



Issues of Lèse-majesté Law and Freedom of Expression in the Upcoming Elections in Thailand

13 May 2023

To: Candidates to the National Elections in Thailand

We write to you today to urge you to prioritise the protection of freedom of expression in Thailand and to call for a moratorium on the use of lèse-majesté laws in our country.

As you are aware, the lèse-majesté laws in Thailand have been used to stifle free speech and silence dissenting voices for far too long. These laws, which prohibit any criticism or insult towards the monarchy, have been used to target individuals who express opinions or ideas that are critical of the monarchy or the government. This has had a chilling effect on free speech in our country, and has led to a culture of self-censorship among the Thai people.

We believe that it is time for a moratorium on the use of lèse-majesté laws in Thailand, and for an open dialogue on the protection of freedom of expression in our country. We urge you, as candidates for national office, to commit to this important cause.

We understand that the monarchy holds an important place in Thai society, and we do not seek to undermine this. However, we believe that it is possible to respect the monarchy while also protecting the right to free speech. It is important that all voices be heard in a democracy, and that no one be silenced simply for expressing their views.

We call on you to make this a priority in your campaign, and to take steps to protect freedom of expression in our country. We urge you to commit to a moratorium on the use of lèse-majesté laws, and to engage in an open dialogue with the Thai people on this important issue.

We believe that together, we can work to create a society in which all voices are heard, and in which freedom of expression is protected.

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