



25<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

Human Rights Council

Thailand

Delivered by DPR Carl Reaich

11 May 2015

Mr President,

New Zealand would like to acknowledge some positive developments in Thailand since the last review. These include better protections to children through criminalising child pornography. New Zealand also acknowledges the efforts that Thailand has made on the complex, trans-national issues of people smuggling and human trafficking.

However, we have strong concerns that the protection and promotion of human rights, particularly civil and political rights, have deteriorated in Thailand since the May 2014 military coup. In this regard, New Zealand **recommends** that Thailand:

- End arbitrary arrests and detentions and ensure that suspects in cases in Thailand have access to justice and a fair trial;
- Cease trying civilians in military courts and transfer all existing cases of civilian trials in military courts to civilian courts;
- End the use of attitude adjustment sessions and the establishment of training camps; and
- Take steps to ensure that human rights defenders in Thailand are enabled and protected in accordance with the UN General Assembly Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

We acknowledge the leadership role that Thailand has in the past played on key human rights issues in the region. For this reason, we are concerned that Thailand's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been downgraded for failure to comply with the Paris Principles. New Zealand **recommends** that Thailand introduce legislative or constitutional changes to ensure that its NHRC is fully compliant with the Paris Principles, including the requirements of independence and pluralism.

With respect to allegations of torture and extra-judicial killings, New Zealand **recommends** that all such allegations be promptly investigated and prosecuted, and any perpetrators punished. New Zealand also **recommends** that Thailand ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and pass national laws criminalizing enforced disappearance and torture and recognizing the rights of victims.

New Zealand acknowledges the steps that Thailand has taken towards implementation of the Incheon Strategy for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, and the

comprehensive legislative reforms on persons with disabilities that it has enacted. However, New Zealand **recommends** that these legislative reforms be backed by a more effective system of implementation and monitoring, so as to combat discrimination against persons with disabilities.

Thank you Mr President.