

Right of Reply by Delegation of Thailand
Mr. Natapanu Nopakun, Minister Counselor,
27th Session of the Human Rights Council
16 September 2014

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Mr. President,

Permit me to address some of the issues raised by the Colombian Commission of Jurists regarding cases of enforced disappearances in Thailand.

My delegation appreciates the concerns expressed and wishes to reiterate that Thailand is committed to the promotion and protection of human rights of all persons. Successive Thai Governments have invested great effort to address these concerns.

With regards to Mr. Somchai Neelapaijit, the current Government remains seized to continue the investigation of his case. Mrs. Anchalee Neelapaijit, the wife of Mr. Somchai is still protected by the Government under the Ministry of Justice's witness protection plan.

For the case of Mr. Porlagee Rakchongcharoen or "Billy", the Department of Special Investigation is handling the case and is conducting the investigation. Last week, the Seventh Region Provincial Police headquarters, which oversees Phetchburi province where Mr. Porlagee resides, has appointed a special investigative team to specifically look into the details of this case.

We understand the concern raised by the Colombian Commission of Jurists. The former chief of Kaeng Krachan National Park, alleged to be involved in the case, will have to

prove himself in due process of law, according to the procedures of the Office of Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission.

Let me conclude by reaffirming Thailand's commitment to become a party of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED). The Ministry of Justice is in the process of drafting a law criminalizing acts of torture and enforced disappearance committed by State officials, thus reflecting its obligation under CAT and its plan to ratify ICPPED in due time.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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