

**United Nations Human Rights Council  
25th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle Review of Thailand, 11 May 2016**

**Statement by Austria**

Austria warmly welcomes H.E. and the delegation of Thailand to the UPR and commends the country for its efforts undertaken since the last review [including steps taken to improve the situation of women in prison or the elaboration of the Draft Act on Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance.]

Austria is concerned by the introduction of the 2014 Interim Constitution and the special powers of the NCPO which limit human rights and the rule of law, [i.a. by granting military personnel powers of the police and the judiciary and extending the jurisdiction of military courts to civilians for certain offences.]

Other areas of concern are i.a. the minimum age of criminal responsibility, [which still remains - regardless the raise from 7 years to 10 years since the first UPR - below internationally acceptable standards.] or the safety of journalists.

Austria therefore offers the following recommendations:

- Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and assembly and ensure an inclusive debate among all stakeholders with regard to the upcoming referendum and the enactment of a new constitution;
- Work towards ending the prosecution of civilians in military courts and transfer all cases of civilians facing proceedings before military courts to civilian courts;
- Inform UNESCO on the actions taken to prevent the impunity of the perpetrators of the killings of journalists and to notify UNESCO of the status of the judicial inquiries conducted;
- Ratify the Rome Statute and APIC of the ICC, the Genocide Convention, the ~~CED~~ and the Optional Protocols to ICCPR and CAT; ICPPED

[Take all necessary measures to prevent lawyers from being threatened, intimidated, or subjected to improper interference while exercising their professional duties; ]