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13 March 1991

Further information on UA 76/91 (ASA 39/02/91, 28 February 1991) - <u>Legal Concern:</u> Prisoners of Conscience

THAILAND:Siritwat Kraisin

Suwan Bandit
Nattaphol Chunanantham
Preecha Supatham
Narong Kothanakit
Pirapong Sangthong
Suwanna Tapanyikornkot
Suriyachai Narknim
Revat Sihuan
Chiewcharn Kuachoo
Sakchai Chotipan
Suwit Ketkaew
Wanchai Phirun
Sayant Yuttitham
Chatpitak Sukkliang

According to press reports and information from human rights groups in Thailand, on 8 March all 15 of the above named students and others were released on bail. However, they have been required to appear in court on 10 April to face charges that they violated Announcement 7 of the National Peace-Keeping Council, now renamed the National Peace-Keeping Assembly, which prohibits political gatherings of more than five people. The charges relate to a peaceful rally organized on 25 February 1991 to protest the military coup d'etat carried out by the National Peace-Keeping Council on 23 February.

Amnesty International considered the 15 prisoners of conscience, held for their peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, opinion and assembly. The organization is urging that their release be made unconditional, and that all legal proceedings against them be dropped.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- welcoming reports that these fifteen prisoners of conscience were released on bail on, but urging that their release be made unconditional and all legal proceedings against them be dropped.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun Government House Nakhorn Pathom Road Bangkok 10300, Thailand

Telexes: 84791 IMFODEP TH (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Faxes: +66 2 281 6782

General Sunthorn Khongsomphong Chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly Building 608 Supreme Command Headquarters Sri Ayuthayaa Road Bangkok 10300, Thailand

Telexes: 84791 IMFODEP TH (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Faxes: + 66 2 241 1714; + 66 2 241 5720

Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdii Minister of Interior Ministry of Interior Atsadang Road

Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Telexes: 84791 IMFODEP TH (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Faxes: + 66 2 224 6191; + 66 2 223 2215

COPIES TO:

Ramkhamhaeng University Students Union Ramkhamhaeng University Ramkhamhaeng Road, Hua Maak Bangkok 10240, Thailand

and to diplomatic representatives of Thailand in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 April 1991.