

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha
Office of the Prime Minister
Government House
Pitsanulok Road
Bangkok 10300
THAILAND

Dear Prime Minister,

I write to express my concern that your government is pursuing measures to punish children for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Since widespread protests started in 2020, the Thai government has started criminal proceedings against at least 284 children for peacefully protesting or expressing their opinions. Authorities have targeted and intimidated them and others who have peacefully demonstrated with harassment, surveillance. The situations of Thanakorn 'Petch' Phiraban "Sand" are emblematic of the hundreds of children penalized for exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly. They were targeted when they were children aged under 18. "Petch" has received two suspended prison sentences for publicly expressing their opinion at protests, and "Sand" may face further charges for her activism.

Thailand has international obligations, including under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to respect, protect and ensure children's rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, so they can exercise them without fear of reprisals.

Therefore, I call on you to:

- Release all children detained simply for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;
- Drop all criminal proceedings, quash convictions, and end harassment and intimidation of Thanakorn "Petch" Phiraban und "Sand" and other young people, targeted simply for exercising their human rights;
- Respect, protect and fulfil the rights of children to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression; and
- Amend or repeal legislation which is incompatible with international standards relating to the exercise of these rights.

Yours sincerely,