

87



*Représentation permanente de la Belgique auprès des Nations
Unies et auprès des institutions spécialisées à Genève*

WG UPR 25 – Thailand
Intervention of Belgium
11th of May 2016

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Thailand and expresses its appreciation for the national report. While recognizing that some efforts have been made to better protect human rights in the country, my delegation is concerned about the situation of fundamental freedoms and the precarious situation of Human Rights Defenders in the country.

In line with the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and those made by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Belgium would like to make the following three recommendations, which are in line with the obligations of Thailand under the ICCPR:

R1. *Amend article 112 of Thailand's Criminal Code to remove prison terms for offenses stemming from the legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and ensure that the prohibited acts are unambiguous and that sanctions are proportionate to the act committed.*

R2. *Repeal NCPO order 3/2015 and ensure that all civilians are tried before a civilian court and granted the right to fair trial in line with Thailand's obligations as a State party to the ICCPR.*

R3. *Immediately ratify the Convention on Enforced Disappearances*

As a conclusion, my delegation would like to ask the following question to the delegation of Thailand:

Q1. *Is the 'working group on the protection of human rights defenders at risk', set up in November 2014 under the direction of the department for the protection of rights and liberties, planning to organize a meeting with Human Rights Defenders with a view to finalizing special protection measures for those defenders whose lives are at risk? If so, are there any indications on what those special protection measures will entail and when they could be granted?*

I thank you Mr. Chairman.