

Statement of National Human Rights Commission of Thailand

Subject: Concern on Assembly Situations on 13 January 2014

As shown in the news, the People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) has announced the appointment to invite the public to participate elevating power of the mass political protests in several areas of Bangkok through a continuing walking rally campaign around Bangkok in order to persuade the public to attend the mass protests on 13 January 2014.

Having been monitoring the political situations closely and continuously, National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) then is concerned with potential violent situations and loss that would possibly occur again, when in recent past the lessons of loss were caused by violent situations on 30 November 2013 around Ramkhamhaeng University and Rajamangala National Stadium, on 1-2 December 2013 around Chamai Maruchet Bridge and on 26 December 2013 around Bangkok Youth Center (THAI-JAPAN Stadium) with the total of 461 injured persons and 8 people died while there were several persons affected. Most recently, NHRCT has issued the statements and has called for all parties to restrict to the peaceful means to solve problems and to respect rights of each other thoroughly.

The incidents occurred has been provided lessons to all parties on the exercise of rights and freedom of assembly and the exercise of rights of the State to maintain public order. NHRCT, which has roles and duties in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand to promote respect and comply with human rights principles in order to maintain peaceful situations in the country, has called on all sectors to consider and take appropriate actions as follows:

1. Protest organizers and protesters are required to share responsibility to pursue peaceful and unarmed protests or without using artificial weapons in the protest areas by restricting to the peaceful means and rule of law under the rights and freedom of democracy and the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2550(2007).
2. The Government has to take care of protests to ensure the public order and prevent violence from the ill-willed persons by using legal framework which complies with international human rights principles and has to avoid and prevent undesired violent situations that previously occurred around areas of Ramkamhaeng University and Rajamangala National Stadium, Chamai Maruchet Bridge and Bangkok Youth Center (THAI-JAPAN Stadium).
3. The Government and the Royal Thai Police have to monitor situations closely and continuously and coordinate with other relevant agencies, such as Office of National Security Council, National Intelligence Agency, Security Center, etc., in providing efficiently the information for the purpose of avoiding confrontation among different groups of political ideology and opinion, in order to suppress and restrain the violent situations.
4. The Royal Thai Police should accelerate its investigation into the perpetrators of violent situations occurred around areas of Ramkamhaeng University and Rajamangala National Stadium, Chamai Maruchet Bridge and Bangkok Youth Center (THAI-JAPAN Stadium) and take legal actions against them as well as report on periodical progress to the public promptly.

5. The Government has to provide medical care to the wounded, remedies to the injured, the wounded and the death from violent situations occurred in accordance with standard guideline of humanitarian principles by ensuring fairness and remedy to all parties in term of money compensation, rehabilitation, other aids, mental remedy without discrimination.

6. Media has to present news that is accurate, useful to the public and creative and to assist the societies to achieve their peace.

7. NHRCT would like to seek assistance from all parties affected or exposed to violent situations to gather various evidence , such as recording photography or cinematography, collecting physical evidence, and submit those evidence to the Office of National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, or provide information through the Hotline 1377 or e-mail help@nhrc.or.th by identifying the contact place, such as contact telephone number, for the benefit of gathering evidence and information.

NHRCT requests the protesters, the Government officials and all sectors to remain patient, restrained and attached to peaceful means while respecting rights and freedom of each other in order to prevent any violent situations causing the loss with the consideration of the national benefit and peace as the utmost importance.

National Human Rights Commission of Thailand
8 January 2014