



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## Thailand

**Decision adopted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at its 176th session (Geneva, 3 to 19 February 2025)**



Former Move Forward Party (MFP) leader Pita Limjaroenrat (centre) and fellow MFP members of parliament attend a press conference at the Thai parliament in Bangkok. Jack TAYLOR / AFP

### **Parliamentarians deprived of their mandate and political rights for 10 years:**

THA-184 - Pita Limjaroenrat  
THA-185 - Apichat Sirisoontorn  
THA-186 - Bencha Saengchan (Ms.)  
THA-187 - Chaithawat Tulathon  
THA-188 - Suthep Ou-Oun  
THA-335 - Padipat Suntiphada

### **Former parliamentarians deprived of their political rights for 10 years:**

THA-189 - Amarat Chokepamitkul (Ms.)  
THA-190 - Nateepat Kulsetthasith (Ms.)  
THA-191 - Somchai Fungcholjit

### **Parliamentarians who may lose their political rights for life:**

THA-219 - Jirat Theangsuwan	THA-291 - Sirikanya Tansakun (Ms.)
THA-228 - Khamphong Thephakham	THA-304 - Surachet Pravinwongvuth
THA-236 - Manop Keereepuwadol	THA-306 - Surawat Thongbu
THA-240 - Nattacha Boonchaiinsawat	THA-310 - Taopiphop Limjitrakorn
THA-243 - Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut	THA-312 - Teerajchai Phuntumas
THA-244 - Nitipon Piwmow	THA-319 - Tunyawat Kamolwongwat
THA-249 - Nutthawut Buaprathum	THA-323 - Wanvipa Maison (Ms.)
THA-250 - Ongkan Chaibut	THA-326 - Wayo Assawarungruang
THA-252 - Pakornwut Udompipatskul	THA-330 - Wiroj Lakkanaadisorn
THA-269 - Prasertpong Sornuvatara	THA-331 - Woraphop Wiriyaraj
THA-276 - Rangsiman Rome	THA-332 - Wuttinan Boonchoo
THA-282 - Sakdinai Numnu	THA-333 - Yanathicha Buapuean (Ms.)

**Former parliamentarians who may lose their political rights for life:**

THA-336 - Chavalit Laohaudomphan  
THA-337 - Kanphong Chongsuttanamanee  
THA-338 - Nattaphon Suepsakwong  
THA-339 - Parinya Chuaigate Keereerut  
THA-340 - Phicharn Chaowapatanawong  
THA-341 - Somkiat Chaivisuttigul  
THA-342 - Somkiat Thanomsin  
THA-343 - Supisarn Bhakdinarinath  
THA-344 - Suttawan Suban Na Ayuthaya (Ms.)  
THA-345 - Taweesak Taksin  
THA-346 - Thongdaeng Benjapak

**Parliamentarians charged with lèse majesté:**

THA-266 - Piyarat Chongthep  
THA-210 - Chonthicha Jangrew (Ms.)  
THA-280 - Rukchanok Srinork (Ms.)

**Parliamentarians who face no further legal action:**

THA-192 - Annsiri Waiaikanok  
THA-193 - Anupab Likitamnuaychai  
THA-194 - Anusorn Kaewwichain  
THA-195 - Apisit Laistrooglai  
THA-196 - Bhuntin Noumjerm  
THA-197 - Boonloet Saengpan  
THA-198 - Chaiwat Sathawornwichit  
THA-199 - Chalermpong Saengdee  
THA-200 - Chalormchai Kulalert  
THA-201 - Charin Wongpantiang  
THA-202 - Charus Koomkainam  
THA-203 - Chatr Supatwanich  
THA-204 - Chawan Ponlameungdee  
THA-205 - Chayaphon Satondee  
THA-206 - Chetawan Thuaprakhon  
THA-207 - Chitsanupong Tangmethakul  
THA-208 - Chittawan Chinanuvat  
THA-209 - Chollathanee Chueanoi  
THA-211 - Chorayuth Chaturapornprasit  
THA-212 - Chulapong Yukate  
THA-213 - Chutchawan Apirukmonkong  
THA-214 - Chutima Kotchapan (Ms.)  
THA-215 - Chutiphong Pipoppinyo  
THA-216 - Ekkarach Udomumnouy  
THA-217 - Itthiphon Chontharasiri  
THA-218 - Jetsada Dontreesanoa  
THA-220 - Julalack Khangutham (Ms.)  
THA-221 - Kalyapat Rachitroj (Ms.)  
THA-222 - Kamonthas Kittisoonthornsaku (Ms.)  
THA-223 - Kanphong Prayoonsak  
THA-224 - Kantaphon Duang-amphon  
THA-225 - Koranic Chantada (Ms.)  
THA-226 - Karit Pannaim  
THA-227 - Karoonpon Tieansuwan  
THA-229 - Khunakorn Mannatirai  
THA-230 - Kiattikhun Tonyang  
THA-264 - Pimkarn Kiratiwirapakorn (Ms.)  
THA-265 - Piyachart Rujipornwasin  
THA-267 - Pongpun Yodmuangcharoen  
THA-268 - Poonsak Chanchampee  
THA-270 - Prasit Puttamapadungsak  
THA-271 - Pratyawan Chaisueb (Ms.)  
THA-272 - Preeti Charoensilp  
THA-273 - Pukkamon Noonanant (Ms.)  
THA-274 - Puriwat Chaisamran  
THA-275 - Rachanok Sukprasert (Ms.)  
THA-277 - Rapassorn Niyamosatha (Ms.)  
THA-278 - Ratchapong Siosuwan  
THA-279 - Romadon Panjor  
THA-281 - Sahassawat Kumkong  
THA-283 - Sakon Soontornvanichkit  
THA-284 - Saniwan Buaban (Ms.)  
THA-285 - Sasinan Thamnithinan (Ms.)  
THA-286 - Satit Taweephol  
THA-287 - Sawangjit Laoharajanaphan (Ms.)  
THA-288 - Shine Sittiphol  
THA-289 - Sia Jampathong  
THA-290 - Sirasit Songnuy  
THA-292 - Sirilapas Kongtragan (Ms.)  
THA-293 - Sirin Sanguansin  
THA-294 - Siriroj Thanikkun  
THA-295 - Sittiphol Viboonthanakul  
THA-296 - Somchart Techathavorncharoen  
THA-297 - Somdul Eutcharoen  
THA-298 - Soraweei Subbaneda  
THA-299 - Sorrapat Sriparch  
THA-300 - Supachot Chaiyasat  
THA-301 - Supakon Tangtiphaiboontana  
THA-302 - Supapakorn Kityadhighuna  
THA-303 - Suphanat Minchaiyunt  
THA-305 - Suraphan Wiyakorn  
THA-307 - Suttasitt Pottasak

THA-231 - Kittiphon Panprommart  
THA-232 - Krit Chevathamnon (Ms.)  
THA-233 - Krithiran Lersauritpakdee  
THA-234 - Krit Silapachai  
THA-235 - Laofang Bundidterdsakul  
THA-237 - Nakorn Chareepan  
THA-238 - Narongdet Urankul  
THA-239 - Nataphol Tovichakchaikul  
THA-241 - Nattapong Pipatchaisiri  
THA-242 - Nattapong Sumanotham  
THA-245 - Nittaya Meesri (Ms.)  
THA-246 - Nobpadol Tibpayachol  
THA-247 - Nont Pisarnlimjaroenkit  
THA-248 - Nuttapon Premphunsawad  
THA-251 - Orapan Juntarueang (Ms.)  
THA-253 - Panyarut Nuntapusanooont (Ms.)  
THA-254 - Paramait Vithayaruksun  
THA-255 - Paramee Waichongcharoen  
THA-256 - Parit Wacharasindhu  
THA-257 - Patsarin Ramwong (Ms.)  
THA-258 - Pavitra Jittakit (Ms.)  
THA-259 - Phanida Mongkolsawat (Ms.)  
THA-260 - Phattharaphong Leelaphat  
THA-261 - Phetcharat Maichompoo (Ms.)  
THA-262 - Phuthita Chaianun (Ms.)  
THA-263 - Pichai Jangjunyawong

THA-308 - Takul Yasaeng  
THA-309 - Tanadej Pengsuk  
THA-311 - Tawiwong Totawiwong  
THA-313 - Thanyathorn Dhaninwattanathorn  
THA-314 - Thitikan Thitipruethikul  
THA-315 - Tipa Paweenasatien (Ms.)  
THA-316 - Tisana Choonhavan (Ms.)  
THA-317 - Tissarat Laohaphol (Ms.)  
THA-318 - Traiwat Imjai  
THA-320 - Vittawat Tichawanich  
THA-321 - Vitvisit Pansuanprook  
THA-322 - Wannida Noppasit (Ms.)  
THA-324 - Warayut Tongasuk  
THA-325 - Warot Sirirak  
THA-327 - Weeranan Huadsri  
THA-328 - Weerapat Kantha  
THA-329 - Weerawut Rukthieng  
THA-334 - Yodchai Peungporn

### Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of assembly and association
- ✓ Undue invalidation, suspension, revocation or other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate

#### A. Summary of the case

Thailand's Move Forward Party (MFP) obtained most seats in the May 2023 parliamentary elections after campaigning on a progressive agenda, which included a promise to reform the *lèse-majesté* rules contained in section 112 of the Criminal Code.

The complainant reports that, on 31 January 2024, the Constitutional Court of Thailand ruled that the proposal to discuss the amendment of this law by MFP leader and prime ministerial candidate, Mr. Pita Limjaroenrat, and other MFP parliamentarians was deemed to be sufficient grounds to be construed as an attempt to overthrow the democratic nature of the government with the King as Head of State. The complainant adds that the Court found that such a proposal contravened section 49(1) of the Constitution, which explicitly prohibits any individual from exercising their rights or liberties to overthrow the democratic nature of the government with the King as Head of State.

The complainant specifies that the court ruling ordered the MFP to cease and desist from any action to reform section 112 of the Criminal Code, including by expressing opinions, speaking, writing, publishing or conveying messages by any other means in pursuit of amending section 112. According

#### Case THA-COLL-02

**Thailand:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victims:** 163 opposition members of the National Assembly of Thailand (36 female and 127 male)

**Qualified complainant(s):** Section I.(1)(c) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

**Submission of complaint:** March 2024

**Recent IPU decision:** October 2024

**IPU mission(s):** - - -

**Recent Committee hearing:** Hearing with the Thai delegation to the 149th IPU Assembly (October 2024)

#### Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: October 2024
- Communication from the complainant: January 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives (September 2024)
- Communication to the complainant: October 2024

to the complainant, the MFP agreed to comply with the ruling and made it clear that it had no intention of overthrowing the monarchy, while regretting that Thai society would lose the opportunity to make use of its parliament to find a solution to the conflicts arising from section 112, which can lead to sentences of up to 50 years' imprisonment for critical posts on social media. Shortly after the Constitutional Court's ruling of 31 January 2024, a petition was filed with the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) asking it to investigate claims of a serious ethical violation by the 44 lawmakers who had submitted the bill to amend section 112 of the Criminal Code in 2021. Section 235 of the Thai Constitution stipulates that, if the NACC finds grounds for allegations of a serious ethical violation by political office holders, it will have to forward the case to the Supreme Court's Criminal Division for Holders of Political Positions. The NACC was reported in August 2024 to be carrying out an investigation into the allegations of ethical misconduct, which was expected to last six months. If found guilty, the 44 parliamentarians concerned may lose their political rights for life.

In another procedure, the complainant claims that, on 12 March 2024, the Election Commission decided to petition the Constitutional Court to dissolve the MFP under the Organic Act on Political Parties (2017). According to the complainant, this step was politically motivated and violated the political rights of the members of parliament concerned as well as their parliamentary mandate.

On 7 August 2024, the Constitutional Court unanimously decided to dissolve the MFP and to ban Mr. Limjaroenrat and the other members of the MFP executive board from exercising their political rights for 10 years. The remaining 143 members of parliament who were elected in 2023 would have lost their seats had they not joined another party within 60 days. On 9 August 2024, all 143 members of parliament joined the newly established People's Party (PPP), which allowed them to keep their parliamentary seat. The aim of the PPP is to carry on the legacy of the MFP under the leadership of a new executive board led by Mr. Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut. The latter is one of the 44 current and former members of parliament who may lose their political rights for life in the NACC case. This group also includes Deputy Speaker Padipat Suntiphada, who lost his seat as a result of the 7 August 2024 ruling, even though he had left the MFP for the Fair Party shortly after the 2023 elections.

During its last review of the situation in Thailand, the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee expressed its concern about the "increase in the number of people detained and prosecuted for the crime of lese-majesty" and "about extreme sentencing practices, which result in dozens of years of imprisonment in some cases".<sup>1</sup> The UN Committee called on Thailand to amend section 112 to bring it into conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and reiterated that the imprisonment of persons for exercising their freedom of expression violates article 19 of the Covenant. Commenting on the 7 August ruling, two UN special rapporteurs said that they were "dismayed by the undemocratic use of the lèse-majesté law as a political tool to dissolve the [MFP]", adding that their proposal to amend section 112 "would have brought Thailand into compliance with its international human rights obligations", thus "punishing parliamentarians for seeking to uphold international law". They stressed that section 112 "has no place in a modern democracy. It is outdated and out of step with international law, and efforts to peacefully reform it should be supported, not thwarted".<sup>2</sup>

In addition, the complainant reports that, on 5 February 2024, a district court found Mr. Limjaroenrat and other key progressive political figures guilty of holding a flash mob demonstration without prior notice during the 2019–2020 protests that followed the dissolution of the Future Forward Party, a past manifestation of the MFP that was dissolved in 2020. The complainant also reports that, on 19 February 2023, the Constitutional Court ordered Mr. Limjaroenrat to temporarily cease his duties as a member of parliament pending a final deliberation by the Court in a case involving a potential violation of election laws by his holding of shares in a defunct media company. According to the complainant, on 24 January 2024, the Court reinstated his mandate by determining that, while he did hold some minor shares in the company in question, that company had ceased to function as a media outlet at the time. However, the complainant stresses that Mr. Limjaroenrat, the then leader of the MFP, was suspended for a total of 190 days. According to the complainant, this suspension was arbitrary and politically motivated as in other cases members of parliament who were not opposition leaders had not been similarly suspended.

The complainant further reports that, on 27 May 2024, a provincial court convicted another MFP member of parliament, Ms. Chonthicha Jangrew, for breaking section 112 of the Criminal Code and sentenced her to two years of imprisonment for comments she made about the King in 2021. She was later

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/concluding-observations/ccprcthaco2-concluding-observations-second-periodic-report>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/08/thailand-un-experts-seriously-concerned-about-dissolution-main-political>

released on bail pending appeal. Mr. Piyarat Chongthep and Ms. Rukchanok Srinork were also charged under section 112 before being elected.

## B. Decision

### The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

1. *Notes* that the new complaint concerning 11 former opposition members of Thailand's Move Forward Party (MFP) of the National Assembly of Thailand is admissible, considering that the complaint: (i) was submitted in due form by a qualified complainant under section I.(1)(c) of the Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints (Annex I of the revised Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians); (ii) concerns members of parliament at the time of the alleged facts; and (iii) concerns allegations of lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians; violation of freedom of opinion and expression; violation of freedom of assembly and association; and undue invalidation, suspension, revocation or other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate, allegations which fall within the Committee's mandate; and *declares itself* competent to examine the situation of the 11 additional former parliamentarians concerned;
2. *Notes* the information submitted by the authorities and confirmed by the complainant, according to which, of the 143 parliamentarians elected in 2023 from the MFP, 116 have not faced any legal action in connection with the activities of their party and that they are able to exercise their mandate freely; *decides*, therefore, to close the case in relation to the 116 parliamentarians concerned in line with paragraph 25 of Annex I to its revised Rules and Practices; and *recalls*, however, that the Committee reserves the right to re-examine the case in relation to any of the above-mentioned parliamentarians in the light of new elements subsequently provided by the complainant;
3. *Is concerned* that a current member of parliament, Mr. Piyarat Chongthep, has been charged under section 112 of the Criminal Code, and that two current members of parliament, Ms. Chonthicha Jangrew and Ms. Rukchanok Srinork, have been sentenced to several years of imprisonment for exercising their freedom of speech; *strongly believes* that the Thai parliamentary authorities have a duty to ensure that the rights of all its members are duly protected from any infringement; and *calls on* the Thai Parliament to do its utmost to protect the rights of all parliamentarians, irrespective of their affiliation;
4. *Remains deeply concerned* by the fact that the largest party in parliament was dissolved by the Constitutional Court and that the members of its executive board were expelled from parliament and deprived of their political rights; and *is disappointed* that the practice of resorting to the dissolution of opposition political parties by the Constitutional Court remains a feature of Thai political life, despite the promising reforms that restored democratic rule in 2017;
5. *Recalls* the decision adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 214th session (October 2024) endorsing the conclusion reached by the United Nations Human Rights Committee that section 112 of the Criminal Code of Thailand as presently constituted is not in conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and that Thailand, as a State party to the Covenant, is under an obligation to bring section 112 into conformity with applicable international standards on freedom of expression, which rule out any imprisonment of persons exercising their freedom of expression; *strongly believes* that the Thai Parliament has a vested interest and an undeniable duty to lead the way to that end; and *wishes* to receive information on action taken by the Thai parliament to give effect to this decision;
6. *Does not believe* that the Constitutional Court concluded that the attempt by the MFP parliamentarians to discuss a legislative amendment of the Criminal Code amounted to an attempt to overthrow the democratic nature of the government with the King as Head of State;
7. *Is concerned* that 44 current and former parliamentarians from the dissolved MFP party could lose their political rights for life following a process before the National Anti-Corruption Commission; and *believes* that such a decision would amount to a serious violation of the right of the 44 parliamentarians concerned to take part in the conduct of public affairs as enshrined in article 25 of the ICCPR;

8. *Urges*, once again, the Thai parliamentary authorities to carry out a review of all legislation that is inconsistent with Thailand's international obligations in that regard and to make the necessary changes in the Criminal Code, the Organic Act on Political Parties (2017), the codes of ethics applicable to parliamentarians, as well any other relevant legislation, to prevent the recurrence of arbitrary or disproportionate measures against parliamentarians exercising their rights and fulfilling their duties;
9. *Welcomes* the serious discussions under way to amend the present Constitution in order to ensure that the aspirations of Thai society for a democracy based on the full respect for the right to freedom of expression and other human rights are realized; *remains convinced* that much could already be done within the framework of the present Constitution to improve issues of administration of justice and freedom of expression through appropriate oversight and legislative reform; *calls on* the authorities to make use of the expertise of the United Nations special procedures, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, to ensure that the legislation of Thailand does in fact comply with relevant international human rights standards; and *recalls* that the IPU remains ready to offer assistance to the Thai authorities in any such legal review;
10. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the parliamentary authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
11. *Decides* to continue examining the case.