

31 May 2018

**Re: Ms. Neeranuch Neamsub's roles as observer in a public assembly**

**To:** Inquiry official in charge of the case against pro-democracy activists participating in the demonstrations during 21-22 May 2018

**Copy:** 1. Commissioner General, the Royal Thai Police  
2. Director General of the Rights and Liberties Protection Department

**Attachment:** A photo of ID card tag of Thai Lawyers for Human Rights (TLHR)'s staff and a sample TLHR uniform

The Thai Lawyers for Human Rights (TLHR) writes to clarify to the responsible inquiry officials and relevant agencies about the roles of TLHR observer, Ms. Neeranuch Neamsub, who was on duty during the demonstrations of the pro-democracy activists at Thammasat University and in front of the UN ESCAP building in Bangkok on 21-22 May 2018. Reportedly, the Chana Songkhram Police Station has further investigated into the case which revealed the name list of 41 more individuals to be charged in addition to 15 pro-democracy activists who were already charged by police on 22 and 23 May 2018 which includes Ms. Neeranuch Neamsub, one of TLHR staff. The TLHR's explanation and clarification regarding its staff's roles as human rights monitor and observer as follows;

1. The Thai Lawyers for Human Rights (TLHR) was founded by a group of human rights lawyers and attorneys in the wake of the May 2014 military coup. TLHR offers legal assistance as well as works on documentation and dissemination of information concerning human rights violations. Up to date, TLHR has been representing 303 individuals who have been affected by the exercise of state power and infringement of the right to freedom of expression after the military coup in over 151 cases including some suspects arrested as a result of their demonstrations to demand elections.

2. Ms. Neeranuch Neamsub has been employed as a full-time documentation officer for TLHR, based in the Northeast of Thailand, since 1 January 2015. She has been working on human rights violations documentation and observing activities held to exercise the right to freedom of expression or other activities which have been interfered or restricted by authorities, including public discussions, public forums, public assemblies, court trials in relation to cases of human rights and the exercise of freedom of expression. During the course of observations or field missions, TLHR staff is obliged to always wear a TLHR ID name tag, making it clearly visible to other persons, including general public and the officials who have been deployed in the area. This is to distinguish our staff members from other demonstrators.

3. During 21-22 May, 2018, Ms. Neeranuch Neamsub, together with six other TLHR staff members, had been designated by TLHR to observe the demonstrations of the pro-democracy activists. They were there to monitor how the situation unfolded and how the law enforcement officials responded to the situation. They were not there to participate in the demonstrations. During the mission, all of TLHR staff wore their name tags to identify themselves and wore a gray T-shirt with the acronym "TLHR" ("**Thai Lawyers for Human**

**Rights**") screened in front and "Thai Lawyers for Human Rights" in the back. Detail of the ID name tag of a staff member of TLHR and a photo of TLHR T-shirt are enclosed herewith.

4. Observation, documentation and dissemination of human rights information are the roles commonly performed by Human Rights Defenders to guarantee people's rights and freedoms. And it is, particularly, needed when a country is subjected to an undemocratic rule. The minimum standard that has to be maintained is human rights standard. By pressing charges against a human rights observer and by treating them indiscriminately to the demonstrators, it constitutes not only an unlawful act, but stands contrary to the announcement made by the government to uphold human rights as a national agenda for 2018.

Therefore, the TLHR urges you to take into account, in compliance with laws and human rights principles, this information during the investigation and preparation of charges against the pro-democracy activists. Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms. Yaowalak Anuphan)

Head of Thai Lawyers for Human Rights (TLHR)