



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Thailand

Decision adopted by consensus by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session (Istanbul, 19 April 2026)¹



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

Former 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-189 – Amarat Chokepamitkul (Ms.)
- THA-190 – Nateepat Kulsetthasith (Ms.)
- THA-191 – Somchai Fungcholjit
- THA-335 – Padipat Suntiphada

Parliamentarians who may lose their political rights for life:

- THA-240 – Nattacha Boonchaiinsawat
- THA-243 – Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut
- THA-249 – Nutthawut Buaprathum
- THA-252 – Pakornwut Udompipatskul
- THA-276 – Rangsiman Rome
- THA-291 – Sirikanya Tansakun (Ms.)
- THA-304 – Surachet Pravinvongvuth
- THA-310 – Taopiphop Limjittrakorn
- THA-312 – Teerajchai Phuntumas
- THA-326 – Wayo Assawarungruang

¹ The delegation of Thailand expressed its reservations regarding the decision.

Former parliamentarians who may lose their political rights for life:

THA-219 – Jirat Theangsuwan	THA-333 – Yanathicha Buapuean (Ms.)
THA-228 – Khamphong Thephakham	THA-336 – Chavalit Laohaudomphan
THA-236 – Manop Keereepuwadol	THA-337 – Kanphong Chongsuttanaminee
THA-244 – Nitipon Piwchow	THA-338 – Nattaphon Suepsakwong
THA-250 – Ongkan Chaibut	THA-339 – Parinya Chuaigate Keereerut
THA-269 – Prasertpong Sornnuvatara	THA-340 – Phicharn Chaowapatanawong
THA-282 – Sakdinai Numnu	THA-341 – Somkiat Chaivittigul
THA-306 – Surawat Thongbu	THA-342 – Somkiat Thanomsin
THA-323 – Wanvipa Maison (Ms.)	THA-343 – Supisarn Bhakdinarinath
THA-330 – Wiroj Lakkanaadisorn	THA-344 – Suttawan S. Na Ayuthaya (Ms.)
THA-331 – Woraphop Wiriyaraj	THA-345 – Taweesak Taksin
THA-332 – Wuttinan Boonchoo	THA-346 – Thongdaeng Benjapak

Parliamentarians charged with lèse-majesté:

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

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 an initial proposal to discuss the amendment of this law by several MFP Members of Parliament in March 2021, including MFP leader and prime ministerial candidate Mr. Pita Limjaroenrat, was deemed to be sufficient grounds to be construed as “an endeavour to overthrow the democratic nature of the government with the King as Head of State”. The Court had found that such a proposal contravenes Article 49(1) of the Constitution, which explicitly prohibits any individual from exercising their fundamental rights to overthrow the monarchy.

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 by speaking, writing, publishing or conveying messages by any other means in pursuit of amending section 112. According 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 provides for sentences of up to 50 years' imprisonment for critical posts on social media.

In another procedure, the complainant claims that, on 12 March 2024, the Election Commission decided to petition the Constitutional Court to dissolve the MFP. According to the complainant, this

Case THA-COLL-02

Thailand: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victims: 47 opposition members of the National Assembly of Thailand (9 female and 38 male)

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

Submission of complaint: March 2024

Recent IPU decision: October 2025

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing: Hearing with the Thai delegation to the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025)

Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: July 2025
- Communication from the complainant: October 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives (April 2026)
- Communication to the complainant: April 2026

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 the 11 members of the MFP executive board from exercising their political rights for 10 years. The judgment is entirely devoid of any reference to international human rights obligations, except for a reference to objections raised by the MFP. In response to another objection concerning the proportionality of the sanctions to the harm caused, the Court declared that the actions of the MFP were grave enough to endanger the monarchy, without explaining how it had reached that conclusion based on the facts of the case. The same reasoning was repeated in the Court's main finding that the party should be dissolved and its leaders deprived of their political rights on the ground that their actions amounted to an attempt to "overthrow" the monarchy.

The remaining 143 Members of Parliament who were elected in 2023 would have lost their seats if they had not joined another party within 60 days. On 9 August 2024, the People's Party was established to carry on the legacy of the MFP under the leadership of a new executive board led by Mr. Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut, thereby allowing his colleagues to retain their seats.

Several United Nations human rights mechanisms have criticized the existence and use of section 112 of the Criminal Code as running counter to Thailand's international obligations with regard to freedom of expression.² In its decision of 19 February 2025, the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians called on the Thai authorities once again to revise their legislation within the current constitutional framework to ensure its compliance with international standards. However, the complainant reports that this was not done and that, in the course of 2025, the House of Representatives rejected two proposals to amend section 112 and to provide amnesty in some cases of violations of section 112.

On 27 May 2024, the Thanyaburi provincial court convicted a MFP Member of Parliament, Ms. Chonthicha Jangrew, of violating section 112 of the Criminal Code and sentenced her to two years' imprisonment for comments she had made about the King in 2021. On 8 September 2025, Ms. Jangrew was sentenced to two years and eight months' imprisonment by the Criminal Court under section 112 and the Computer Crime Act; she appealed the judgment and was later released on bail pending appeal. The International Federation for Human Rights urged Thailand to overturn the judgment against her and allow her to carry out her work without reprisals for exercising her freedom of expression.³ On 30 September 2025, an appellate court dismissed her appeal; she was released on bail once again pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. Previously, MFP Member of Parliament Ms. Rukchanok Srinork was also sentenced for violating section 112 over a retweet and was later freed on bail on the condition that she refrain from activities that could offend the monarchy.

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 misconduct by political office holders, it must forward the case to the Supreme Court's Criminal Division for Holders of Political Positions. The investigation carried out by the NACC into these allegations resulted in an indictment of the 44 current and former parliamentarians concerned on 9 February 2026. In the event that the Supreme Court decides to accept the charges, the parliamentary mandate of the 10 parliamentarians concerned would thereby be suspended with immediate effect. If convicted, the parliamentarians would lose their political rights for life.

In August 2025, the Constitutional Court removed Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra from office after ruling that a leaked telephone call with Cambodian leader Hun Sen violated ethical standards in the aftermath of the border clashes that took place between the two countries in July 2025. Her successor, Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, announced a road map to dissolve Parliament in January 2026 and to hold elections in early 2026. Elections were eventually held on 8 February 2026, with most seats going to the party of Mr. Charnvirakul, whereas the People's Party remained one of the largest parties in opposition. These elections coincided with a referendum on the adoption of a new constitution, which was approved by the people of Thailand.

² See the press release [here](#).

³ See the statement [here](#).

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Regrets* that the representatives of the delegation of Thailand to the 152nd IPU Assembly were not able to meet with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians; *thanks* the Thai parliamentary authorities for their continued engagement with the Committee; and *fails to comprehend* how a proposal by the MFP parliamentarians to discuss a legislative amendment of the Criminal Code in Parliament could be interpreted as an attempt to overthrow the monarchy;
2. *Recalls* its earlier decision 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; and *strongly believes* that the Thai Parliament has a vested interest and an undeniable duty to lead the way to that end;
3. *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 as any other relevant legislation, to prevent the recurrence of arbitrary or disproportionate measures against parliamentarians exercising their rights and fulfilling their duties, including by reviewing the gravity of the sanctions foreseen by these laws; *recalls* that the IPU remains ready to offer assistance to the Thai authorities in any such legal review; and *wishes* to receive information on action taken to give effect to this decision;
4. *Notes with interest* that the people of Thailand voted in favour of adopting a new Constitution on 8 February 2026; *wishes* to receive further information on that point, including on the modalities for the drafting process; and *urges* Parliament to promote the holding of broad, transparent and effective consultations with judges, prosecutors, lawyers, bar associations and civil society prior to the onset of the constitutional process with the aim of ensuring that the text is aligned with relevant international standards, including the ICCPR;
5. *Is deeply 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 (NACC) and that 10 sitting parliamentarians may be immediately suspended following a referral to the Supreme Court by the NACC; and *believes* that such a decision would amount to a serious violation of the right of the parliamentarians concerned to take part in the conduct of public affairs as enshrined in article 25 of the ICCPR;
6. *Remains concerned* that Ms. Chonthicha Jangrew and Ms. Rukchanok Srinork have been sentenced to several years of imprisonment for exercising their freedom of expression; *reiterates* that the Thai parliamentary authorities have a duty to ensure that the rights of all their Members of Parliament are duly protected and that members are not imprisoned under laws that are not in conformity with international human rights law; *calls on* the Thai Parliament to do its utmost to protect the rights of all parliamentarians; and *wishes* to receive updated information on steps taken to that end;
7. *Decides* to mandate a trial observer to report on the trial related to Ms. Jangrew, Ms. Srinork and the 44 parliamentarians concerned by accusations put forward by the NACC before the courts;
8. *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;
9. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining the case and to report back to it in due course.