**Universal Periodic Review 25 – Thailand**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks the government of Thailand for its comprehensive report [and for addressing our advance questions].

We highly appreciate that the government of Thailand signed the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in January 2012 and hope that ratification will follow soon.

The Netherlands recommends the government of Thailand:

1. To restore the protection of civil and political rights by ensuring that the Constitution meets Thailand’s international human rights obligations and end the present prosecution of civilians in military courts.

2. To condemn and investigate all violence against journalists, inform UNESCO of the actions taken to prevent the killing of journalists and notify UNESCO of judicial inquiries conducted.

The Netherlands is concerned about the erosion of human rights protections in Thailand, the abuse of power and the disproportionate use of force by state officials violating international laws and standards. We hope that the government of Thailand will take measures against arbitrary detentions and assure its citizens’ their essential legal protection and rights to a fair trial.

We are also concerned about the restrictions of freedom of expression and opinion and about the persons detained, imprisoned, tortured or killed for their peaceful exercise of these rights. Free and fair expression by citizens regarding the future direction of the country is of utmost importance to its stability.

[One way of tackling impunity for violence against journalists is through UNESCO, the coordinating organization within the UN with regards to the safety of journalists. UNESCO requests countries to report yearly on the status of the judicial inquiries conducted in cases of killed journalists. The Netherlands urges Thailand to start reporting as a first step to beat impunity.]

Thank you Mr. President