

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha
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Driebergen,

Dear Prime Minister,

I write to express my concern that since widespread protests, which arose in 2020, your government has started criminal proceedings against at least 284 children for peacefully expressing their opinions. This is in violation of international obligations, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In 2022 Thanakorn received a detention sentence for lèse-majesté, after they spoke at two protests. At the time, he was 17 years old. Authorities also started criminal proceedings against 17-year-old activist "Sand" for taking part in a peaceful demonstration in 2021. Chan, an Indigenous land rights activist, is under investigation after voicing her community's concerns about access to their land at a rally in 2022. "Yok", aged 15, was detained between 29 March and 18 May 2023 and may face up to 15 years' imprisonment. These cases are emblematic of the hundreds of children penalized.

I call on you to release all children detained and drop all charges, simply for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Yours sincerely,

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The Netherlands