

URGENT ACTION

DISAPPEARANCE FEARS FOR MAN IN THAILAND

A man associated with the “red-shirt” political movement in Thailand has been subjected to enforced disappearance and is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. While authorities have confirmed he is in military custody, his family and lawyers have not been able to contact him since he was arrested in July. Authorities have confirmed he is in military custody but have refused to provide any information about his whereabouts.

Yongyuth Boondee, a 26 year-old construction worker, was arrested in Thailand’s northern Chiang Mai City in late July 2014. He was last seen in the custody of the police at a televised press conference on 1 August, at which police officials claimed he had confessed to charges of premeditated murder, damage of property as a result of explosives, illegal possession of firearms, weapons and explosives. They also said that he was affiliated to an alleged network within the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD), known as “red shirts” because of the colour of the shirts worn by them at demonstrations.

Neither his family nor his lawyers have been able to contact him since his arrest. When contacted by Yongyuth Boondee’s lawyer, the police authorities initially refused to provide any information on his fate or whereabouts, before confirming he had been released on bail. But the army have stated that he is in their custody and that he is being held voluntarily for his own safety, and have not granted access to him.

Concerns for his safety are heightened by credible reports of the use of torture and other ill-treatment against some other individuals also associated with the UDD and held in incommunicado detention after the military assumed power on 22 May.

Please write immediately in Thai, English or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to immediately reveal the fate and whereabouts of Yongyuth Boondee;
- Calling on the authorities to ensure that Yongyuth Boondee has access to his family, legal representation of his choice and any medical care he may require;
- Demanding that he and other detainees are protected from torture or other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 SEPTEMBER 2014 TO:

Army General

General Thanasak Patimaprakorn,
Chief of the Armed Forces,
Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters,
127 Chaeng Watthana Road, Laksi,
10210, Bangkok, Thailand
Fax: +66 2 618 2538
Email: prforeign@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear General

Police General

General Watcharapol Prasanrajkit
Deputy Leader of the National Council
for Peace and Order, Royal Thai Police
Commissioner-General
Royal Thai Police, 1 Building, Floor 7
Rama 1 Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok
10330, Thailand
Fax: +66 2 618 2538
Email: prforeign@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear General

And copies to:

National Human Rights Commission of
Thailand
120 Chaengwattana Road
Laksi District, Bangkok 10210
Thailand
Email: info@nhrc.or.th

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At the press conference on 1 August 2014, police officials said Yongyuth Boondee had confessed to charges linked to involvement in 11 armed attacks in Bangkok and other provinces in relation to political demonstrations in late 2013 and 2014. They further stated that he was a member of an alleged network within the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD), known as “red shirts”. The UDD is made up of groups from different political backgrounds that have mobilized protesters in support of democracy. Many UDD followers supported former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Yongyuth Boondee frequently attends red-shirt demonstrations, and is notable for his dress at protests, where he usually wears red clothes and a red wig.

Military authorities had ordered Yongyuth Boondee to report to them on 10 June 2014 and a warrant for his arrest was issued on 18 July. Weapons are reported to have been found in his motorcycle, which the army confiscated on 22 May – the day of the military coup – from Aksa road, in Thailand’s capital Bangkok, where red shirt protesters had been demonstrating.

Kritsuda Khunasen, a 27-year old political activist also associated with the red shirt movement, was detained incommunicado with her whereabouts unknown between 27 May and 24 June - beyond the period allowed under martial law. She told Amnesty International that she was tortured in the first week of her detention and subsequently made to sign a document under duress stating she was voluntarily in detention.

Amnesty International has also received information about the torture and other ill-treatment during interrogation of a number of people detained since the National Council for Peace and Order took power. These reports refer to a pattern of beatings, death threats, mock executions, and attempted asphyxiation. These acts have allegedly taken place while people have often been hooded with blindfolds secured by duct tape, with their hands tied and feet restrained for varying periods of time – including up to a week. In some cases, detainees have been moved between different places of detention with no contact with the outside world.

Following the declaration of martial law on 20 May 2014, authorities have used powers under the 1914 Martial Law Act to detain peoples without charge or trial in undisclosed locations without detention safeguards for a week. In practice, a number of individuals are believed to have been held beyond the period allowed.

Torture and other ill-treatment are absolutely prohibited by international law. As a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture, Thailand has an obligation to prohibit and prevent acts of torture and other ill-treatment. The absolute prohibition is non-derogable and cannot be relaxed even in times of emergency.

Torture and other ill-treatment and enforced disappearance are long term human rights concerns in Thailand. Thailand has signalled its commitment to ending them by ratifying the Convention against Torture and signing the Convention against Enforced Disappearances, but few steps have been taken to put an end to these practices and the impunity enjoyed by suspected perpetrators. In May 2014, the UN Committee Against Torture expressed its serious concern about continuing allegations of the widespread use of torture and ill-treatment of detainees, by military, police and prison officials, and urged that immediate and effective measures were taken to investigate, prosecute and punish those responsible.

Name: Yongyuth Boondee
Gender m/f: Male