

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on EXTRA 51/92 (ASA 39/03/92, 18 May 1992) - and follow-up(s): ASA 39/04/92, 19 May 1992 and ASA 39/05/92, 21 May 1992

- Legal Concern

THAILAND: Possible amnesty for those responsible for killing demonstrators

Before resigning as Prime Minister on 24 May 1992, General Suchinda Kraprayoon signed a decree granting an amnesty to those involved in the violence during recent anti-government demonstrations in Thailand, including to those responsible for the killing of demonstrators in Bangkok during the week of 18 May 1992. The decree was issued in the name of King Bhumibol Adulyadej and has yet to be approved by parliament. On 25 May 1992, parliament referred the decree to a constitutional tribunal consisting of seven members from the ruling coalition, and six members from the opposition. The tribunal is expected to rule on legality of the decree within about one week.

BACKGROUND

The number of people killed when military and police opened fire on demonstrators is not known. The official death toll is now 46, but Amnesty International believes the true figure to be considerably higher. So far, 343 people have been reported as missing to non-governmental organizations who are trying to help victims and their relatives. Opposition groups continue to campaign for those responsible for the killings to be brought to justice.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express and airmail letters

- expressing grave concern that an amnesty may be granted to those responsible for committing extrajudicial executions and other human rights violations during recent demonstrations in Bangkok;

- saying that the thorough and impartial investigation of human rights violations, and the bringing to justice of those who commit such acts, are important means by which states can demonstrate their commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights;

- urging that an independent and impartial Commission of Inquiry be established to investigate the killings, that the results be made public and that those responsible be brought promptly to justice;

- urging that compensation be granted to relatives of the victims;

- urging the authorities to ensure that in future, security forces' personnel are clearly instructed that the use of lethal force will not be tolerated, except in life-threatening situations.

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APPEALS TO:

1. Foreign Minister
Pongphon Adireksan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Saranromya Palace
Bangkok 10200
THAILAND

Telegrams: Minister Pongphon Adireksan, Bangkok, Thailand

Faxes: + 662 224 7095

[Salutation: Dear Minister]

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej
The Grand Palace
Na Phra Lan Road
Bangkok 10200
THAILAND

[Salutation: Your Majesty]

and to diplomatic representatives of Thailand in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 July 1992.