



**FIDH - International Federation for Human Rights**

**Union for Civil Liberty (UCL)**

**Freedom Bridge**

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## **Introduction**

1. This joint submission details developments that illustrate the Thai government’s failure to implement recommendations it accepted in the country’s third UPR in November 2021 with regard to two thematic areas: 1) detention conditions and treatment of detainees; and 2) the use of the death penalty.

## **Detention conditions and treatment of detainees inconsistent with international standards**

2. In the third UPR of Thailand, the government accepted two recommendations that called for a reform of the penitentiary system and an improvement of conditions of detention to ensure humane treatment of prisoners in accordance with international standards.<sup>1</sup>
3. Despite these commitments, during the country’s third UPR cycle, successive Thai governments have failed to enact effective policies and measures to sustainably reduce the prison population, address chronic overcrowding, and improve living conditions for detainees to be in compliance with international standards.

## Prison population increases

4. Between April 2022 and April 2026, the country observed an increase in the total prison population. The total prison population in April 2026 was the highest observed during Thailand's third UPR cycle.
5. According to statistics by the Department of Corrections (DoC), in April 2022, Thailand had a total population of 264,325 inmates (233,536 men and 30,789 women).<sup>2</sup> By the end of 2022, the prison population went down slightly to 261,919 inmates (231,506 men and 30,413 women). The decline in the total prison population in 2022 was part of a downward trend that had begun in 2019, as a result of measures for the early release of prisoners, such as mass royal amnesties [See below, *para. 17*], various special parole schemes, and sentence reduction mechanisms, including those implemented in response to the COVID-19 outbreaks in places of detention in 2021.<sup>3</sup>
6. Following the suspension of those measures in early 2022 and the absence of mass royal amnesties in 2023, Thailand's prison population began to increase.<sup>4</sup> As of April 2026, the total prison population numbered 316,154 inmates (275,862 men and 40,292 women).<sup>5</sup> This represented an increase of 19.6% from the figure recorded in April 2022. Notably, the increase in the female prison population (+34.5%) was almost double the increase observed in the male prison population (+19.1%).
7. The total occupancy level of the Thai prison system regularly exceeded the official maximum capacity.<sup>6</sup> The latest total prison population reported by the DoC in April 2026 showed that the total occupancy level exceeded the prison system's overall capacity by 27.3%.<sup>7</sup>
8. In addition, the DoC statistics as of April 2026 showed that 112 prisons, or 78% of the 143 prisons nationwide, operated above their intended capacity<sup>8</sup> - an increase from April 2022, when there were 56 (or 39%) prisons operating above their intended capacity.<sup>9</sup>
9. The number of inmates imprisoned for drug-related offenses continued to account for the vast majority of the total prison population. The entry into force of the Narcotics Code at the end of 2021 failed to reduce the number of drug-related prisoners due to the ongoing criminalization of possession and personal use of drugs as well as the adoption of a lower limit on possession of methamphetamines and amphetamines for personal use in June 2024.<sup>10</sup> In April 2026, 221,450 inmates (196,762 men and 24,688 women) were incarcerated for drug-related offenses.<sup>11</sup> This represented an increase by nearly 3% from April 2022, when 215,289 (189,861 men and 25,428 women) were imprisoned for drug-related offenses.<sup>12</sup> Nonetheless, the proportion of inmates incarcerated for drug-related

offenses compared to the total prison population declined by 11.4%, from 81.4% in April 2022 to 70% in April 2026.

10. Pre-trial detainees were another category of inmates who continued to account for a significant proportion of the prison population. Pre-trial detainees have traditionally been a significant contributing factor of prison overcrowding in Thailand.<sup>13</sup> In April 2022, 25,217 inmates (22,057 men and 3,160 women), or 9.5% of the total prison population, were held in pre-trial detention.<sup>14</sup> By April 2026, the number went up to 32,509 (27,717 men and 4,792 women), or 10.3% of the total prison population.<sup>15</sup> During that period, the proportion of pre-trial detainees compared to the overall prison population ranged between 7% and 11%.

### **Failure to implement alternatives to incarceration**

11. Authorities failed to implement measures aimed at alleviating chronic overcrowding through the adoption of alternative measures to detention for both pre-trial and convicted inmates.
12. With regard to convicted prisoners, on 6 December 2023, the DoC published a new regulation, issued under Article 33 of the Penitentiary Act 2017, concerning the detention of certain prisoners in locations other than prisons as an alternative measure to detention to address persistent overcrowding and bring the Thai correctional system in line with international human rights standards.<sup>16</sup> According to the regulation, inmates can be detained outside prisons for the purposes of: (1) separation of prisoners; (2) rehabilitation; (3) medical treatment; and (4) preparation for release.
13. On 19 March 2025, the DoC adopted the operational guidelines for detention outside prisons, identifying eligibility criteria and alternative places of detention.<sup>17</sup> According to the guidelines, prisoners may be eligible for detention outside of prisons if they are first-time convicts who have been sentenced to less than four years or have less than four years to serve, and are assessed as having a low risk of reoffending.<sup>18</sup> However, inmates convicted of certain crimes are ineligible for the alternative measures.<sup>19</sup> The guidelines also prohibit those who violate the prison's disciplinary rules or commit a criminal offense while held in alternative places of detention from eligibility for detention outside prison.<sup>20</sup> In addition, prisoners who are eligible for detention outside prison on medical grounds must "suffer from a serious, incurable illness," require "ongoing medical treatment," or have "a critical, life-threatening condition" or "a disability that impairs their ability to carry out daily activities."<sup>21</sup>

14. Depending on the purpose, the guidelines stipulate the alternative places of detention, including “residences” or “other official detention facilities that are not prisons;” government offices; educational institutions; temples and mosques; private business premises; and hospitals.<sup>22</sup> At these locations, CCTV cameras are required to be installed and made accessible for monitoring by prison officers at any time.<sup>23</sup> In addition, the guidelines mandate the use of electronic monitoring devices for all prisoners detained outside prisons, except for those with serious illnesses, disabilities, and those with orders from a medical doctor or a relevant officer.<sup>24</sup>
15. Despite the adoption of the regulation and operational guidelines, their implementation remained pending as of April 2026, in contradiction with the DoC’s claim that it had “continuously implemented” such alternative measures to incarceration.<sup>25</sup>
16. Conditional early release measures such as various parole schemes, good conduct time allowance, and royal amnesties were utilized to reduce the prison population. Nevertheless, official figures suggested a significant decrease in the use of these measures. Between April 2022 and April 2026, the total number of prisoners who benefited from conditional early release measures dropped by 73%.
17. The mass royal amnesties, which have traditionally been bestowed in conjunction with royal auspicious occasions, disproportionately contributed to the early release of convicted inmates, in comparison to other measures. In April 2022, the DoC announced that a new criterion would be added for the consideration of mass royal amnesties, making it more difficult for inmates to receive an early release or a reduction of jail term.<sup>26</sup> Between April 2022 and April 2026, mass royal amnesties were granted in three occasions, resulting in the progressive release of over 79,000 convicted inmates, according to the DoC. During the same period, 32,283 and 16,476 inmates were released on parole and good conduct time allowance, respectively.
18. With regard to pre-trial prisoners, authorities failed to make any progress in the adoption of measures that could allow them to be detained in other locations besides prisons. The adoption of such measures necessitates the prior amendment of a ministerial regulation issued in September 2019 under Article 89/1 of the Thai Criminal Procedure Code which allows the courts to order a suspect or defendant to be detained in other locations besides prisons.<sup>27</sup> In April 2023, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) established a working group to work on the amendment of the 2019 ministerial regulation to determine alternative places of detention based on the categories of detainees as well as the crimes of which they were accused as well as to develop guidelines for the treatment of pre-trial detainees that comply with international human rights principles.<sup>28</sup> In late May 2024, it was reported that the MoJ expected the amendment process to be finalized by the end of that year.<sup>29</sup>

However, no progress was made, and the amendment process remained pending as of April 2026.

19. Pre-trial detainees in Thailand continued to be held together with convicted prisoners - a practice that undermines the right to the presumption of innocence enshrined in Thailand's 2017 Constitution, Article 14(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the United Nations (UN) Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.<sup>30</sup>
20. The Thai authorities' efforts to ensure the separation of pre-trial detainees from those with pending appeal processes and convicted prisoners remained slow and inadequate. In February 2024, then-Minister of Justice Tawe Sodsong designated the Minburi Remand Prison in Bangkok as the first detention center for detainees held pending investigation or trial and announced the designation of pre-trial detention centers in other prisons in Bangkok and seven provinces across the country.<sup>31</sup> In April 2025, Tawe announced the designation of the Bangkok Remand Prison as another pre-trial detention center and that convicted inmates and those detained pending their appeal processes at the facility would be transferred to other prisons in Bangkok and five nearby provinces.<sup>32</sup>
21. However, in practice, significant numbers of convicted prisoners continued to be detained in the Minburi Remand Prison and the Bangkok Remand Prison, in some instances in the same cells as pre-trial detainees.<sup>33</sup> As of April 2026, the number of convicted prisoners at the Minburi Remand Prison increased by around 25% from when it was declared a pre-trial detention center, while their proportion compared to the overall number of prisoners at the facility remained unchanged (about 89%). For the Bangkok Remand Prison, the number of convicted prisoners went down by 12% upon being designated as a pre-trial detention center, although such inmates continued to make up almost half (43%) of the overall number of prisoners at the facility as of April 2026.
22. In addition, the designation of pre-trial detention centers led to the sudden transfers of convicted inmates - including political prisoners - who were carried out without advance notice to family members and resulted in the disruption of their communications and visits.<sup>34</sup> The transfers also included placing political prisoners with relatively short sentences in Bang Kwang Central Prison, which is a maximum-security facility usually reserved for criminals convicted of serious offenses.

### **Detention conditions and treatment of prisoners below international standards**

23. Between April 2022 and April 2026, FIDH, UCL, and Freedom Bridge conducted interviews with 62 former prisoners (44 men and 18 women) and nine prisoners (six men, two

women, and one transgender) detained in 29 (or 20%) of the 143 prisons nationwide.<sup>35</sup> Testimonies by inmates and former inmates attested that prison conditions remained poor and inconsistent with international standards, namely the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), in several key areas detailed below. It is likely that the information gathered through these interviews reflected similar trends and conditions that existed in other prisons in the country.

### Overcrowded cells

24. Persistently high prison populations led to chronic overcrowding and cramped living conditions. Despite the expansion of minimum floor space per inmate in the shared cells in 2022, from 1.2m<sup>2</sup> (60cm x 2m) per prisoner in previous years to 1.6m<sup>2</sup> (80cm x 2m), the current official space allocation remained significantly (-52.9%) below the recommended international standard.<sup>36</sup> As a result, inmates continued to have minimal living space.<sup>37</sup>
25. Despite the provision of rubber or synthetic fiber mattresses for prisoners beginning in 2023, bedding material in many prisons remained insufficient and of poor quality.<sup>38</sup> While some prisons provided adequate number of blankets and mattresses, others provided just blankets for inmates to sleep on.<sup>39</sup>

### Torture, cruel punishments, and degrading treatment

26. Inmates were subjected to cruel punishments and disciplinary practices that could amount to ill-treatment and, in some cases, torture. Punishment involving the excessive use of force by prison officers was more common in male prisons, and typically occurred in cases of fighting, gambling, tattooing, stealing, smoking, collecting medicines, and not following prison officers' orders.<sup>40</sup> Such practice is inconsistent with international standards, which only allows the use of force against prisoners as an exceptional response in three circumstances: legitimate self-defense; attempted escape; and active or passive resistance to a lawful order.<sup>41</sup> Resort to force included beating inmates with wooden or plastic batons or bamboo canes, or kicking them with steel-toe boots.
27. Other practices that were blatantly inconsistent with international standards included the use of instruments of restraint (particularly weighted ankle shackles, handcuffs, and chains), solitary confinement, prolonged disciplinary segregation,<sup>42</sup> and hard physical exercise for violations of prison rules. Instruments of restraint were routinely applied in an excessive and arbitrary manner, including on inmates who attended court hearings or

those who were sentenced to long prison terms.<sup>43</sup> In many circumstances, the application of restraints inflicted injury, physical pain, or humiliation on inmates.<sup>44</sup>

28. On 21 July 2025, the Bangkok Criminal Court rejected a petition filed by detained human rights lawyer Anon Nampa in May 2025 to seek the removal of ankle cuffs, which he had to wear every time he was transferred from the Bangkok Remand Prison - where he had been detained since his first *lèse-majesté* conviction in September 2023 - to the court to attend hearings in other *lèse-majesté* cases.<sup>45</sup> The court ruled that the authorities' use of shackles was consistent with the Penitentiary Act 2017.<sup>46</sup> The petition argued that the use of ankle cuffs on Anon during trial was a violation of human rights, dignity, and the right to the presumption of innocence guaranteed under Thailand's Constitution. Anon also testified that the sharp edges of the ankle cuffs repeatedly caused abrasions and wounds on his skin, and the use of such restraints in front of his family was degrading and humiliating.<sup>47</sup>
29. The court's ruling ignored the fact that Thailand's legal framework and the Thai authorities' practice concerning the use of instruments of restraint on prisoners remained inconsistent with the country's obligations under the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which Thailand is a state party. This treaty absolutely prohibits torture and other acts of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, including in the context of detention.<sup>48</sup> The Thai Penitentiary Act 2017 provides for a more permissive framework than that the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners concerning the imposition of restraints on prisoners.<sup>49</sup>
30. Solitary confinement was typically imposed for serious offenses, such as fights or physical assaults between inmates. The duration of solitary confinement and disciplinary segregation usually depended on the severity of the offenses, and could last for up to three months. In many cases, the use of solitary confinement and segregation was combined with the use of ankle shackles.<sup>50</sup>
31. Female prisoners were subjected to degrading treatment by prison officers and a submissive and authoritarian culture prevailed in correctional facilities for women, such as sitting on the ground while interacting with prison officers.<sup>51</sup>

#### Discrimination of prisoners

32. Inmates received discriminatory treatment by prison guards depending on their socio-economic status, ethnicity, and/or the crimes for which they had been convicted. Inmates who were wealthy or influential and those who assisted prison staff were afforded a range of privileges, such as separate shower time, bigger food portions, less crowded cells, and immunity from disciplinary sanctions.<sup>52</sup>

33. Foreign inmates generally received preferential treatment from prison officers and faced less severe or no consequences after committing disciplinary offenses compared to Thai inmates.<sup>53</sup> Meanwhile, inmates belonging to ethnic minorities were subjected to discriminatory practices, such as receiving harsher punishments than other inmates for similar prison rule violations.<sup>54</sup>
34. In many cases, Muslim prisoners were not able to observe their religious precepts because of the prisons' failure to provide them with basic necessities to practice their faith.<sup>55</sup>

#### Poor sanitation conditions

35. Overcrowding negatively impacted the conditions of prison sanitary facilities, including toilets and showers. The inadequate supply of water and insufficient provision of basic hygiene products undermined inmates' ability to maintain good personal hygiene. For instance, it was documented that running water in the cells was available for a short time, leaving inmates to rely on a limited amount of water stored in the tanks for washing or flushing the toilets.<sup>56</sup> Free toiletries were distributed infrequently.<sup>57</sup>
36. In addition, women continued to face significant challenges in maintaining their menstrual hygiene due to inadequate supply of sanitary pads.<sup>58</sup>

#### Inadequate healthcare

37. The inability to access timely and quality physical and mental healthcare services remained a serious challenge for prisoners. The in-prison healthcare services in many prisons were understaffed and lacked appropriate medical equipment and supplies to attend to inmates' medical needs.<sup>59</sup> The waiting time for inmates to receive treatment or medication from a doctor varied greatly, depending on the frequency of visits, the severity of the medical conditions, and the limits on the number of inmates who could be examined per day.<sup>60</sup> Paracetamol remained the most common medicine given to inmates to treat various illnesses.
38. Specialized medical services in prisons were either unavailable or extremely limited compared to the size and needs of the prison population.<sup>61</sup> Mental health services in prisons were either unavailable or limited to the prescription of medication, rather than the promotion of the overall mental wellbeing of inmates.
39. The extensive bureaucratic process and security considerations routinely resulted in untimely diagnosis and medical attention for prisoners, particularly in cases of medical

emergencies at night. The consequences of the inadequate response to medical emergencies in prisons was illustrated by the death of an imprisoned woman human rights defender, Netiporn Sanesangkhom (aka Bung), on 14 May 2024.<sup>62</sup> Netiporn was reported to have suffered a cardiac arrest while in custody of the DoC on the morning of 14 May 2024. She had been detained at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution in Bangkok since 26 January 2024, after the Bangkok South Criminal Court found her guilty of contempt of court and sentenced her to one month in prison in relation to a physical altercation with the court’s security personnel on 19 October 2023. On 27 January 2024, Netiporn commenced a dry hunger strike to demand judicial reform and the cessation of imprisonment of individuals for expressing dissenting opinions. Due to her deteriorating health, she was transferred to medical facilities several times. She resumed drinking water in February 2024 and eating in April 2024. From 4 April 2024, she had been receiving treatment at the DoC Hospital in Bangkok for her deteriorating health as a result of the hunger strike.<sup>63</sup> To date, the Thai authorities have failed to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation to determine the causes and circumstances of her death.

#### *Transgender women and gay men vulnerable to abuse and harassment*

40. The Thai correctional system failed to respect gender diversity and ignored the specific needs of transgender women inmates. There were no consistent safeguards among prisons or, in some cases, even within the same facility, regarding accommodation and shower arrangements for transgender women to ensure their safety and privacy.<sup>64</sup>
41. Transgender women and gay men in male prisons were subjected to forms of physical assault, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, and intimidation by other inmates.<sup>65</sup> Prison officers failed to provide adequate protection and effective responses to cases of gender-based violence and harassment against these prisoners.<sup>66</sup>

#### *Poor labor conditions and abusive practices*

42. Work in prisons provided little rehabilitative value and opportunities to develop the vocational skills or experience that were necessary to prepare inmates for successful reintegration into society upon release. The most common type of work available in prisons involved the production of goods or services that are sold to the public or for private contractors.<sup>67</sup> Remuneration for this type of work was significantly below Thailand’s daily minimum wage.<sup>68</sup>
43. Prisoners were subjected to exploitative labor practices and punishment that may amount to torture or ill-treatment, such as the use of prisoners to produce fishing nets, which involved the threat of punishment, including beatings and delayed release, if prisoners did

not meet stringent production targets.<sup>69</sup> Despite the Thai authorities' pledge in March 2022 to adopt measures to eradicate abusive labor practices in prisons across the country, including an end to the contracts for the use of prison labor for the production of fishing nets,<sup>70</sup> fishing net production by prisoners was still reported in 2024.<sup>71</sup>

### **Ongoing restrictions to independent monitoring of prison conditions**

44. Access to prisons for independent human rights organizations for inspection and monitoring of detention conditions continued to be unduly restricted, despite recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms.<sup>72</sup> Prisons remained inaccessible for independent monitors long after the relaxation of COVID-19 measures in correctional facilities in 2022.<sup>73</sup>
45. The DoC repeatedly denied FIDH and UCL access to prisons for documentation purposes in 2022, 2023, 2024.<sup>74</sup> In 2025, the two organizations were granted access to interview two female inmates at the Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok.<sup>75</sup> Nonetheless, the interviews were subjected to certain privacy limitations, including the prison officers' monitoring through a transparent glass partition and their occasional interference. In addition, the inability to independently choose the inmates to be interviewed raised concerns about the credibility of the responses.
46. The NHRCT, which is mandated to conduct visits to places of detention as well as in response to complaints made by inmates, is the only human rights organization that was granted partial access to prisons to assess detention conditions and interview inmates.<sup>76</sup>
47. Other ongoing challenges faced by prisoners included: insufficient food and potable water; limited contact with the outside world; lack of recreational and rehabilitative activities; and ineffective complaint procedures.<sup>77</sup>

### **Disenfranchisement of prisoners inconsistent with international law and standards**

48. During the country's third UPR cycle, Thai prisoners across the country were barred from voting in two general elections, which took place on 14 May 2023 and 8 February 2026.<sup>78</sup> This resulted in a blanket disenfranchisement of over a quarter of a million citizens in each election, or 0.5% and almost 0.6% of the electorate, respectively.<sup>79</sup>
49. Thailand's 2017 Constitution and the Organic Act on the Election of Members of the House of Representatives, enacted in 2018 and amended in 2023, bar detainees from voting.<sup>80</sup> These legal provisions are inconsistent with Thailand's human right obligations under the

Article 25 of the ICCPR, which guarantees the right of “every citizen” to vote in elections “without unreasonable restrictions.”<sup>81</sup>

50. The prohibition on voting also undermined efforts to rehabilitate prisoners and reintegrate them into society because it excluded them from engagement in democratic processes, which is emphasized by the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

### **No progress towards the abolition of the death penalty**

51. In the third UPR of Thailand, the government accepted only nine of the 22 recommendations made by UN member states concerning the death penalty.<sup>82</sup> The government claimed it was committed to moving towards the abolition of the death penalty but indicated it would use a “phased approach” in the implementation of such objective.<sup>83</sup>
52. However, during the country’s third UPR cycle, the government failed to make significant progress towards the abolition of the death penalty and continued to show a lack of political will to abolish capital punishment.
53. Since the adoption of Thailand’s third UPR outcome on 24 March 2022, the number of capital crimes decreased from 60 to 53.<sup>84</sup> Death sentences continued to be imposed for crimes that do not meet the threshold of “the most serious crimes,” including drug-related offenses, which is inconsistent with the Thailand’s obligations under Article 6 of the ICCPR.
54. The Narcotics Act 2021, which became effective in December 2021, failed to eliminate the death penalty from the list of punishments that can be imposed for drug crimes. According to the Act, individuals engaged in “serious drug offenses,” which include commanding a drug network, could be sentenced to death.<sup>85</sup>
55. Thai courts continued to impose high number of death sentences. Between January 2022 and December 2025, courts of first instance imposed a total of 608 death sentences - an average of 152 each year.<sup>86</sup>
56. According to the latest statistics published by the DoC, in December 2025, the number of prisoners under death sentence stood at 429, which was a 124% increase from 191 inmates recorded in April 2022.<sup>87</sup> Over the same period, the number of male prisoners under death sentence increased by 126%, compared to the 112% increase in the number of female prisoners under death sentence.

57. Drug-related offenses consistently accounted for the majority of crimes for which a death sentence was imposed. As of December 2025, 313 (almost 73%) of those under death sentence had been convicted of drug-related offenses.<sup>88</sup> This proportion increased from April 2022, when 117 prisoners under death sentence (or 61%) had been convicted of drug-related offenses.<sup>89</sup>
58. The imposition of the death penalty for drug-related crimes disproportionately affected women. Although women constituted a small minority of inmates sentenced to death, nearly all of them had been convicted of drug-related offenses. According to the latest DoC statistics, as of December 2025, 52 (or 98%) of the 53 female prisoners under death sentence had been convicted of drug-related offenses, which was significantly higher than the proportion (69%) of male prisoners under death sentence for drug-related offenses. The latest figure was higher than that recorded in April 2022, when 22 (88%) of female prisoners under death sentence had been convicted of drug-related crimes. Between April 2022 and December 2025, the proportion of female prisoners under death sentence for drug-related crimes ranged between 79% and 100%, compared to that of male prisoners, which ranged between 58% and 69%.
59. As of December 2025, there were 13 facilities (including four correctional institutions for women) that were officially designated to incarcerate prisoners under death sentence, pursuant to the MoJ regulations.<sup>90</sup> The overwhelming majority of prisoners under death sentence were concentrated in a few prisons. More than 85% of male prisoners under death sentence were in two facilities, Bang Kwang Central Prison in Nonthaburi Province (71%) and Songkhla Central Prison in Songkhla Province (14%). Nearly 85% of female prisoners under death sentence were in one facility, the Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok.<sup>91</sup>
60. According to official figures, as of December 2025, all three prisons were severely overcrowded, with occupancy rates ranging from 95% for Bang Kwang Central Prison, to 123% for Songkhla Central Prison, and 166% for the Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok.<sup>92</sup>
61. Documentation of conditions for prisoners under death sentence remained a challenge, because Thai authorities consistently refused to allow access to prisons to independent human rights organizations [See above, *paras. 45-46*].
62. Thailand's most recent National Human Rights Plan for 2023-2027 included a commitment to move towards abolishing the death penalty for all crimes through supporting studies to review and amend laws that prescribed the death penalty and advocating for public

understanding for its abolition.<sup>93</sup> However, the plan had yet to result in concrete measures or timeframe for the full abolition.

63. In December 2024, the Thai cabinet rejected a proposal made by the NHRCT that called for the abolition of the death penalty, citing an opinion of the courts that it remained necessary for certain crimes. The NHRCT recommended the government: 1) refrain from imposing the death penalty in new laws; 2) remove mandatory death sentences; 3) review the death penalty for offenses that do not meet the threshold of “the most serious crimes;” and 4) repeal the death penalty for all offenses.<sup>94</sup>
64. Thailand abstained on the UN General Assembly’s biennial resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in 2020, 2022, and 2024.
65. Death penalty-related issues were not among the human rights pledges made by the government in 2024 as part of Thailand’s successful bid for membership of the UN Human Rights Council for the 2025-2027 term.<sup>95</sup>
66. Meanwhile, government officials and politicians occasionally made public statements in support of capital punishment, particularly for corruption and drug-related offenses, as a deterrent against crimes.<sup>96</sup> During campaign period in the lead up to the February 2026 general election, several political parties expressed support for the imposition of the death penalty for corruption.<sup>97</sup>
67. **Recommendations**
  - Address and resolve the issue of overcrowding in prisons by finding sustainable and effective measures to reduce the prison population.
  - Increase the use of alternatives to prison sentences and detention, by developing non-custodial measures within the legal system, in line with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules).
  - Ensure prison conditions comply with Thailand’s obligations under international human rights treaties to which it is a state party, including: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
  - Improve conditions in prisons to be in line with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the UN Rules for the Treatment

of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

- Ensure that all prisoners are treated equally, without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or any other status, while taking into account the individual needs of those in situations of vulnerability, including women, children, LGBTIQ+, persons with physical or mental disabilities, and the elderly.
- Allow non-governmental organizations with a relevant mandate to conduct visits to places of detention, interview inmates, and assess conditions without undue hindrance.
- Conduct thorough, impartial, and independent investigations into all cases of deaths in prisons and publicly release the findings of such investigations.
- Ensure pre-trial detainees are held separately from convicted prisoners and their treatment is based on their status as non-convicted persons.
- Implement without delay the DoC's regulation concerning the detention of certain inmates in locations other than prisons, issued under Article 33 of the Penitentiary Act 1936 (amended in 2017).
- Complete the amendment process of the 2019 Ministry of Justice regulation, issued under Article 89/1 of the Criminal Procedure Code, to specify the alternative places of detention for suspects or defendants.
- Continue the process of decriminalization of certain drug-related offenses, such as personal use and possession for personal use.
- Immediately and unconditionally release all persons detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association, including all political prisoners held under Article 112 of the Criminal Code.
- Ensure that all political prisoners have access to adequate physical and mental healthcare equivalent to community standards, including by providing continuity of care for those with pre-existing mental health conditions, and ensuring that prescribed medication is administered in full and with the informed consent of the patient.
- Establish a uniform national standard guaranteeing the right of all prisoners, including those with finalized sentences, to confidential and unrestricted access to legal counsel, and ensure that this standard is binding on all detention facilities without exception.
- Abolish the death penalty for all crimes.
- Declare an official and permanent moratorium on all executions.
- Repeal the mandatory death sentence, where it currently exists.
- Commute all death sentences to prison terms.
- Significantly reduce the number of criminal offenses that can be punished by death.

- Restrict the number of offenses that prescribe the death penalty to only “the most serious crimes,” as articulated by Article 6 of the ICCPR, to which Thailand is a state party, and the UN Human Rights Committee in its General Comment No. 36.
- Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
- Vote in favor of the next UN General Assembly resolutions on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.
- Extend a standing invitation to all UN Special Procedure mandate-holders and accept, as a matter of priority, visit requests by the UN Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading or punishment.
- Address the disproportionate number of women sentenced to death for drug-related offenses, such as by ensuring that gender-specific mitigating factors - including history of gender-based violence, coercion, or economic vulnerability - are taken into account throughout the criminal justice process.
- Facilitate education on the death penalty, its impacts, and alternatives.

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<sup>1</sup> UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Thailand (Addendum)*, 17 February 2022; UN Doc. A/HRC/49/17/Add.1

<sup>2</sup> Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees nationwide*, 1 April 2022; [http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report\\_result.php?date=2022-04-01&report=](http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_result.php?date=2022-04-01&report=) [in Thai]

<sup>3</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2022*, 24 March 2022; Chapter 2

<sup>4</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023; Chapter 2.7; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024; Chapter 2.8

<sup>5</sup> Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees nationwide*, 1 April 2026; [http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report\\_result.php?date=2026-04-01&report=](http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_result.php?date=2026-04-01&report=) [in Thai]

<sup>6</sup> According to the latest available statistics from the DoC, as of December 2025, the Thai prison system comprised 143 prisons and correctional facilities, with a capacity to accommodate 248,330 inmates (213,252 men and 35,078 women). The official capacity is based on an accommodation space of 1.6 m<sup>2</sup> per inmate, as mandated by the DoC.

<sup>7</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024; Chapter 2

<sup>8</sup> Department of Corrections, *Report on Prison/Correctional Institution Overcrowding Situation*, 5 April 2026; [http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/crowded\\_pdf.php?filename=2026\\_2026-04-05](http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/crowded_pdf.php?filename=2026_2026-04-05) [in Thai]

<sup>9</sup> Department of Corrections, *Report on Prison/Correctional Institution Overcrowding Situation*, 5 April 2022; [http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/crowded\\_pdf.php?filename=2022\\_2022-04-05](http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/crowded_pdf.php?filename=2022_2022-04-05) [in Thai]

<sup>10</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2025*, 27 March 2025; Chapter 6; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 8; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023; Chapter 5

<sup>11</sup> Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees under the Narcotics Act*, 1 April 2026; [http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report\\_result.php?date=2026-04-01&report=drug](http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_result.php?date=2026-04-01&report=drug) [in Thai]

<sup>12</sup> Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees under the Narcotics Act*, 1 April 2022; [http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report\\_result.php?date=2022-04-01&report=drug](http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_result.php?date=2022-04-01&report=drug) [in Thai]

<sup>13</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024; Chapter 4.1

<sup>14</sup> Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees nationwide*, 1 April 2022; [http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report\\_result.php?date=2022-04-01&report=](http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_result.php?date=2022-04-01&report=) [in Thai]

<sup>15</sup> Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees nationwide*, 1 April 2026; [http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report\\_result.php?date=2026-04-01&report=](http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_result.php?date=2026-04-01&report=) [in Thai]

<sup>16</sup> Gazette, *Department of Corrections’ regulation concerning the detention in alternative places of detention*, 6 December 2023; <https://medias.thansettakij.com/media/pdf/2023/9Y8ZBKVukNTJ1pWXfzP.pdf> [in Thai]; Bangkok Post, Minister defends new detention law, 16 December 2023

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<sup>17</sup> Gazette, *Department of Corrections’ notification on the specification of qualifications, prohibitions, and procedures of detention in detention centers according to the Department of Corrections regulations regarding procedures for detention in detention centers*, 9 April 2025; <https://main.correct.go.th/ประกาศกรมราชทัณฑ์-55/> [in Thai]

<sup>18</sup> Article 6 of the Department of Corrections’ regulation concerning the detention in alternative places of detention.

<sup>19</sup> Under Section 3(2) of the Department of Corrections’ notification on the specification of qualifications, prohibitions, and procedures of detention in detention centers according to the Department of Corrections regulations regarding procedures for detention in detention centers, these include inmates convicted of terrorism, public order offenses, offenses against property, and serious drug-related offenses under the Narcotics Code 2021, as well as those sentenced to more than 30 years in prison, life imprisonment, or the death penalty for drug-related offenses under the Narcotics Act 1979 and the Act on Measures for the Suppression of Offenders in an Offense relating to Narcotics 1991.

<sup>20</sup> Section 3(2) of the Department of Corrections’ notification on the specification of qualifications, prohibitions, and procedures of detention in detention centers according to the Department of Corrections regulations regarding procedures for detention in detention centers

<sup>21</sup> Section 4 of the Department of Corrections’ notification on the specification of qualifications, prohibitions, and procedures of detention in detention centers according to the Department of Corrections regulations regarding procedures for detention in detention centers

<sup>22</sup> Section 1 of the Department of Corrections’ notification on the specification of qualifications, prohibitions, and procedures of detention in detention centers according to the Department of Corrections regulations regarding procedures for detention in detention centers

<sup>23</sup> Section 7(1) of the Department of Corrections’ notification on the specification of qualifications, prohibitions, and procedures of detention in detention centers according to the Department of Corrections regulations regarding procedures for detention in detention centers

<sup>24</sup> Section 8 of the Department of Corrections’ notification on the specification of qualifications, prohibitions, and procedures of detention in detention centers according to the Department of Corrections regulations regarding procedures for detention in detention centers

<sup>25</sup> Department of Corrections Facebook Page, *The Department of Corrections moves forward to enhance human rights, emphasizing a new image that has changed from the past, despite facing various limitations*, 25 March 2026; <https://tinyurl.com/bdtkjpnm> [in Thai]

<sup>26</sup> According to the new rule, convicted prisoners are required to have served at least one-third of their prison sentence or a minimum of eight years in prison, whichever is more favorable for the prisoners, in order to be eligible for a royal amnesty. In addition, prisoners must be categorized as “excellent,” “very good,” or “good” to qualify.

<sup>27</sup> Under Article 89/1 of the Thai Criminal Procedure Code, inquiry officers, public prosecutors, prison directors, or the authority executing the detention warrant can request the court to order the detention of a suspect or defendant in other places outside prison. However, the 2019 regulation only stipulates the criteria for locations, detention procedures, and security measures, while leaving it to the MoJ to determine the specific places of detention; Gazette, *Ministerial Regulation on the stipulation of alternative places to detain, imprison, or remand suspects, defendants, or convicted prisoners B.E.2552 (2019)*, 15 October 2019 [in Thai]

<sup>28</sup> Department of Corrections Public Relations Facebook Page, *7 facts behind bars for public awareness – Topic 5: The treatment of pre-trial detainees*, 1 November 2023 [in Thai]

<sup>29</sup> Bangkok Post, *Move afoot to cut inmate numbers*, 29 May 2024

<sup>30</sup> Article 29 of the 2017 Constitution stipulates that suspects or defendants in criminal cases should be presumed innocent and “not be treated as convicts,” and their detention should only be undertaken “as necessary to prevent such persons from escaping.”; Rule 11(b) of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) prescribes that “untried prisoners shall be kept separate from convicted prisoners.”

<sup>31</sup> The designated pre-trial detention centers in these seven provinces include: Lampang Central Prison in Lampang Province; Phitsanulok Central Prison in Phitsanulok Province; Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Central Prison in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province; the Khon Kaen Correctional Institution for Drug Addicts in Khon Kaen Province; Nakhon Si Thammarat Correctional Institute for Young Offenders in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, Songkhla Provincial Prison in Songkhla Province; and Thanyaburi District Prison and Pathumthani Provincial Prison in Pathumthani Province.; Manager, *Justice minister opens Hub for Pre-trial Detainees, with a pilot at the Minburi Remand Prison*, 14 February 2024; <https://mgronline.com/crime/de-tail/9670000013766> [in Thai]

<sup>32</sup> These prisons are: Bang Kwang Central Prison, Khlong Prem Central Prison, and the Thonburi Remand Prison in Bangkok; the Central Correctional Institution for Young Offenders in Pathumthani Province; Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Central Prison, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Provincial Prison, and the Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Correctional Institution For Young Offenders in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province; Suphanburi Provincial Prison in Suphanburi Province; Nakhon Nayok Provincial Prison in Nakhon Nayok Province; and Saraburi Provincial Prison in Saraburi Province.; DoC, *Standard Operating Procedures for Custodial Measures (first revised edition)*, September 2024; <https://www.suphanburiprison.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/มาตรฐาน.pdf> [in Thai]

<sup>33</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026

<sup>34</sup> Thai Lawyers for Human Rights, *New mapping of political detainees finds 16 forcibly transferred, facing restrictions on visits and correspondence*, 9 May 2025; <https://tlhr2014.com/archives/75284> [in Thai]

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<sup>35</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2022*, 24 March 2022; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2025*, 27 March 2025; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026

<sup>36</sup> According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the floor space available to each detainee in shared accommodations or dormitories should not be less than 3.4 m<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>37</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.1

<sup>38</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024; Chapter 8.1; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2025*, 27 March 2025; Chapter 7.1; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.1

<sup>39</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.1

<sup>40</sup> Under the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners Under international standards, the use of force against prisoners is only permitted as an exceptional response in three situations: legitimate self-defense; attempted escape; and active or passive resistance to a lawful order.

<sup>41</sup> Rule 82 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: “1. Prison staff shall not, in their relations with the prisoners, use force except in self-defense or in cases of attempted escape, or active or passive physical resistance to an order based on law or regulations. Prison staff who have recourse to force must use no more than is strictly necessary and must report the incident immediately to the prison director. 2. Prison staff shall be given special physical training to enable them to restrain aggressive prisoners. 3. Except in special circumstances, prison staff performing duties which bring them into direct contact with prisoners should not be armed. Furthermore, prison staff should in no circumstances be provided with arms unless they have been trained in their use.”

<sup>42</sup> Disciplinary segregation occurs when multiple prisoners are punished by being shackled and placed together in a cell separate from the other prisoners.

<sup>43</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 5

<sup>44</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 5 and Chapter 9.2

<sup>45</sup> Anon Nampa faces a total of 14 cases of lèse-majesté in relation to the exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and of peaceful assembly.; FIDH, Thailand: *Tenth conviction of pro-democracy activist Anon Nampa on ‘lèse-majesté’ charges*, 15 July 2025; Prachatai, *Court dismisses request to remove Anon’s leg shackles during trial*, 22 July 2025

<sup>46</sup> Under Article 21 of the Act, instruments of restraint can be used in exceptional circumstances, when prisoners are: 1) likely to endanger their own or other prisoners’ lives or bodies; 2) mentally ill, with conditions or symptoms that may endanger their own or other prisoners’ lives or bodies; 3) a flight risk; or 4) being escorted outside the prison and the escorting officers consider the use of restraints “necessary.” The Act does not explicitly prohibit the use of restraints as a disciplinary measure. In addition, Article 21 grants the DoC Director discretionary power to order their use in other circumstances deemed “necessary.” The MoJ’s 2020 regulation on the types, kinds, and sizes of instruments of restraint used on prisoners prescribes a range of restraints that are contrary to international standards, including various types of metal handcuffs, ankle cuffs, ankle shackles, and chains. In addition, the Penitentiary Act does not impose limits on the duration of the use of restraints. The safeguards required under international standards, including the requirement of necessity and proportionality, minimal intrusion, and the immediate removal of restraints, are also not stipulated in the Act.

<sup>47</sup> Prachatai, *Court dismisses request to remove Anon’s leg shackles during trial*, 22 July 2025

<sup>48</sup> UN Economic and Social Council, *Civil and political rights, including the questions of torture and detention: Report of the Special Rapporteur, Theo van Boven*, 23 December 2023, UN Doc. E/CN.4/2004/56, para. 45

<sup>49</sup> According to the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, instruments of restraint may be used on prisoners when prescribed by law and exceptionally in two circumstances: 1) to prevent escape during a transfer; and 2) to prevent prisoners from injuring themselves or others or from damaging property. The use of restraints as a sanction for disciplinary offenses is explicitly prohibited. Instruments of restraint can be imposed “when no lesser form of control would be effective to address the risks posed by unrestricted movement.” The method of restraint must also be the least intrusive and subject to a strict test of necessity and proportionality, based on the nature and level of the risks posed by the prisoner. The use of chains, irons, or other types of restraint that are inherently degrading or painful is prohibited. Restraints must also be removed before the prisoner is brought before a judicial authority, or as soon as the risk justifying their use no longer exists.

<sup>50</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.2

<sup>51</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023; Chapter 8.2

<sup>52</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2025*, 27 March 2025; Chapter 7.3

<sup>53</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.2

<sup>54</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024; Chapter 8.3; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.3

<sup>55</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024; Chapter 8.3

<sup>56</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.4

<sup>57</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.4

<sup>58</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.4

<sup>59</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.6

<sup>60</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.6

<sup>61</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.6

<sup>62</sup> Netiporn was a prominent activist who advocated for LGBTIQ+ and youth rights in 2020-2021. She then joined the pro-democracy group Thalu Wang [“shattering the palace”], with which she actively engaged in conducting public opinion polls regarding the Thai monarchy. Her political activism was met with repeated prosecutions since 2021, including two cases under Article 112 of Thailand’s Criminal Code (*lèse-majesté*).

<sup>63</sup> FIDH, *Thailand: Death in detention of pro-democracy activist Netiporn “Bung” Sanesangkhom*, 16 May 2024

<sup>64</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.7

<sup>65</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.7

<sup>66</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.7

<sup>67</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.8

<sup>68</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024; chapter 8.7; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2025*, 27 March 2025; Chapter 7.8; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 9.8

<sup>69</sup> Reuters, *Prisoners forced to make fishing nets under threat of violence*, 23 December 2021

<sup>70</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023

<sup>71</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2025*, 27 March 2025; Chapter 7.8

<sup>72</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2025*, 27 March 2025; Chapter 5

<sup>73</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023

<sup>74</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2022*, 24 March 2022; Chapter 6; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023; Chapter 3; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024; Chapter 3; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2025*, 27 March 2025; Chapter 3

<sup>75</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2026*, 24 March 2026; Chapter 4

<sup>76</sup> National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, *NHRCT quarantine facilities at the Bangkok Remand Prison and the Bangkok Central Correctional Institution for Drug Addicts*, 10 December 2021, <https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/10344> [in Thai]; National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, *NHRCT visits Bang Kwang Prison to gather facts and problems related to the spread of COVID-19 in the prison*, 16 December 2021, <https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/10347> [in Thai]; National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, *Sayamon from NHRCT visits Thanyaburi District Prison to follow up on COVID-19 response and preventive measures in the prison*, 17 December 2021,

<https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/10355> [in Thai]; National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, *NHRCT visited the Samut Songkram Central Prison*, 21 January 2022, <https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/9913> [in Thai]; National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, *NHRCT Supattra visited the Trat Provincial Prison*, 16 September 2022, <https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/10132> [in Thai]; National Human Rights

Commission of Thailand, *NHRCT Supattra visited the Tak Provincial Prison and Tak Center for the Destitute in Tak Province*, 4 February 2023, <https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/9602> [in Thai]; National Human Rights

Commission of Thailand, *NHRCT Sayamol visited the Khao Bin Central Prison in Ratchaburi Province*, 12 May 2023,

<https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/9693> [in Thai]; National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, *NHRCT Supattra visited Chachoengsao Central Prison in Chachoengsao Province*, 9 March 2023, <https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/9634> [in Thai]

<sup>77</sup> FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2022*, 24 March 2022; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024,

<sup>78</sup> Government Public Relations Department, *Thailand’s Next General Election Scheduled for 14 May 2023*, 21 March 2023

<sup>79</sup> According to the Department of Corrections, there were 268,621 prisoners nationwide in May 2023, including 123 juvenile prisoners. As of December 2023, there were 7,932 foreign prisoners across the penitentiary system. There were 52,195,920 eligible voters in the May 2023 election; Office of the Election Commission of Thailand, *Statistical Information on the Election of Members of the House of Representatives B.E. 2566*, 25 September 2023 [in Thai]

<sup>80</sup> Article 96(3) of Thailand’s 2017 Constitution and Article 32(3) of the Organic Act on the Election of Members of the House of Representatives prescribe that those “detained by a warrant of the court or by a lawful order” are prohibited from exercising the right to vote.

<sup>81</sup> UN Human Rights Committee, 57th Session, *CCPR General Comment No. 25: Article 25 (Participation in Public Affairs and the Right to Vote) – The Right to Participate in Public Affairs, Voting Rights and the Right of Equal Access to Public Service*, 12 July 1996, UN Doc. CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.7, para. 14

<sup>82</sup> UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Thailand (Addendum)*, 17 February 2022; UN Doc. A/HRC/49/17/Add.1

<sup>83</sup> UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Thailand (Addendum)*, 17 February 2022; UN Doc. A/HRC/49/17/Add.1

<sup>84</sup> FIDH, *Enduring injustice: A review of the death penalty in Asia (2020-2025)*, 14 October 2025

<sup>85</sup> Serious drug offenses included production, sales, export, distribution, and unlawful possession of drugs, except for personal use. The death penalty could also be imposed on individuals convicted of being leaders or high-level drug traffickers.; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2022*, 24 March 2022; Chapter 5

<sup>86</sup> Communications between FIDH and Courts of Justice on 17 May 2022, 6 September 2024 and 1 April 2026

<sup>87</sup> Department of Corrections, *Statistics of prisoners under the death penalty April 2022*, 23 May 2022; <http://www.correct.go.th/executed/filepdf/1654067301.pdf> [in Thai]; Department of Corrections, *Statistics of prisoners under the death penalty December 2025*, 31 December 2025; <http://www.correct.go.th/executed/filepdf/1770000837.pdf> [in Thai]

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- <sup>88</sup> Department of Corrections, *Statistics of prisoners under the death penalty December 2025*, 31 December 2025; <http://www.correct.go.th/executed/filepdf/1770000837.pdf> [in Thai]
- <sup>89</sup> Department of Corrections, *Statistics of prisoners under the death penalty April 2022*, 23 May 2022; <http://www.correct.go.th/executed/filepdf/1654067301.pdf> [in Thai]
- <sup>90</sup> The 13 facilities were: Bang Kwang Central Prison in Nonthaburi Province; Klong Prem Central Prison in Bangkok; Khao Bin Central Prison in Ratchaburi Province; Songkhla Central Prison in Songkhla Province; Phitsanulok Central Prison in Phitsanulok Province; Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province; Khlong Phai Central Prison in Nakhon Ratchasima Province; Central Women’s Correctional Institution in Bangkok; Nakhon Ratchasima Women’s Correctional Institution in Nakhon Ratchasima Province (no prisoners under death sentence); Chiang Mai Women’s Correctional Institution in Chiang Mai Province; Department of Corrections Hospital in Bangkok (no prisoners under death sentence); Surat Thani Central Prison in Surat Thani Province; and Chonburi Women’s Correctional Institution in Chonburi Province (no prisoners under death sentence).
- <sup>91</sup> Department of Corrections, *Statistics of prisoners under death sentence – August 2024*, 27 September 2024, <http://www.correct.go.th/executed/filepdf/1727408520.pdf> [in Thai]
- <sup>92</sup> The number of prisoners and the official capacity for Bang Kwang Central Prison were 4,671 and 4,590, respectively; 3,733 and 2,755 for Songkhla Central Prison; and 4,208 and 2,707 for the Central Women’s Correctional Institution in Bangkok; DoC, *Report on overcrowding conditions of inmates in prisons/detention centers*, 5 August 2024, [http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/crowded\\_pdf.php?filename=2024\\_2024-09-05](http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/crowded_pdf.php?filename=2024_2024-09-05) [in Thai]
- <sup>93</sup> Rights and Liberties Protection Department, *Fifth National Human Rights Plan (2023 - 2027)*, <https://www.rlpd.go.th/Content?ContentID=zLr8QyaC> [in Thai]
- <sup>94</sup> Bangkok Post, *Cabinet refuses to abolish capital punishment*, 17 December 2024
- <sup>95</sup> UN General Assembly, *Note verbale dated 10 May 2024 from the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly*, 13 May 2024; UN Doc. A/79/82
- <sup>96</sup> Standard, *Senator proposes televised executions for drug offenders, calls measure “decisive, not Extreme”*, 28 January 2025; <https://thestandard.co/execution-drug-offenders-solution/> [in Thai]; Thairath, *Pirapan leads United Thai Nation Party in anti-corruption pledge, unveils knife symbolizing “eradicating the corrupt”*, 5 January 2026; <https://www.thairath.co.th/news/politic/2905888> [in Thai]
- <sup>97</sup> Thai PBS, *‘Corruption = death’: Economic Party goes hardline but faces ‘orange’ jibes*, 14 January 2026; TP Channel, *Thai Pakdee leader calls for harsher corruption penalties as Teachers Party pushes education-first reform agenda*, 15 January 2026; <https://tpchannel.org/news/32600> [in Thai]; Post Today, *Inside eight parties’ anti-corruption measures when members are implicated in corruption*, 18 January 2026; <https://www.posttoday.com/politics/736649> [in Thai]