

## **Statement of National Human Rights Commission of Thailand**

### **Subject: Condemn the Exercise of Violence on Assembly Situations on 17 January 2014**

From the political assembly situations, the People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) has a continuing walking rally campaign around Bangkok until the latest on 17 January 2014. The rally persuading public to attend the mass political protest has led to violent situations due to the uses of bombs, weapons of war around Ban That Thong Road vicinity, thus causing the total of 39 injured persons and 3 people died. Such violent situations occurred are considered as severe violations of human rights.

When in recent past, National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) monitored the political situations closely and continuously, as well as emphasized concerns on potential violent situations that would possibly occur, and then requested all sectors to restrict to peaceful means to solve problems and to respect rights of each other thoroughly.

Having been condemning such acts as severe human rights violations, NHRCT would like to express our condolences to persons who lose their friends and families in such violent situations occurred. If such situations have still been continued, it is expected to be violent resulting increasing disharmony in Thai society which is too difficult to heal, and not desired by all Thai people.

The incident 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 has called for all sectors to consider and take appropriate actions as follows:

1. Protest organizers and police officers have to cooperate in setting up maintenance systems of peace and public order in protest areas together with various monitoring measures , including suppression of the ill-willed persons causing violent situations in assembly areas or against protesters during a walking rally. Especially in the latest case, bombs are thrown into the protesters around areas of Ban That Thong Road, causing the death and the injured persons. All of these risk points in the surroundings, such as high-rise buildings, unoccupied buildings, footbridge, monorail and skywalk, etc., have to be carefully watched;

2. Police officers have to take legal action promptly and effectively against the perpetrators, who commit crime using lethal weapons against protesters, through assistance of protest organizers. And also, an organization or a middleman is encouraged to take participation to ensure confidence of one another while bringing the perpetrators to legal punishment.

All of this, police officers have to conduct investigation into the perpetrators of all violent situations that occurred and resulted in loss of life and properties and injury and take action against them through a legal punishment, as well as have to report on fact and periodical progress to the public immediately;

3. The Government has to take care of and prevent violence so that the protests are able to continue peacefully. No matter who causes the violence, the Government must not reject responsibility and must act under legal framework which complies with international human rights principles by avoidance and prevention of undesired violent situations that would possibly occur;

4. Protest organizers shall be responsible to ensure safety of media working in political assembly by preventing any harm of violations of rights and freedom of media;

5. All protest organizers are required to concern with rights of the child and women, and not to use any speech containing inappropriate words and contents relating to neither

human dignity violations nor child or youth harassment while they are expressing their opinion on the stage;

6. 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 terms of money compensation, rehabilitation, other aids, mental remedy without discriminations.

Therefore, NHRCT has called upon all parties to use their consciousness by concerning with main national benefit, and to stop confrontation and all forms of violence. The best solution is a returning to negotiation urgently in order to bring peace and harmony to Thailand.

National Human Rights Commission of Thailand  
19 January 2014