

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8



Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha
Pitsanulok Road, Bangkok 10300, Thailand

January 7, 2021

Peaceful Protesters Must Be Protected

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we call on you to immediately and unconditionally drop all criminal proceedings against the Thailand protesters and others charged solely for exercising their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression.

We are deeply concerned by reports from Amnesty International about reports regarding the escalating crackdown on students and other activists who have been expressing their opinions on political and constitutional reforms through peaceful protest and social media. Currently, at least 220 peaceful pro-democracy protesters, including children, are facing criminal proceedings. Although your government has acknowledged the rights of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly as the foundation of society, these protesters are still harassed.

We believe that you have an obligation to change your government's approach to protecting the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression in order to genuinely enable people to exercise them, including by allowing criticisms of authorities. We urge you to amend or repeal legislation and to train state officials to carry out their duties confirming to Thailand's obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression. Once all these things are done, your government will be in line with Thailand's obligations under international human rights law and the constitution.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N Lane".

Nathan Lane
Executive Director
TRU Students' Union

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mackenzie Francoeur".

Mackenzie Francoeur
Vice President Equity
TRU Students' Union

cc: Kallayana Vipattipumiprates – Ambassador