



**National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT)'s Statement
The Concerns on the Incident of Anti – Government Protest in Bangkok
on 22 December B.E. 2556 (2013)**

Due to continuously monitoring the incident of Anti-Government protest, NHRCT admires the protesters for using right to freedom of expression conforming to the National Constitution of Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2550 (2007), article 63 which states that “a person shall enjoy the liberty to assemble peacefully and without arms”. NHRCT also admires the Government for choosing measures facilitating the protests to enjoy their rights and freedoms guaranteed in the National Constitution. Police officers have been assigned to facilitate protesting. They emphasized on keeping social security while avoiding using force against the protesters. This is comply with NHRCT’s demands which asked both sides to solve the conflict in peaceful way as well as respecting each other’s rights.

As mentioned in many media, the protesters announced their plan to arrange the huge demonstration, covering many places in Bangkok, on 22 December B.E.2556. This aimed to increase the pressure against the Government.

For fearing that the incident of above protesting might be risk of violence and human rights violation, NHRCT would like to ask all relevant parties to consider the following comments:

1. The protesters have to assemble peacefully, without arms and violence. They also need to conform to the principles of human rights and democracy including the intention of National Constitution of Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2550 (2007). Similarly, the Government should facilitate the protest, protect social security while avoiding any types of violence. All parties including the protester and the Government should consider and realize the importance of the compliance of rule of law, due process, democracy and human rights principles.
2. The media have to report the incident’s fact that is useful for and assist in bringing peace to the society.
3. The Government, the protester and relevant parties have to corporately and carefully perform each own functions to prevent creating sensitive situation risking to violence. The Government has to treat the protesters under the international measures in order to ensure the peaceful assembly.

NHRCT hopes that all parties will corporately prevent the consequent problems while reasonably solving the incident and conflict. We also ask all parties to enjoy their rights and freedom guaranteed under the current laws and avoid causing violence which might lead to human rights violation.

National Human Rights Commission of Thailand

21 December B.E. 2556 (2013)