

# URGENT ACTION

## RIGHTS LAWYER IMPRISONED FOR PEACEFUL PROTEST

Human rights defender and pro-democracy activist Anon Nampa has received two prison sentences for peacefully exercising his rights and faces multiple charges that could lead to decades' imprisonment. He is currently held in Bangkok Remand Prison and authorities are denying his right to bail.

### TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 105.23**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

#### Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin

#### Office of the Prime Minister

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Email: [prforeign@prd.go.th](mailto:prforeign@prd.go.th)

#### Thai Embassy in the United States

#### Ambassador Mr. Tanee Sangrat

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Phone: (202) 944-3600

Email: [thai.wsn@thaiembdc.org](mailto:thai.wsn@thaiembdc.org)

Dear Prime Minister,

I am deeply concerned that the Thai government has targeted human rights defender, **Anon Nampa**, aged 39 years, with over a dozen criminal proceedings and is arbitrarily detaining him in Bangkok Remand Prison for exercising his right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in public demonstrations.

Since 2020, the Thai government has pursued unwarranted criminal proceedings against Anon Nampa and at least another 1,927 persons, including 286 children, in a wide-ranging crackdown on exercising their rights. As a human rights lawyer, Anon has defended many of the individuals, including children, facing unwarranted charges related to their peaceful protests. The Thai government's moves to stifle his and their peaceful exercise of their rights undermine your stated commitment to the advancement of human rights in Thailand. I am further concerned that the Court of Appeals denied Anon Nampa his right to temporary release on bail.

Therefore, I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Anon Nampa and others who have been targeted for exercising their human rights.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Anon Nampa** has advocated for social welfare, democracy, justice, rule of law, human rights, and political reform for many years. Since 2006, he has engaged in peaceful protest including during periods of political transition and restrictions on human rights in the country. With the threat of imprisonment and sweeping restrictions on the peaceful exercise of the rights to public assembly and expression, Anon Nampa has exercised and championed his human right to participate in peaceful protests, to share opinions, and propose political and social reforms. As a lawyer and activist, he has also worked with other members of civil society to monitor and peacefully resist official repression. Anon Nampa has provided free legal assistance to people who face criminal charges.

Thai authorities have responded to his and others' activism with multiple criminal proceedings, fines, prolonged pretrial detention, and restrictive bail conditions. In response to youth-led mass public protest for human rights and democratic reform, Thai authorities intensified their crackdown on peaceful dissent. Authorities used a range of measures to punish and prevent protests by Anon Nampa and other protest leaders, including Ratsadon (the People), students, youth, and children who were peacefully exercising their rights. Officials detained and targeted them with criminal charges, particularly after the protests focused on calls for reforms related to the monarchy. Anon Nampa was the first person to publicly discuss the monarchy during youth protests for reform and was the first person of the 280 individuals to be charged under Article 112 of the Criminal Code governing lèse-majesté in the context of youth protests. He has the second highest number of charges under the law among protest leaders. During the Thailand's military government's rule between 2014 and 2019, authorities started eleven criminal proceedings against him related to his peaceful activism.

Authorities have arbitrarily detained Anon Nampa and other leading activists and individuals for prolonged periods in pre-trial detention and repeatedly denied them bail, including for reasons which the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has previously said do not justify the denial of bail. Anon was detained for almost a year between 2020 and 2022, with his right to bail being denied. In 2021, Anon Nampa received the Gwangju 2021 Prize for Human Rights. Anon Nampa cofounded the Thai Lawyers for Human Rights to defend activists facing charges for peaceful protest and freedom of expression and monitor violations of human rights following the 2014 coup. The Clooney Foundation recognized their work with the Justice for Democracy Defenders Award in September 2023. Anon has also filed two lawsuits against the Thai government and the NSO Group Technologies relating to the infection of his electronic devices with Pegasus spyware. Anon Nampa is also a poet, songwriter, musician and has two young children, one of whom is 10 months old.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** English/Thai

You can also write in your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** February 1, 2023

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Anon Nampa (He/him)