking of the 68-year-old man, one of the most important figures in recent Thai history. Amongst the many positions he held was the Governor of the Bank of Thailand, the Rector of Thammasat University and that of a "temporary savior" working for the Free Thai Movement during World War II. Most especially the book paints a crystal, true-to-life picture of the man as a humanist of all times.

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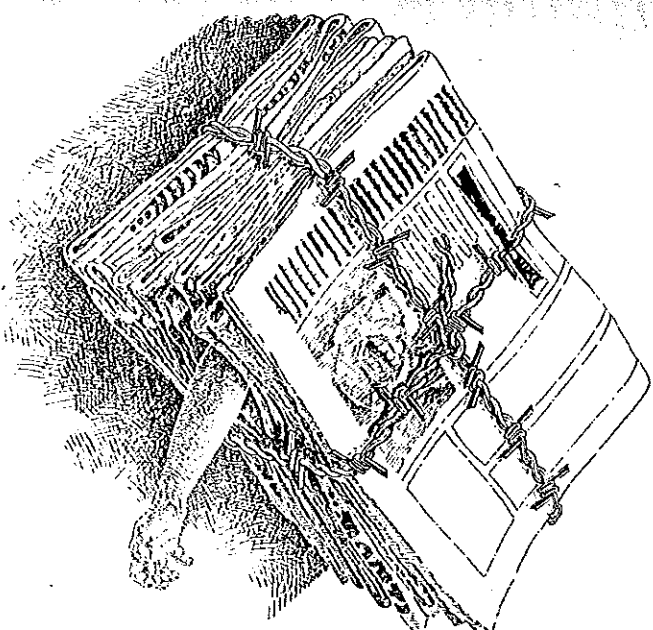
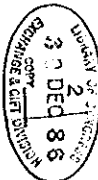
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