

I am writing this to express my deep concern for 2 student activists, Jatupat Boonphattharaksa and Wasin Prommanee, who were arrested on August 6, while campaigning against the draft constitution in Chaiyaphum Province.

Police officials alleged that the 2 activists were in possession of materials criticizing the draft constitution. They are also accused of violating a government order by refusing to provide fingerprints while in police custody.

Wasin Prommanee was released from custody on August 8 after the Court granted his request for bail. Jatupat Boonphattharaksa refused to request release on bail, claiming that he is innocent. Since August 7, he has been carrying out a hunger strike in protest of the unjust nature of his detention.

I call on you to immediately and unconditionally release Jatupat Boonphattharaksa from custody and halt all criminal proceedings against Jatupat Boonphattharaksa and Wasin Prommanee.

I am afraid that Jatupat Boonphattharaksa and Wasin Prommanee were arrested solely for the peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

I urge you to ensure that Jatupat Boonphattharaksa immediately receives any necessary medical care and is not subjected to retaliation for his choice to stage a hunger strike.

I also urge you to repeal all laws and decrees criminalising the peaceful exercise of the human rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the above.

Sincerely yours,