

Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha
Head of ISOC
Government House
Pitsanulok Road
Dusit
Bangkok 10300

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to express my concern at the charges of criminal defamation and violations of the Computer Crimes Act against Somchai Homla-or, Pornpen Khongkachonkiet and Anchana Heemmina for their report documenting 54 cases of alleged torture. The charges were filed by the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) Region 4. There are also reports that the three have been pressured by army officials to reveal the identity of the alleged victims and that Anchana Heemmina has been harassed by military officials.

I respectfully request the authorities to immediately and unconditionally drop charges against Somchai Homla-or, Pornpen Khongkachonkiet and Anchana Heemmina; and stop all threats and harassment against them; to amend laws on defamation to remove all criminal penalties; to allow human rights defenders to carry out their work without any judicial harassment; and to investigate all complaints of torture and other ill-treatment, promptly, independently and effectively and bring to justice those reasonably suspected of being responsible for such act and ensure reparations to victims.

Let me finally add that my interest in this case arises purely from a concern for human rights and is in no way motivated by any ill-feeling towards the people or government of Thailand.

Yours sincerely,

cc: Minister of Foreign Affairs
HE Don Pramudwinai
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sri Ayudhya Road
Bangkok 10400