

I am writing this to express my grave concern on Jatupat Boonpattaraksa, who may face up to 15 years' imprisonment.

On 3 December, he was detained and charged with violating the Thai Penal Code and the Computer Crimes Act, since he shared on his Facebook account a BBC Thai article and entitled "Profile: Thailand's new King Vajiralongkorn". He was released on a 400,000 Baht (US\$ 11,100) bail on 4 December. After being released on bail he wrote a comment on his Facebook account stating that "The economy is bad so authorities take my bail money".

He was detained again in Khon Kaen Central Prison in north eastern Thai. His request for bail was refused by the court, even though he referred to the university exam on 16 January 2017.

So I urge you to release Jatupat Boonpattaraksa immediately and unconditionally and stop all criminal proceedings against him.

I have the misgiving that Jatupat Boonpattaraksa is being targeted solely for the peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

The last, but not the least, I urge you to uphold your international obligations to protect and fulfil the right to freedom of expression, including online.

Your prompt attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,