

Prime Minister
Srettha Thavisin
Office of the Prime Minister
Government House
Pitsanulok Road
Bangkok 10300
THAILAND

THANAKORN PETCH AND PHIRABAN SAND

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;

Yours sincerely,