



112WATCH.ORG

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A Call for the Immediate Release of Two Thai Activists

112WATCH is urgently calling for the Criminal Court to immediately release Thantawan Tuatulanon, or Tawan, and Natthanon Chaiyamahabutr, or Frank, charged under the Penal Code, section 116.

On February 13, 2024, Tantanwan and Natthanon were arrested by the police in front of the Bangkok Criminal Court and taken to the Din Daeng police station in Bangkok for questioning in connection with their protest during the blockade of road traffic during the passage of a royal motorcade on February 4, 2024. Tantanwan faces charges under Articles 116 (sedition), 368 (failure to comply with official's order), and 397 (public nuisance) of the Thai Criminal Code, as well as Article 14(3) of the Computer Crimes Act B.E. 2550 (2007). Meanwhile, Natthanon faces the same charges as Tantanwan, with additional charges under Article 136 (insulting an official) of the Criminal Code and Article 14 (excessive use of vehicle's sound signal) of the Land Traffic Act B.E. 2522 (1979).

If convicted, Tantanwan could face up to seven years, and Natthanon eight years in jail.

Both activists have begun hunger strikes in protest of the Thai judicial system. Their hunger strikes coincide with the news that the Criminal Court intends to detain Tantanwan and Natthanon for the third period (March 9-20, 2024) citing the ongoing investigation of their cases.

112WATCH is concerned about the deteriorating health of Tantanwan and Natthanon and the perceived illegitimate detention on the part of the Criminal Court. 112WATCH is hence calling for the release of the two activities immediately. 112WATCH is also calling upon the Srettha government to step up its obligation to safeguard human rights. By failing to do so would further stain the reputation of the government in the eyes of Thais and the international community.

112WATCH, in solidarity with:

The Australian Alliance for Democracy
Thai Rights Now (USA)
The Thai Democratic Movement in Canada
Thai EU for Democracy
Norway Freedom for Thai Democracy
The ASEAN Feminist Community Barcelona
Free Thai Movement in the Netherlands