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Thailand Annual prison report 2026



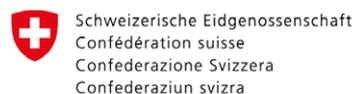
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List of acronyms

CAT	Committee Against Torture
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil society organization
DoC	Department of Corrections
DSI	Department of Special Investigation
FIDH	International Federation for Human Rights
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning
NACC	National Anti-Corruption Commission
NC	Narcotics Code
NHRCT	National Human Rights Commission of Thailand
NPM	National Preventive Mechanism
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
PGH	Police General Hospital
UCL	Union for Civil Liberty
UN	United Nations
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
WGAD	Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Glossary of key terms

Prisoners/inmates/detainees: Individuals who are deprived of their liberty in a correctional facility/prison. All three terms are used interchangeably in the report, regardless of the status of the judicial proceedings.

Pre-trial detainees: Individuals who are deprived of their liberty in a correctional facility/prison after being arrested for an alleged violation of the law and pending judicial proceedings in which a verdict has yet to be made.

Prisoners under death sentence: Individuals who have been convicted of a capital crime and sentenced to death by a court, including those who have an ongoing appeal process.

Official capacity: The maximum number of inmates who can be accommodated in a correctional facility/prison, based on the minimum accommodation space of 1.6 m² per person, as mandated by the DoC.

Occupancy level: The number of inmates that occupy a prison compared to the facility's official capacity.

International standards: International guidelines and principles on detention conditions and prison management aimed to ensure the respect for basic human rights of prisoners, notably 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).

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Executive summary

In 2025, key indicators related to the situation of Thailand's prisons trended in the wrong direction. The country's total prison population and the number of inmates under death sentence increased for the second and third consecutive year, respectively. The number of prisons operating above their intended capacity increased from 2024.

In addition, the number of inmates incarcerated for drug-related offenses went up after a three-year decline and the number of convictions for drug-related offenses increased for the first time since 2021. These two developments appeared to be in response to the introduction of a lower limit on possession of methamphetamines and amphetamines for personal use, enacted in June 2024. The number of inmates incarcerated for drug-related offenses continued to account for the vast majority (70%) of the total prison population.

Chronic prison overcrowding was exacerbated by another year of inaction by the authorities in the implementation of alternative measures to incarceration for both pre-trial and convicted inmates. Despite the adoption of the Department of Corrections (DoC) regulation and operational guidelines that would allow certain inmates to serve their sentences outside prisons, by the end of the year its implementation remained pending. In addition, there was no progress in the adoption of measures that could allow suspects or defendants to be detained in locations other than prisons.

Meanwhile, access to prisons for independent human rights organizations for inspection and monitoring of detention conditions continued to be unduly limited, despite recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms.

Testimonies by inmates and former inmates attested that prison conditions remained poor and well below international standards.

Many of the interviewees reported insufficient living space in cells and the lack of consistent standards around the distribution and quality of bedding materials.

Forms of punishment and procedures that could amount to ill-treatment and, in some cases, torture, continued to be reported. These included the use of prolonged solitary confinement and the abuse of instrument of restraints - such as handcuffs, ankle cuffs, weighted ankle shackles, and chains.

In addition, transgender women and gay men in male prisons were subjected to forms of physical assault, gender-based violence, harassment, and intimidation by other inmates, with little protection provided by the prison authorities to the victims.

Inadequate sanitation, including insufficient water supply and the inconsistent provision of basic hygiene products, undermined inmates' ability to maintain personal hygiene. Female prisoners faced significant challenges in maintaining their menstrual hygiene.

Inmates participated in underpaid work that provided limited benefits for employment after their release. They also had limited opportunities to engage in recreational and rehabilitative activities that were beneficial to their physical and mental well-being.

The insufficient quantity, poor quality, and inadequate nutritional value of food served in prisons were a common complaint from most of the interviewed inmates and former inmates.

They also reported that prisons failed to provide effective and timely physical and mental healthcare services to inmates. Many said that the prisons' response to medical emergencies, particularly at night, was seriously inadequate, sometimes resulting in fatal consequences.

Inmates' access to news and external information was strictly controlled, and opportunities to engage in recreational and rehabilitative activities to maintain and improve prisoners' physical and mental well-being were limited.

Overall, interviews with inmates and former inmates revealed that key standards related to detention conditions were implemented inconsistently across prisons, with significant discrepancies reported between best and worst practices [See below, *Infographic: Best and worst practices observed in Thai prisons in 2025*].

The few positive developments were in relation to healthcare. For example, the gender-affirming hormone therapy was available for transgender women in one of the facilities. In addition, most interviewed prisoners and former prisoners believed that prisoners with chronic illnesses received proper treatment and medication provided for, or facilitated by, prison authorities.

Now in its fifth edition, the annual prison report seeks to provide an independent assessment of conditions in Thai prisons, analyze significant stats, figures, and trends related to the Thai prison system, and present relevant key developments. The report also makes numerous practical recommendations for the improvement of prison conditions.

2025 in a nutshell

Positive developments

- Availability of proper treatment and medication for chronic illnesses.
- Availability of gender-affirming hormone therapy for transgender women in one facility.
- Investigations into the preferential treatment afforded to certain inmates.

Negative developments

- Increase in the total prison population.
- Increase in the number of prisoners under death sentence.
- Increase in the number of drug-related cases brought before courts of first instance.
- Increase in the number of inmates incarcerated for drug-related offenses.

2025 in numbers

7%

Increase in the total prison population

84%

Percentage of prisons operating above their maximum official capacity

10%

Percentage of pre-trial detainees

70%

Percentage of prisoners incarcerated for drug-related offenses

4%

Increase in the number of inmates incarcerated for drug-related offenses

15%

Increase in the total number of drug-related cases brought before courts of first instance

13%

Increase in the number of prisoners under death sentence

43%

Percentage of recidivist prisoners

15%

Increase in the annual budget allocated to the DoC

BEST and WORST

practices observed in Thai prisons in 2025



Personal space in cell

1.6 m² 0.48 m²



Mattresses/ Blankets

1 mattress and blanket 1 towel



Sanitary pads

12 sanitary pads per month 6 sanitary pads every 6 months



Daily availability of running water in cell

4 hours 1 hour



Length of shower time

10 minutes 2 minutes



Frequency of doctor's visits

Daily Once a week



Waiting time for treatment/medication

1 hour 1 week



Meals per day

3 2



Prison visits (online)

Daily Twice a month



Monthly remuneration for prison work

5,000 baht (about US\$160) 90 baht (about US\$3)



Prison visits (in-person)

Daily Once a week



Frequency of outgoing letters

Daily Once a week

INTRODUCTION

The FIDH annual prison report is the only independent and comprehensive review of prison conditions in Thailand. The 2026 report, produced in cooperation with the Union for Civil Liberty (UCL) and Freedom Bridge, covers developments, trends, facts, and figures from 1 January to 31 December 2025. It is based on the following information: 1) interviews with prisoners and former prisoners who were detained during the reporting period; 2) reliable news articles and reports; 3) reports from United Nations (UN) human rights monitoring mechanisms and non-governmental organizations; and 4) official information provided/published by Thai government agencies and other institutions.

In the preparation of this report, FIDH interviewed two female prisoners¹ and eight former prisoners (four men and four women, including two foreign nationals), detained in six prisons.² The eight former prisoners were released at various times in 2025. In addition, the report incorporates interviews conducted by lawyers from Freedom Bridge with one transgender and two male prisoners and one former female prisoner from four prisons.³ All interviews were conducted between September and December 2025. It is likely that the information gathered through these interviews is reflective of similar trends and conditions that exist in other prisons in the country.

Since the first edition of the annual prison report in 2022, 73 former prisoners (52 men and 21 women) and nine prisoners (six men, two women, and one transgender) have been interviewed, covering 32 prisons (or 22%) of the 143 prisons nationwide.

-
1. Both women were detained at the Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok.
 2. The four men were detained at: 1) Trang Central Prison in Trang Province; 2) the Bangkok Remand Prison in Bangkok; 3) Phitsanulok Provincial Prison in Phitsanulok Province; and 4) Pattaya Remand Prison in Chonburi Province. The four women were detained at: 1) Trang Central Prison in Trang Province; 2) Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province; and 3) the Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok.
 3. The two men were detained at the Bangkok Remand Prison in Bangkok and Chiang Mai Central Prison in Chiang Mai Province; the transgender prisoner was detained at Khlong Prem Central Prison in Bangkok. The woman was detained at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok and was released in 2025.

1. STATS, FIGURES, AND KEY TRENDS

In 2025, Thailand observed an increase in its total prison population for the second consecutive year.⁴ In addition, the overall number of prisoners continued to exceed the official maximum capacity of the country’s prison system.

Below is an analysis of some key trends in Thailand’s prison system and its population between January and December 2025.

1.1. Total prison population increases

From January to December 2025, Thailand’s prison population increased by 7%, from 280,790 (246,173 men and 34,617 women) to 301,020 inmates (262,784 men and 38,236 women). The increase in the female prison population (+10%) was higher than the increase observed in the male prison population (+7%).

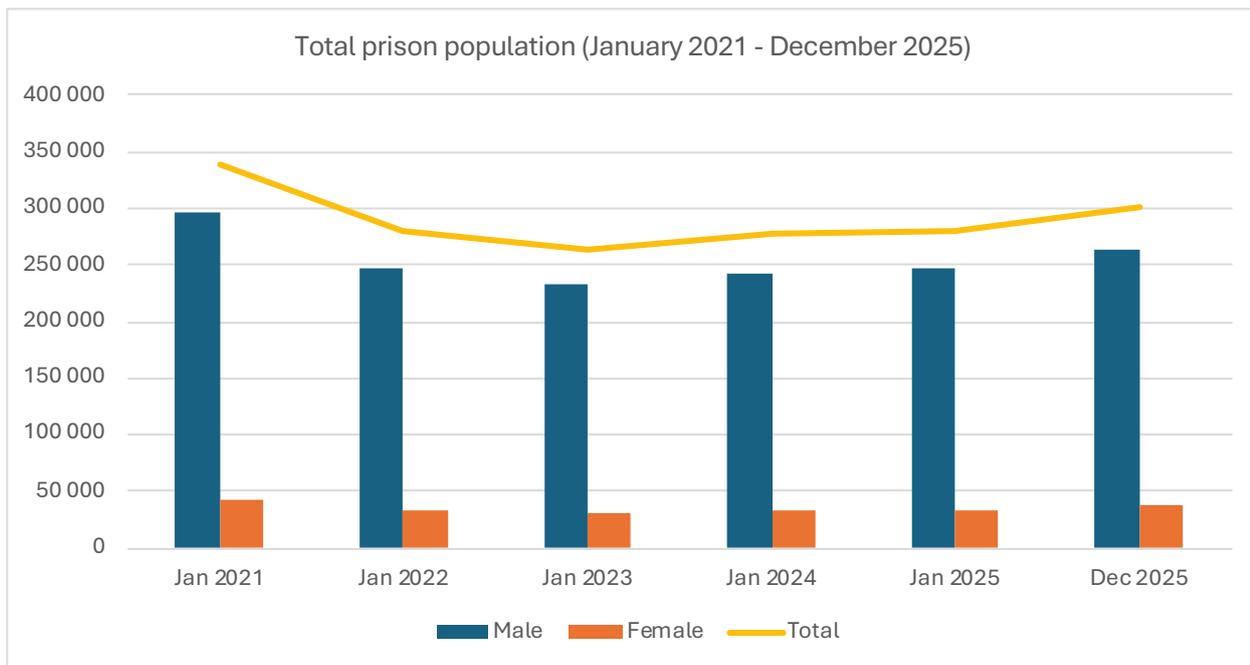
Total prison population (January - December 2025)			
Month/Year	Male	Female	Total
January 2025	246,173	34,617	280,790
February 2025	247,725	34,720	282,445
March 2025	248,917	35,067	283,984
April 2025	253,425	35,675	289,100
May 2025	254,476	35,708	290,184
June 2025	257,135	35,994	293,129
July 2025	259,745	36,735	296,480
August 2025	262,688	37,558	300,246
September 2025	262,767	37,559	300,326
October 2025	257,178	36,832	294,010
November 2025	258,998	37,383	296,381
December 2025	262,784	38,236	301,020

4. FIDH, *Thailand annual prison report 2024*, 14 March 2024; Chapter 2

Convicted prisoners categorized by the length of finalized prison sentences (as of December 2025)				
Category	Male	Female	Total	%
Less than 3 months	428	67	495	0.23
More than 3 months to 6 months	2,597	406	3,003	1.41
More than 6 months to 1 year	10,768	1,035	11,803	5.55
More than 1 year to 2 years	31,685	5,200	36,885	17.34
More than 2 years to 5 years	53,215	6,796	60,011	28.22
More than 5 years to 10 years	35,841	4,388	40,229	18.92
More than 10 years to 15 years	22,151	3,414	25,565	12.02
More than 15 years to 20 years	7,970	1,647	9,617	4.52
More than 20 years to 50 years	15,641	2,954	18,595	8.74
More than 50 years	1,126	191	1,317	0.62
Life sentence	4,284	544	4,828	2.27
Death sentence	55	4	59	0.03
Unidentifiable	237	15	252	0.12
Total	185,998	26,661	212,659	100

From January 2021 to December 2025, Thailand saw a decline of about 11% in its prison population. However, in 2025, the total prison population surpassed 300,000 for the first time since September 2021.

Total prison population (January 2021 - December 2025)			
Month/ year	Male	Female	Total
January 2021	296,429	42,377	338,806
January 2022	247,164	32,648	279,812
January 2023	231,813	30,506	262,319
January 2024	243,122	33,344	276,466
January 2025	246,173	34,617	280,790
December 2025	262,784	38,236	301,020



1.2. Most prisons above capacity

The total occupancy level of the Thai prison system continued to exceed its maximum capacity.

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).⁵ The official capacity is based on an accommodation space of 1.6 m² per inmate, as mandated by the DoC.⁶

In December 2025, the total prison population exceeded the prison’s system overall capacity by 21%. The total occupancy rate remained higher for male than female inmates throughout 2025. The number of male inmates stood at 262,784, or 23% higher than the country’s official capacity, while the number of female inmates stood at 38,236, or 9% above the official capacity.

The latest DoC statistics showed that, as of December 2025, 120 prisons, or 84% of the 143 prisons nationwide, operated above their intended capacity, which increased from 2024, when there were 102 (or 71%) prisons operating above their intended capacity.⁷ The overcrowding rates varied considerably among prisons. Among the most overcrowded prisons were Buriram Provincial Prison in Buriram Province, Roi Et Provincial Prison in Roi Et Province, and Krabi Provincial Prison in Krabi Province, which operated at 517%, 221%, and 194% of their intended capacity respectively.⁸ Buriram Provincial Prison remained Thailand’s most overcrowded prison for the fourth consecutive year.

The number of prisons that operated above their intended capacity increased from 106 (or 74 %) in 2022 to 120 (or 84%) in 2025.⁹

5. DoC, *Report of the overcrowding situation in prisons/correctional facilities*, accessed on 5 December 2025, http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/crowded_pdf.php?filename=2025_2025-12-05 [in Thai]

6. DoC, *Report of the overcrowding situation in prisons/correctional facilities*, accessed on 5 December 2025, http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/crowded_pdf.php?filename=2025_2025-12-05 [in Thai]

7. FIDH, *Thailand annual prison report 2025*, 27 March 2025; Chapter 1

8. DoC, *Report of the overcrowding situation in prisons/correctional facilities*, accessed on 5 December 2025, http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/crowded_pdf.php?filename=2025_2025-12-05 [in Thai]

9. In 2022, the DoC adopted a new minimum accommodation space of 1.6 m² per inmate, replacing the previous minimum accommodation space of 1.2 m² per inmate. As a result, pre-2022 occupancy rates are not comparable with those post-2022 due to the different minimum accommodation space standard used for the calculation.

1.3. Number of pre-trial detainees increases

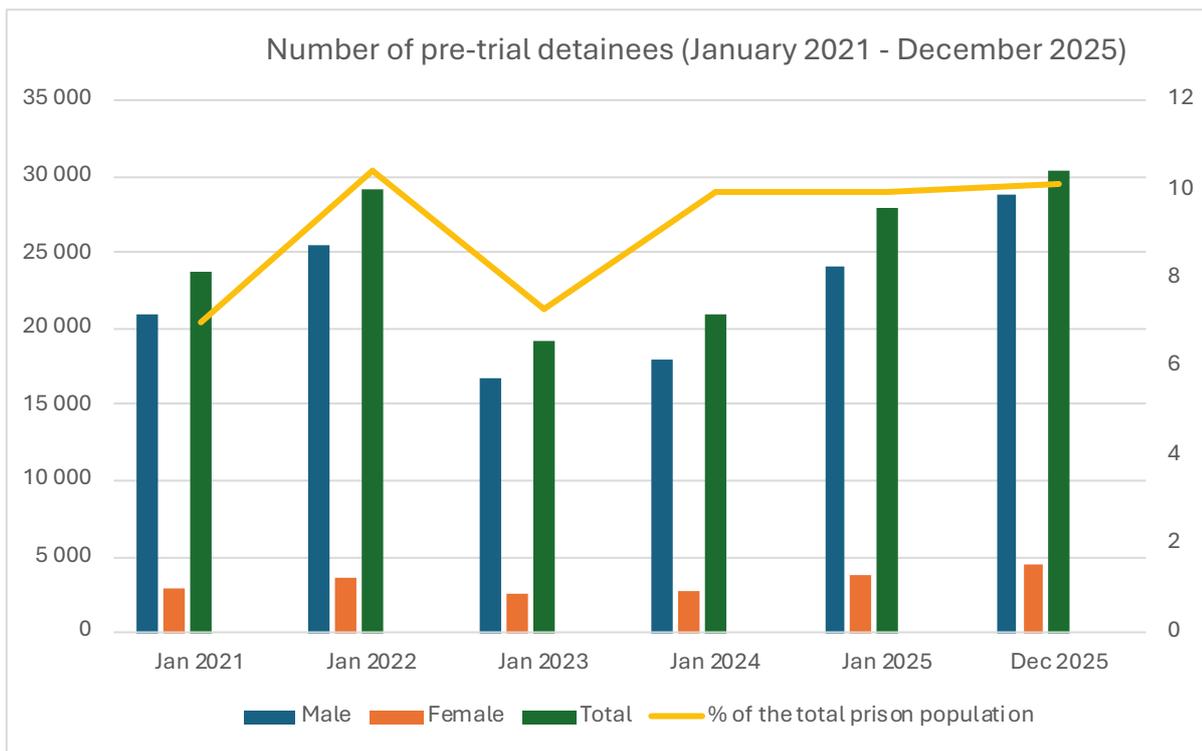
Between January and December 2025, pre-trial detainees made up between 9% and 11% of the total prison population. In December, 30,428 inmates in Thailand, or about 10% of the total prison population, were held in pre-trial detention - an increase by 9% from January, when the number of pre-trial detainees stood at 27,908. Over the same period, the number of female pre-trial detainees increased by 18% - more than double the 8% increase of male pre-trial detainees.

Number of pre-trial detainees (January – December 2025)				
Month/Year	Male	Female	Total	% of the total prison population
January 2025	24,044	3,864	27,908	9.94
February 2025	23,745	3,792	27,537	9.75
March 2025	23,086	3,628	26,714	9.40
April 2025	24,343	3,763	28,106	9.72
May 2025	25,941	3,791	29,732	10.25
June 2025	26,243	3,741	29,984	10.23
July 2025	27,459	4,043	31,502	10.63
August 2025	27,789	4,329	32,118	10.70
September 2025	29,814	4,819	34,633	11.53
October 2025	27,005	4,519	31,524	10.72
November 2025	25,357	4,315	29,672	10.01
December 2025	25,869	4,559	30,428	10.10

From January 2021 to December 2025, the number of pre-trial detainees increased by 28% (from 23,729 to 30,428), despite the 11% decline in the total prison population over the same period. The number of female pre-trial detainees increased by 61%, which was more than double the 24% increase in the number of male pre-trial detainees.

In addition, between January 2021 and December 2025, the proportion of pre-trial detainees to the overall prison population increased by 3%.

Number of pre-trial detainees (January 2021 - December 2025)				
Month / year	Male	Female	Total	% of the total prison population
January 2021	20,889	2,840	23,729	7.00
January 2022	25,506	3,642	29,148	10.42
January 2023	16,678	2,473	19,151	7.30
January 2024	17,909	2,797	20,706	7.49
January 2025	24,044	3,864	27,908	9.94
December 2025	25,869	4,559	30,428	10.10



1.4. Incarceration rate for drug-related offenses remains high

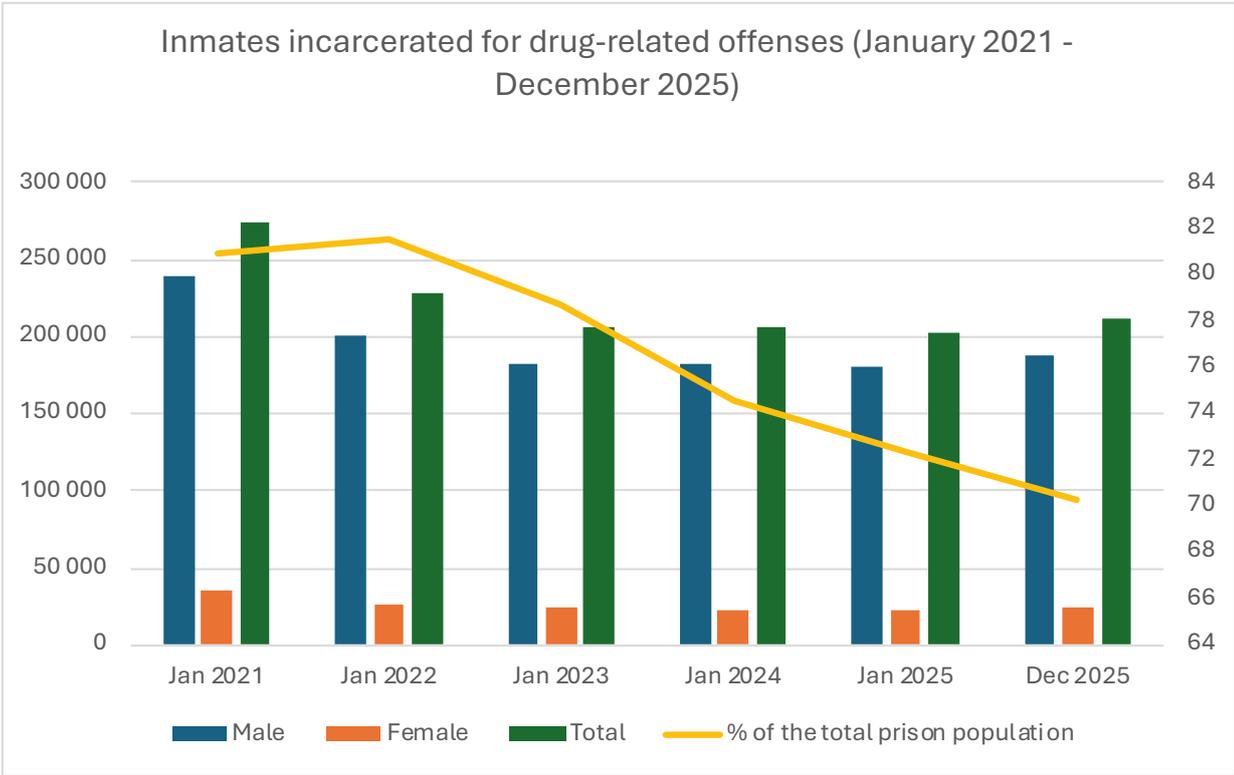
In 2025, the number of inmates incarcerated for drug-related offenses continued to account for the vast majority of the total prison population. As of December 2025, 211,740 inmates, or 70% of the total prison population, were incarcerated for drug-related offenses. From January to December 2025, the number of inmates incarcerated for drug-related offenses went up by 4%, from 203,222 to 211,740. The proportion of inmates incarcerated for drug-related offenses compared to the total prison population remained constant, at almost 71%, throughout 2025.

Prisoners incarcerated for drug-related offenses (January – December 2025)				
Month/Year	Male	Female	Total	% of the total prison population
January 2025	180,173	23,049	203,222	72.37
February 2025	180,607	22,991	203,598	72.09
March 2025	180,801	23,074	203,875	71.79
April 2025	183,543	23,309	206,852	71.55
May 2025	183,347	23,227	206,574	71.19
June 2025	185,106	23,280	208,386	71.09
July 2025	186,574	23,561	210,135	70.88
August 2025	188,579	23,803	212,382	70.74
September 2025	189,234	23,842	213,076	70.95
October 2025	184,465	23,277	207,742	70.66
November 2025	185,431	23,432	208,863	70.47
December 2025	188,016	23,724	211,740	70.34

Despite the increase in 2025, from January 2021 to December 2025 Thailand saw a 23% decline in the number of inmates incarcerated for drug-related offenses. Over the same period, the number of women incarcerated for drug-related offenses went down by 34%, which was higher than the 21% decline in the number of men incarcerated for such offenses.

The proportion of prisoners incarcerated for drug-related offenses compared to the total prison population dropped by roughly 11%, from 81% in January 2021 to 70% in December 2025. The decline in proportion of inmates imprisoned for drug-related offenses compared to the total prison population was significantly higher among female inmates (-22%), compared to -8% for male inmates.

Inmates incarcerated for drug-related offenses (January 2021 - December 2025)				
Month / year	Male	Female	Total	% of the total prison population
January 2021	238,516	35,771	274,287	80.96
January 2022	200,929	27,120	228,049	81.5
January 2023	182,821	23,541	206,362	78.67
January 2024	182,604	23,476	206,080	74.54
January 2025	180,173	23,049	203,222	72.37
December 2025	188,016	23,724	211,740	70.34



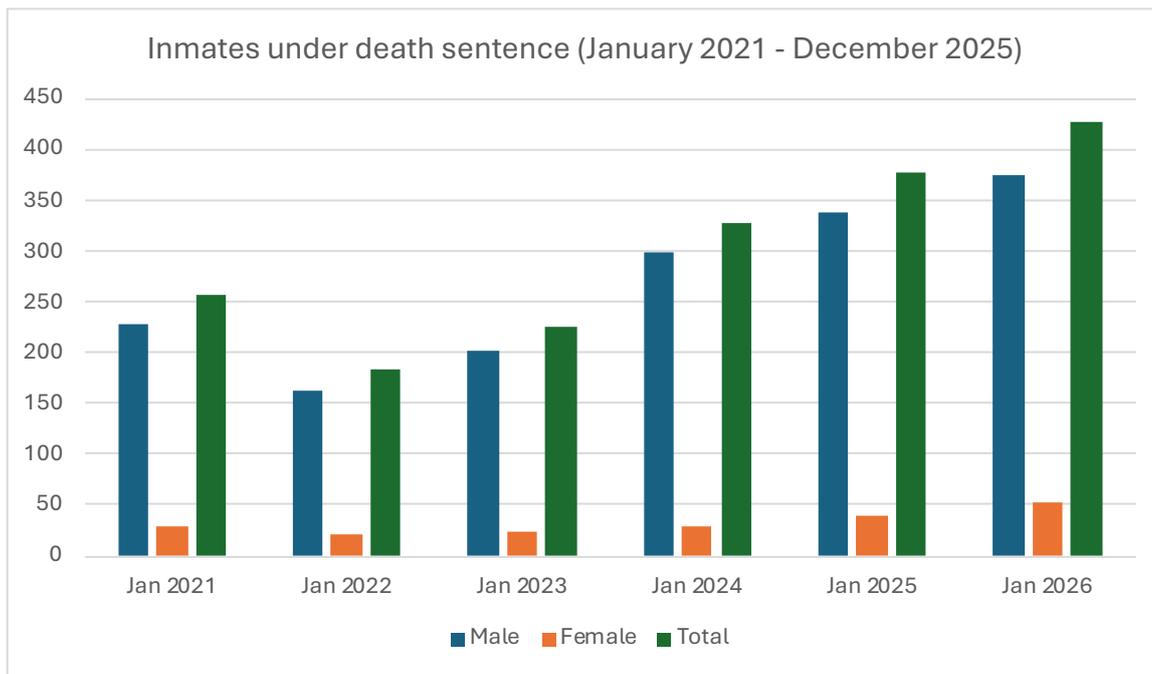
1.5. Inmates under death sentence increase

In 2025, Thailand saw an increase of about 13% in the number of prisoners under death sentence, from 378 inmates in January to 429 in December. The number of female prisoners under death sentence increased by 36%, compared to the 11% increase observed in the number of male prisoners under death sentence.

Inmates under death sentence (January – December 2025)			
Month / year	Male	Female	Total
January 2025	339	39	378
February 2025	347	39	386
March 2025	344	39	383
April 2025	345	41	386
May 2025	353	44	397
June 2025	362	43	405
July 2025	362	46	408
August 2025	366	47	413
September 2025	378	43	421
October 2025	335	46	381
November 2025	353	49	402
December 2025	376	53	429

From January 2022 to December 2025, Thailand observed an increase in the number of prisoners under death sentence for the third consecutive year. As of December 2025, the number of prisoners under death sentence stood at 429, which was a 132% increase from the number recorded in January 2022. Over the same period, the number of male prisoners under death sentence increased by 131%, compared to the 141% increase in the number of female prisoners under death sentence.

Inmates under death sentence (January 2021 - December 2025)			
Month / year	Male	Female	Total
January 2021	228	29	257
January 2022	163	22	185
January 2023	203	24	227
January 2024	299	28	327
January 2025	339	39	378
December 2025	376	53	429



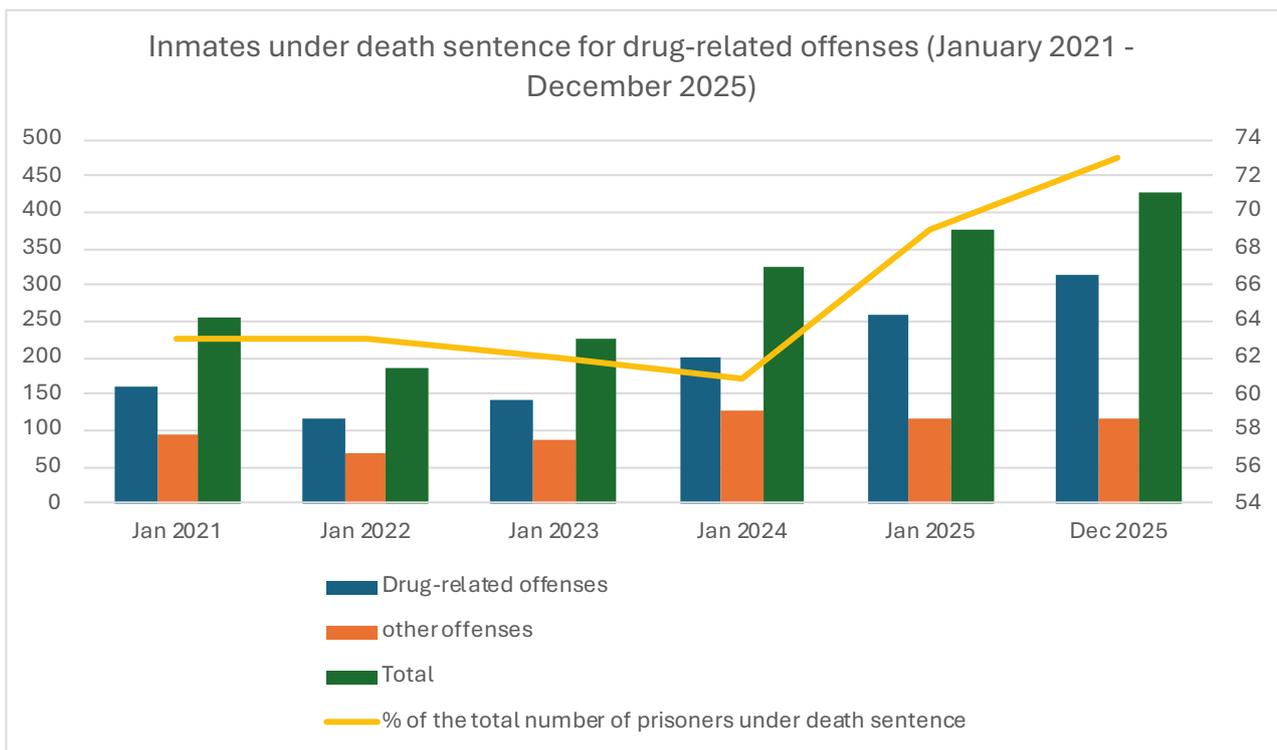
In 2025, drug-related offenses continued to account for the majority of the crimes for which a death sentence had been imposed. As of December 2025, 313 of the 429 inmates under death sentence had been imprisoned for drug-related offenses. Such proportion remained between 69% and 75% throughout the year.

While women constituted a small minority of inmates under death sentence, nearly all of them were convicted of drug-related offenses. As of December 2025, 98% of the female prisoners under death sentence had been convicted of drug-related offenses, which was significantly higher than the 69% of the male prisoners under death sentence for drug-related offenses.

Month / year	Male	Female	Total	% of the total number of prisoners under death sentence
January 2025	224	37	261	69.05
February 2025	232	37	269	69.69
March 2025	232	37	269	70.23
April 2025	228	39	267	69.17
May 2025	236	42	278	70.02
June 2025	247	41	288	71.11
July 2025	250	44	294	72.05
August 2025	252	45	297	71.91
September 2025	262	42	304	72.21
October 2025	238	45	283	74.28
November 2025	253	48	301	74.87
December 2025	261	52	313	72.96

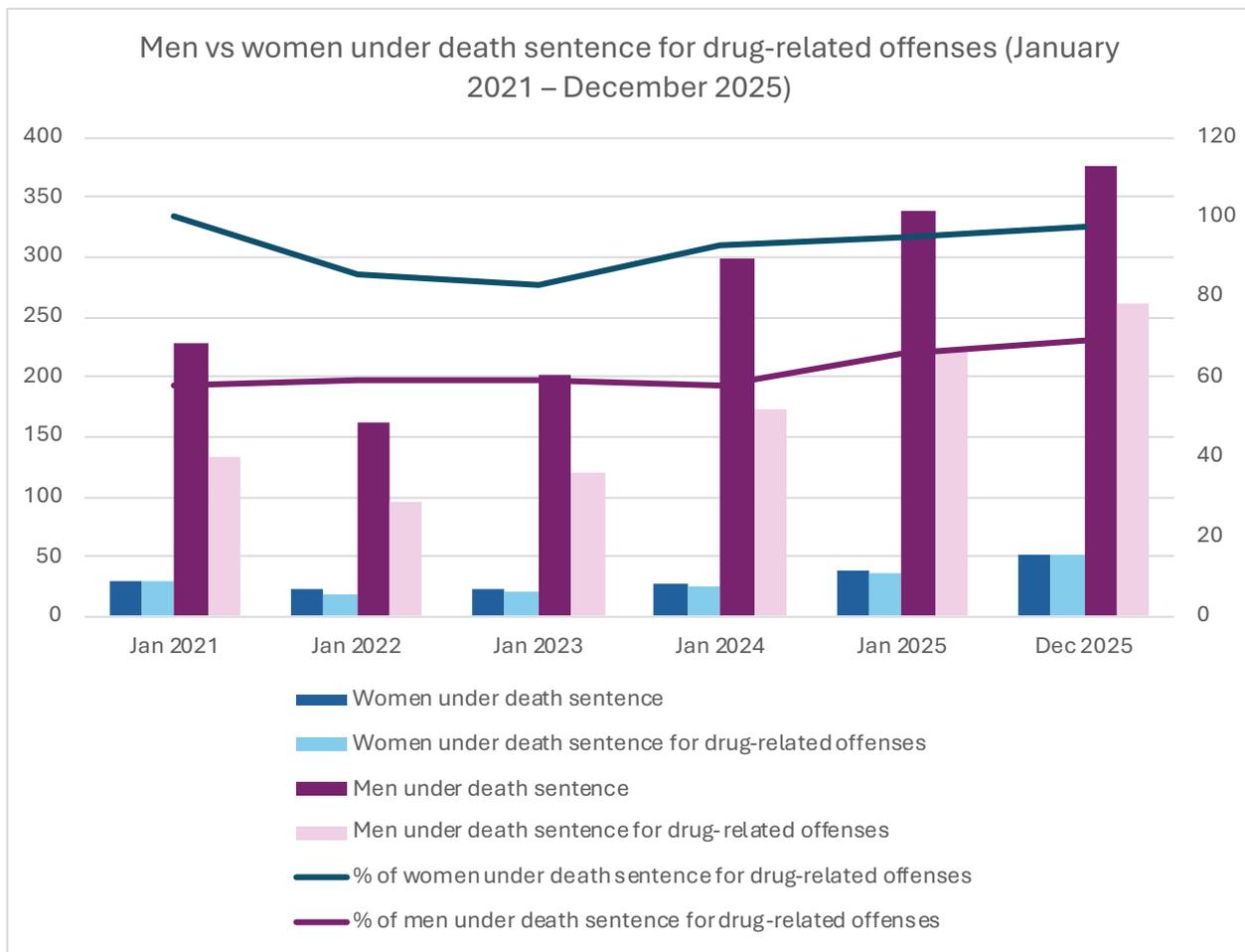
From January 2021 to December 2025, the proportion of those who had been sentenced to death for drug-related offenses compared to the total number of inmates under death sentence increased from 63% to 73%.

Inmates under death sentence for drug-related offenses (January 2021 – December 2025)				
Month/ year	Drug-related offenses	Other offenses	Total	% of the total number of prisoners under death sentence
January 2021	162	95	257	62.99
January 2022	115	70	185	63.03
January 2023	141	86	227	62.10
January 2024	199	128	327	60.85
January 2025	261	117	378	69.05
December 2025	313	116	429	72.96



Between January 2021 and December 2025, women convicted of drug-related offenses continued to disproportionately account for the number of female inmates under death sentence, at an average of 93%. On the contrary, the average proportion of male inmates under death sentence for drug-related offenses compared to the total number of male inmates under death sentence stood at 62%.

Men vs women under death sentence for drug-related offenses (January 2021 – December 2025)						
Month / year	Women under death sentence	Women under death sentence for drug-related offenses	%	Men under death sentence	Men under death sentence for drug-related offenses	%
January 2021	29	29	100	228	133	58
January 2022	22	19	86	163	96	59
January 2023	24	20	83	203	121	59
January 2024	28	26	93	299	173	58
January 2025	39	37	95	339	224	66
December 2025	53	52	98	376	261	69



1.6. Recidivism rate remains high

According to DoC statistics, as of December 2025, 91,633 (or about 43%) of the 212,659 convicted inmates were former offenders. Such percentage remained roughly the same between 2021 and 2025. In 2025, the proportion of reoffenders was significantly higher among male inmates (45%) than female inmates (27%).

As of 16 December 2025, of the over 170,000 inmates released in 2025, approximately 20,000 (or about 12%) had re-offended. The re-offending rates were highest among people who had been convicted of drug-related offenses.

Convicted inmates categorized by number of times in detention (as of December 2025)				
Time in detention	Male	Female	Total	%
1st time in detention	94,870	18,465	113,335	53.29
2nd time in detention	53,347	5,034	58,381	27.45
3rd time in detention	22,218	1,522	23,740	11.16
4th time in detention	6,262	406	6,668	3.14
5th time in detention or more	2,674	170	2,844	1.34
Detained for two or more times	84,501	7,132	91,633	43.09
Uncategorizable	6,627	1,064	7,691	3.62
Total	185,998	26,661	212,659	100.00

1.7. Early release measures significantly drop

In 2025, the number of convicted prisoners benefitting from early release measures declined by 20%. The only mass royal amnesty, which was granted in July 2025 on the occasion of King Rama X's 73rd birthday, resulted in the progressive release of several thousand inmates.

Conditional release of convicted prisoners (January – December 2025)				
Month / year	Good conduct time allowance	Parole	Royal amnesty	Total
January 2025	139	226	934	1,299
February 2025	163	422	260	845
March 2025	199	239	190	628
April 2025	494	1,070	179	1,743
May 2025	268	922	131	1,321
June 2025	503	1,073	197	1,773
July 2025	386	1,133	213	1,732
August 2025	494	1,179	188	1,861
September 2025	61	416	4,796	5,273
October 2025	29	1,139	3,701	4,869
November 2025	48	383	1,715	2,146
December 2025	46	450	550	1,046
Total	2,830	8,652	13,054	24,536

While the number of inmates granted early release through good conduct time allowance and royal amnesty declined from the previous year, at approximately 42% and 36% respectively, the number of convicted prisoners released on parole rose by almost 54%.

Total numbers of conditional release of convicted prisoners (2021 - 2025)				
Year	Good conduct time allowance	Parole	Royal amnesty	Total
2021	5,177	36,776	51,496	93,449
2022	2,477	8,110	35,667	46,254
2023	5,949	11,412	1,442	18,803
2024	4,852	5,636	20,263	30,751
2025	2,830	8,652	13,054	24,536

From 2021 to 2025, the total number of prisoners who benefited from conditional early release measures dropped by 74%.

1.8. Juvenile offenders in prisons decrease

As of December 2025, there were 147 inmates aged below 18 detained in prisons, which was a 7% increase from January 2025.

Month/ year	Number of juvenile offenders detained in prisons
January 2025	138
February 2025	128
March 2025	151
April 2025	150
May 2025	147
June 2025	149
July 2025	148
August 2025	152
September 2025	154
October 2025	151
November 2025	153
December 2025	147

Nonetheless, from January 2021 to December 2025, the juvenile prison population decreased by 63%, from 395 to 147.

Month/ year	Number of Juvenile offenders detained in prisons
January 2021	395
January 2022	170
January 2023	175
January 2024	151
January 2025	138
December 2025	147

1.9. Annual budget increases

For fiscal year 2025 (from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025), the DoC received an annual budget of 17.065 billion baht (about US\$546 million), which accounted for 59% of the total budget allocated to the Ministry of Justice, up by 15% from 14.88 billion baht (about US\$477 million) in the previous fiscal year.¹⁰

Of its annual budget for fiscal year 2025, 5.17 billion baht (about US\$165 million), or 30%, was spent on meals, the same proportion as in fiscal year 2024, meaning that about 48 baht (about US\$1.50) were spent on each prisoner per day.¹¹ In 2025, the Office of Ombudsman expressed concern over the insufficient food budget which resulted in poor quantity and nutritionally inadequate meals for prisoners [See below, 9.5. *Poor quality of food and water*].¹²

From 2021 to 2025, the DoC annual budget increased by 20%, from 14.195 billion baht (about US\$454 million) in fiscal year 2021 (from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021) to 17.065 billion baht (about US\$546 million) in fiscal year 2025. Over the same period, the food budget increased by 18% from 4.4 billion baht (about US\$141 million) to 5.17 billion baht (about US\$165 million). The daily food budget increased by 14%, from 42 baht (about US\$1.30) per prisoner in 2021 to 48 baht (about US\$1.50) per prisoner in 2025.

Fiscal year	DoC annual budget	% of Ministry of Justice’s annual budget	Food budget
2021	14,195,055,800	53%	4,401,243,000
2022	13,495,348,400	56%	4,484,025,000
2023	14,018,597,600	56%	4,400,878,000
2024	14,888,612,400	57%	4,707,916,000
2025	17,065,411,200	59%	5,174,298,000

10. 1 USD = 31.20 Thai baht (Bank of Thailand, Foreign Exchange Rates as of 23 January 2026); Budget Bureau, *Budget document (3rd issues) of Budget Expenditure for fiscal year 2025 (9)*; https://bbstore.bb.go.th/cms/1718090474_9335.pdf [in Thai]

11. Budget Bureau, *Budget document (3rd issues) of Budget Expenditure for fiscal year 2025 (9)*; https://bbstore.bb.go.th/cms/1718090474_9335.pdf [in Thai]

12. Office of Ombudsman, *Letter 1301/34 Report to the Cabinet concerning the government authorities’ failure to comply with Chapter 5 (duties of the state) of the Constitution of Thailand B.E.2560 (2017)*, 30 September 2025, https://resolution.soc.go.th/PDF_UPLOAD/2568/P_414660_4.pdf [in Thai]

2. ALTERNATIVE MEASURES TO DETENTION STILL AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION

Another year was marked by the authorities' failure to implement measures that would allow detention of both pre-trial and convicted inmates in alternative locations outside prisons.

With regard to convicted prisoners, on 19 March 2025, the DoC adopted the operational guidelines for detention outside prisons.¹³ The guidelines were established under a DoC regulation, issued under Article 33 of the Penitentiary Act 1936 (amended in 2017), which was published on 6 December 2023.¹⁴ The regulation allowed for the detention of certain inmates in locations other than prisons as an alternative measure to detention.

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.¹⁵ However, inmates convicted of certain crimes are ineligible for the alternative measures.¹⁶ These include inmates convicted of terrorism, public order offenses,¹⁷ offenses against property,¹⁸ and serious drug-related offenses under the Narcotics Code 2021.¹⁹ They also include 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 1991.²⁰

The guidelines 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.²¹

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."²²

The process is managed by a committee, chaired by the DoC Deputy Director.²³ According to the 2023 regulation, the committee initiates the process by reviewing a list of eligible prisoners at each facility, seeking approval from the prison directors and submitting the pre-approved lists, along with

13. 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/Us-ภาคกรรมาชกัณฑ์-เ็-55/> [in Thai]

14. 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]; FIDH, *Thailand annual prison report 2024*, 14 March 2024; Chapter 4

15. Section 3(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*

16. 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*

17. These include: being a member of a criminal association; participating in a meeting of a criminal association; supporting a criminal association; and criminal conspiracy.

18. These include: extortion; blackmail; robbery; and gang robbery.

19. These include: production, import, export, distribution, and possession of narcotics, except possession for personal use; conspiring, supporting, assisting, or attempting to commit such offenses; or the commission of such offenses with aggravating circumstances, such as trade purposes, causing widespread harm, involving the use or threat of force or weapons, or having an impact on national security or public safety.

20. These include: production, import, or export of narcotics, including for distribution; distribution of narcotics; and possession of narcotics for distribution.

21. 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*

22. 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*

23. The committee consists of directors of relevant DoC's divisions and two independent experts on health and social work.

individual sentencing plans that outline the conditions of the alternative measures, to the DoC Director for the final decision.²⁴

Inmates can be detained outside prisons for the purposes of: (1) separation of prisoners; (2) rehabilitation; (3) medical treatment; and (4) preparation for release.²⁵ For each 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.²⁶ At these locations, CCTV cameras are required to be installed and made accessible for monitoring by prison officers at any time.²⁷ 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.²⁸

The DoC said that the shortage of electronic monitoring devices was the primary cause for the lack of implementation of the alternative detention measures.²⁹ For the 2026 fiscal year (from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2026), the DoC received a budget of 177.7 million baht (approximately US\$5.66 million) for outsourcing 20,000 electrical monitoring devices for the implementation of the guidelines.³⁰

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, pursuant to Article 89/1 of the Thai Criminal Procedure Code.³¹ The amendment process had remained pending since April 2023.³²

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24. Gazette, *Department of Corrections’ regulation concerning the detention in alternative places of detention*, 6 December 2023; <https://medias.thansettakij.com/media/pdf/2023/9Y8ZBKVukNtJ1pWXfFzP.pdf> [in Thai]
25. Gazette, *Department of Corrections’ regulation concerning the detention in alternative places of detention*, 6 December 2023; <https://medias.thansettakij.com/media/pdf/2023/9Y8ZBKVukNtJ1pWXfFzP.pdf> [in Thai]
26. 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*
27. 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*
28. 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*
29. PPTV Online, *Department of Corrections confirms that the measure for detention outside prison has not been applied to Thaksin*, 13 September 2025; <https://www.pptvhd36.com/news/%E0%B8%81%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%A3%E0%B9%80%E0%B8%A1%E0%B8%B7%E0%B8%AD%E0%B8%87/256932> [in Thai]
30. Budget Bureau, *Budget document (3rd issue) of Budget Expenditure for fiscal year 2026 (9)*, https://bbstore.bb.go.th/cms/1747191955_3833.pdf [in Thai]; National Assembly of Thailand, *Minutes of the meeting of the special committee on the 2026 Budget Bill (20th session)*, 1 July 2025; <https://shorturl.at/m4VPe> [in Thai]
31. FIDH, *Thailand annual prison report 2024*, 14 March 2024; Chapter 2; FIDH, *Thailand annual prison report 2025*, 14 March 2025; Chapter 2
32. FIDH, *Thailand annual prison report 2024*, 14 March 2024; Chapter 4

3. EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE TREATMENT OF PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES FALL SHORT

The authorities' efforts to ensure the separation of pre-trial detainees from those with pending appeal processes and convicted prisoners remained insufficient.³³

On 9 April, then-Minister of Justice Tawe Sodsong announced the designation of the Bangkok Remand Prison as a detention center for detainees held pending investigation or trial.³⁴ Convicted inmates and those detained pending their appeal processes at the facility would be transferred to other prisons in Bangkok and five nearby provinces.³⁵ According to the then-Minister, in addition to a separate physical space, pre-trial detainees at the Bangkok Remand Prison would be subjected to new standard operating procedures that cover aspects ranging from attire for court appearance, haircut, access to legal counsel, and family visits, as well as guaranteed access to educational and rehabilitative activities.³⁶

Tawe also stated that the physical separation of detainees would be implemented in other prisons. Depending on the type and size of the facilities, pre-trial detainees would be held in separate buildings, zones, or sleeping cells from convicted inmates.³⁷ In March 2025, a new pre-trial detainee building was brought into operation at Phang Nga Provincial Prison in Phang Nga Province.³⁸

However, according to the DoC, some convicted prisoners would continue to be held in the Bangkok Remand Prison to assist prison officers with daily operations, but their number would be capped at 20% of the facility's total inmate population.³⁹

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33. Thailand's 2017 Constitution guarantees the right to the presumption of innocence. Article 29 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." The right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty is also guaranteed by Article 14(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Thailand is a state party. In addition, 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."
34. Ministry of Justice Facebook page, *Minister of Justice opens Pre-trial Detention Center (Hub) at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 9 April 2025; <https://www.facebook.com/mojthofficial/posts/-รัฐบาลที่ว่าการกระทรวงยุติธรรม-เปิดเรือนจำศูนย์ระหว่างพิจารณาคดี-hub-เรือนจำ1200867641408768/> [in Thai]
35. 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]
36. This initiative was launched in February 2024, when Tawe declared the Minburi Remand Prison in Bangkok would be the first pre-trial detention center and announced the designation of pre-trial detention centers in prisons in Bangkok and seven provinces across the country. 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 Province 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/detail/9670000013766> [in Thai]
37. Manager, *Justice minister opens Hub for Pre-trial Detainees, with a pilot at the Minburi Remand Prison*, 14 February 2024; <https://mgronline.com/crime/detail/9670000013766> [in Thai]
38. NBT Connex, *Director General of the Department of Corrections opens the "Pre-trial Detention Center" at Phang Nga Provincial Prison*, 17 March 2025; <https://thainews.prd.go.th/thainews/news/view/986013/?bid=1> [in Thai]
39. Ministry of Justice Facebook page, *Minister of Justice opens Pre-trial Detention Center (Hub) at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 9 April 2025; <https://www.facebook.com/mojthofficial/posts/-รัฐบาลที่ว่าการกระทรวงยุติธรรม-เปิดเรือนจำศูนย์ระหว่างพิจารณาคดี-hub-เรือนจำ1200867641408768/> [in Thai]

In practice, significant numbers of convicted prisoners continued to be detained in the Bangkok Remand Prison, in some instances in the same cells as pre-trial detainees.⁴⁰ Between May and December 2025, the number of convicted prisoners at the Bangkok Remand Prison increased by 23%, and their proportion compared to the total number of prisoners at the facility increased slightly from 23% to 25%.⁴¹

40. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

41. DoC, *Statistical report on prisoners nationwide – recorded on 1 May 2025*; http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_table.php?date=2025-05-01&area=10&report= [in Thai]; DoC, *Statistical report on prisoners nationwide – recorded on 1 December 2025*; http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_table.php?date=2025-12-01&area=10&report= [in Thai]

4. LIMITED ACCESS TO PRISONS FOR RIGHTS GROUPS

Access to prisons for independent human rights organizations for inspection and monitoring of detention conditions continued to be unduly limited, despite recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms.⁴²

On 10 July 2025, FIDH and UCL sent letters to 13 prisons across Thailand to request access to those facilities to document prison conditions and interview inmates.⁴³ For the first time since the publication of the first Thailand annual prison report in 2022, FIDH and UCL were granted access to interview female inmates at the Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok. However, the other 12 prisons did not reply to the request.

On 16 October 2025, FIDH and UCL interviewed two female inmates detained at the Central Women's Correctional Institution, who had been pre-selected by the prison authorities. 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.

Similar concerns were raised by the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls in its report published on 19 May 2025, which reflected its end of mission statement following the official visit to Thailand from 2 to 13 December 2024.⁴⁴ While the Working Group was allowed to visit women's prisons in Bangkok and Songkhla Province, it strongly regretted that its experts were prevented from "confidential and unsupervised contact" with detainees at the Songkhla Women's Correctional Institution, in violation of the terms of reference for UN special procedure country visits. The Working Group lamented that the lack of unrestricted independent monitoring and oversight of the correctional facilities raised "serious concerns" that human rights violations that may take place there could go unreported.

The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) remained the only organization mandated to conduct visits to prisons to assess detention conditions as well as in response to any complaints made by inmates. However, there was no public report on the prisons visited by the NHRCT under its regular visits' mandate in 2025.

A variety of other external organizations did not face obstacles in accessing prisons across the country. Among those who visited prisons in 2025 were: a delegation from the Ministry of Justice of Japan;⁴⁵ the International Corrections and Prisons Association;⁴⁶ the Singapore Prison Service;⁴⁷ and the Maldives Correctional Service.⁴⁸

42. FIDH, *Thailand annual prison report 2025*, 14 March 2025; Chapter 5

43. The 13 prisons were: the Chiang Mai Women's Correctional Institution in Chiang Mai Province; Lampang Central Prison in Lampang Province; Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province; Phuket Provincial Prison in Phuket Province; the Songkhla Women's Correctional Institution in Songkhla Province; the Chonburi Women's Correctional Institution and Pattaya Remand Prison in Chonburi Province; the Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok; Nakhon Nayok Provincial Prison in Nakhon Nayok Province; the Phitsanulok Women's Correctional Institution in Phitsanulok Province; the Nakhon Ratchasima Women's Correctional Institution and Nakhon Ratchasima Central Prison in Nakhon Ratchasima Province; and the Khon Kaen Correctional Institution for Drug-addicts in Khon Kaen Province.

44. UN Human Rights Council, *Visit to Thailand: Report of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls*, 19 May 2025, UN Doc. A/HRC/59/45/Add.2; FIDH, *Thailand annual prison report 2025*, March 2025; Chapter 5

45. Central Women's Correctional Institution Facebook page, *Welcome Ministry of Justice of Japan Delegation*, 21 January 2025; <https://shorturl.at/A8VeU> [in Thai]

46. DoC, *Chonburi Women's Correctional Institution welcomes participants of the 2nd Corrections Technology Conference (CTC)*, 27 February 2025; <https://shorturl.at/cU8Gm> [in Thai]

47. Nakhon Pathom Central Prison Facebook page, *A delegation from the Singapore Prison Service (SPS) and the Maldives Correctional Service visit Nakhon Pathom Central Prison for a study tour*, 26 May 2025; <https://www.facebook.com/profile/100068979257069/search/?q=singapore> [in Thai]

48. Nakhon Pathom Central Prison Facebook page, *A delegation from the Singapore Prison Service (SPS) and the Maldives Correctional Service visit Nakhon Pathom Central Prison for a study tour*, 26 May 2025; <https://www.facebook.com/profile/100068979257069/search/?q=singapore> [in Thai]

5. ABUSE OF INSTRUMENTS OF RESTRAINT

Testimonies from prisoners and former prisoners and a petition filed by a prominent political prisoner brought renewed attention to the abuse of instrument of restraints against prisoners.

Instruments of restraint, particularly handcuffs, ankle cuffs, weighted ankle shackles, and chains, continued to be widely and excessively used on both pre-trial and convicted inmates for various purposes, including as a form of punishment for disciplinary offenses, often for extended periods. Prison officers routinely imposed the use of restraints on inmates in an arbitrary manner, without conducting individual assessments of the risk posed by them or any systematic review. In many circumstances, the application of restraints inflicted injury, physical pain, or humiliation and amounted to ill-treatment of prisoners [See below, 9.2. *Torture and inhumane treatment or punishment*].

On 21 July 2025, the Bangkok Criminal Court rejected a petition seeking the removal of ankle cuffs from detained human rights lawyer Anon Nampa during one of his trials under Article 112 of the Criminal Code (*lèse-majesté*).⁴⁹ According to the petition, filed in May 2025, Anon wore ankle cuffs 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.⁵⁰ 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.⁵¹ The court dismissed the petition, citing that the authorities' use of shackles was consistent with the Penitentiary Act.

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 international human rights obligations and international standards.

The UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which Thailand is a state party, absolutely prohibits torture and other acts of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, including in the context of detention. The UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment stated that the use of instruments of restraint in order to control a detainee may amount to torture or ill-treatment when they are applied "in a degrading and painful manner."⁵²

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.⁵³ The use of restraints as a sanction for disciplinary offenses is explicitly prohibited.⁵⁴ Instruments of restraint can be imposed "when no lesser form of control would be effective to address the risks posed by unrestricted movement."⁵⁵ The method of restraint must also

49. Prachatai, *Court dismisses request to remove Anon's leg shackles during trial*, 22 July 2025

50. 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

51. Prachatai, *Court dismisses request to remove Anon's leg shackles during trial*, 22 July 2025

52. 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

53. Rule 47(2) of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "Other instruments of restraint shall only be used when authorized by law and in the following circumstances:
(a) As a precaution against escape during a transfer, provided that they are removed when the prisoner appears before a judicial or administrative authority;
(b) By order of the prison director, if other methods of control fail, in order to prevent a prisoner from injuring himself or herself or others or from damaging property; in such instances, the director shall immediately alert the physician or other qualified health-care professionals and report to the higher administrative authority."

54. Rule 43(2) of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "Instruments of restraint shall never be applied as a sanction for disciplinary offences."

55. Rule 48(1)(a) of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "Instruments of restraint are to be imposed only when no lesser form of control would be effective to address the risks posed by unrestricted movement."

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.⁵⁶ The use of chains, irons, or other types of restraint that are inherently degrading or painful is prohibited.⁵⁷ Restraints must also be removed before the prisoner is brought before a judicial authority,⁵⁸ or as soon as the risk justifying their use no longer exists.⁵⁹

With regard to the imposition of restraints on prisoners, the Thai Penitentiary Act 2017 provides for a more permissive framework than international standards. 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."⁶⁰ 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 Ministry of Justice'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.⁶¹

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.

On 24 July 2025, the NHRCT held a consultation with relevant authorities about the use of instrument of restraints on pre-trial detainees.⁶² The participants agreed that the use of instruments of restraints should balance public order and safety with Thailand's international obligations, particularly the right to the presumption of innocence. The inputs from the meeting would be incorporated into the NHRCT's recommendations for policy and legal reforms to ensure compliance with international human rights standards.

56. Rule 48 (1)(b) of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "The method of restraint shall be the least intrusive method that is necessary and reasonably available to control the prisoner's movement, based on the level and nature of the risks posed."

57. Rule 47(1) of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "The use of chains, irons or other instruments of restraint which are inherently degrading or painful shall be prohibited."

58. Rule 47(2)(a) of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

59. Rule 48(c) of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "Instruments of restraint shall be imposed only for the time period required, and they are to be removed as soon as possible after the risks posed by unrestricted movement are no longer present."

60. Gazette, *Penitentiary Act 2017*, 18 February 2027; <https://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2560/A/021/1.PDF> [in Thai]

61. Other types of restraints prescribed by the regulation include plastic wristlets and straightjackets; Gazette, *Ministerial regulation on the types, kinds, and sizes of instruments of restraint used on prisoners 2020*, 12 October 2020; <https://shorturl.at/1rUPA> [in Thai]

62. NHRCT, *The Office of the National Human Rights Commission held a consultation meeting on "the use of instruments of restraints on pre-trial detainees"*, 26 July 2025; <https://www.nhrc.or.th/index.php/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/14806> [in Thai]

6. QUESTIONS RAISED OVER PRISON DEATHS

The latest death of a high-profile inmate raised questions about the circumstances surrounding such cases and their handling by the authorities.

On the night of 7 March 2025, former police superintendent Thitisan Utthanaphon was found dead in his cell in Zone 5 of Bangkok’s Khlong Prem Central Prison.⁶³ Thitisan was serving a life sentence after being found guilty in June 2022 of torturing a drug suspect to death in August 2021 in Nakhon Sawan City police station, Nakhon Sawan Province. The case had sparked widespread public anger and considerable national media coverage after a video of the crime was leaked online.

According to the DoC, Thitisan was found sitting against his cell’s door with “bruised fingers and no pulse” and a towel wrapped around his neck and tied to the cell’s door.⁶⁴ An initial autopsy conducted by the Ministry of Justice’s Central Institute of Forensic Science on Thitisan’s body on 9 March 2025 indicated the probable cause of death was suicide by hanging.⁶⁵

However, Thitisan’s relatives disputed the finding of suicide. Thitisan’s wife, who had visited him around eight hours before his body was found, said Thitisan appeared calm, showed no signs of stress or indications that he intended to take his own life, and even discussed plans for his post-release from prison.⁶⁶ According to the DoC, Thitisan had no life-threatening pre-existing conditions, but he had been diagnosed with anxiety disorder, a condition for which he received unspecified treatment and medication. Thitisan’s lawyer later denied the claim that he had suffered from anxiety disorder.⁶⁷

On 8 March 2025, the DoC revealed that during a consultation with a psychiatrist on 18 February 2025, Thitisan exhibited paranoid behavior and “feared that other inmates might harm him.”⁶⁸ This was possibly related to an argument Thitisan had with prison guards on 8 January 2025.⁶⁹ Contradicting reports emerged about the reasons for such argument.⁷⁰ On 10 January 2025, Thitisan was transferred from the prison’s Zone 7 to Zone 5, where he was placed in a segregated cell due to safety concerns and pending an investigation into the incident.⁷¹ It was reported that a medical examination certificate from the DoC Hospital had found “bruising from a blunt object” on Thitisan’s left ribcage in connection with the incident.⁷² Thitisan’s family then filed complaints to several authorities, raising concerns over the “harassment and violence” by a prison guard and a fellow inmate, which “severely affected his well-

63. Nation, *Superintendent Jo, involved in the “black bag case,” dies by suicide in prison*, 8 March 2025

64. Bangkok Post, *Torture convict ‘Joe Ferrari’ found hanged in prison*, 8 March 2025; Nation, *Superintendent Jo, involved in the “black bag case,” dies by suicide in prison*, 8 March 2025

65. Bangkok Post, *Suicide ‘most likely’ cause of Joe Ferrari’s cell death*, 9 March 2025; Nation, *Corrections Dept denies abuse after ‘Joe Ferrari’ found dead in cell*, 10 March 2025

66. Nation, *Tawee oversees the investigation into the death of Superintendent Jo*, 8 March 2025; Bangkok Post, *Doubts cloud jailed cop’s death*, 9 March 2025; DoC Public Relations Facebook page, *Department of Corrections announces the death of Superintendent Jo in prison, after suffering from anxiety disorder*, 8 March 2025; <https://shorturl.at/Z8cza> [in Thai]

67. Thai PBS, *Lawyer confirmed Superintendent Jo did not have underlying mental condition and was involuntarily placed in isolation cell*, 8 March 2025; <https://www.thaipbs.or.th/news/content/350001> [in Thai]

68. Bangkok Post, *Torture convict ‘Joe Ferrari’ found hanged in prison*, 8 March 2025; Nation, *Superintendent Jo, involved in the “black bag case,” dies by suicide in prison*, 8 March 2025; DoC Public Relations Facebook page, *Department of Corrections announces the death of Superintendent Jo in prison, after suffering from anxiety disorder*, 8 March 2025; <https://shorturl.at/Z8cza> [in Thai]

69. Nation, *Guards linked to apparent suicide of ex-cop to face prosecution*, 9 March 2025; Nation, *Corrections Dept denies abuse after Joe Ferrari’ found dead in cell*, 10 March 2025

70. Nation, *Guards linked to apparent suicide of ex-cop to face prosecution*, 9 March 2025; Bangkok Post, *Suicide ‘most likely’ cause of Joe Ferrari’s cell death*, 9 March 2025; Thai PBS, *From luxury to infamy: The murky life and death of killer cop ‘Joe Ferrari’*, 11 Mar 2025; Nation, *Corrections Dept denies abuse after ‘Joe Ferrari’ found dead in cell*, 10 March 2025

71. Nation, *Corrections Dept denies abuse after ‘Joe Ferrari’ found dead in cell*, 10 March 2025; Nation, *Chief guard suspended as Tawee vows fair probe into ex-cop’s death*, 10 March 2025; Nation, *Thai Prison Opens Cell of Dead Police Chief, Clarifies Detention Conditions*, 11 March 2025

72. Nation, *Tawee oversees the investigation into the death of Superintendent Jo*, 8 March 2025; Nation, *Guards linked to apparent suicide of ex-cop to face prosecution*, 9 March 2025

being and safety,”⁷³ but it is unclear whether an investigation into the incident was ever completed.⁷⁴

Two separate investigations - one by the prison and another by a panel set up by the Ministry of Justice - were launched into Thitisan's death.⁷⁵ The Ministry of Justice's investigation into Thitinan's death confirmed that the former police officer died by suicide through asphyxiation from hanging. Forensic experts confirmed that the injuries were consistent with self-inflicted hanging and there were no signs of struggle or foul play.⁷⁶

Thai authorities also failed to make significant progress in the investigation of another high-profile case of death in custody and provide justice to the victim's family.

Authorities were unable to complete the investigation into the death of detained woman human rights defender Netiporn Sanesangkhom (aka Bung), who suffered a cardiac arrest while in custody of the DoC on the morning of 14 May 2024.⁷⁷ After several postponements, two inquest hearings were conducted on 20 August and 8 October 2025 at the Thanyaburi Provincial Court in Pathumthani Province.⁷⁸ Four out of a total of 11 witnesses were examined, and the next hearing was scheduled for 5 February 2026.⁷⁹

There was no public report on the result of the DoC fact-finding committee's parallel investigation into Netiporn's death.

73. PPTV, *Police report filed: 'Former Superintendent Jo' assaulted in prison*, 8 March 2025; <https://www.pptvhd36.com/news/อาชกรกฤษฎ/244352> [in Thai]; Isara, *Full complaint letter of 'Superintendent Jo' to the Director-General of the Department of Corrections, in relation to his suicide by hanging in prison*, 8 March 2025; <https://www.isranews.org/article/isranews-scoop/136260-politics-47.html> [in Thai]

74. Nation, *Tawee oversees the investigation into the death of Superintendent Jo*, 8 March 2025

75. Nation, *Chief guard suspended as Tawee vows fair probe into ex-cop's death*, 10 March 2025

76. Nation, *Justice Ministry confirms suicide in death of "Superintendent Joe"*, 18 April 2025

77. 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*); FIDH, *Annual Prison Report 2025*, 27 March 2025; Chapter 4

78. Prachatai, *Inquest into hunger striking activist's death in detention begins*, 25 August 2025

79. Thai Lawyers for Human Rights, *Human in court: What is an inquest?*, 21 August 2025; <https://tlhr2014.com/archives/77624> [in Thai]

7. TORTURE PREVENTION EFFORTS UNDERMINED BY LACK OF OPERATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

The authorities' preparatory measures to establish systematic detention oversight mechanisms for the prevention of torture fell short of the standards set out in the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which Thailand has not yet ratified.

Under the OPCAT, state parties are obligated to set up one or several National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) at the domestic level.⁸⁰ NPMs are independent bodies mandated to conduct regular and unannounced visits to all places of detention to examine the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty with a view to strengthening their protection against torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.⁸¹

In April 2025, the Cabinet adopted a resolution acknowledging the recommendation previously made by the NHRCT in September 2024 to the government to ratify OPCAT to ensure effective, independent, regular, and unannounced visits to places to detention as a fundamental safeguard against torture.⁸² However, the Cabinet decided that Thailand was not yet ready for the ratification of OPCAT, a step that had been recommended by the Ministry of Justice and other authorities in January 2025. The Cabinet tasked the Ministry of Justice to continue working on preparing relevant government institutions for the ratification in the future, and approved the designation of the NHRCT to serve as the NPM upon ratification of the treaty.⁸³

In August 2025, the NHRCT, under its new Unit for the Inspection of Detention Facilities and the Prevention of Torture, conducted a visit to the DoC Hospital in Bangkok.⁸⁴

Nonetheless, concerns remain regarding the operational autonomy and effectiveness of the NHRCT. For example, the NHRCT's reliance on cooperation with, and authorization from, the DoC to access prisons raises questions about its autonomy and ability to operate as an independent and effective NPM.⁸⁵ In addition, the absence of clear safeguards to protect detainees from reprisals could prevent them to speak freely and, as a result, undermine the credibility of the information.⁸⁶ The lack of specific guidelines for reporting individual cases of deliberate ill-treatment to relevant authorities could undermine the preventive efforts by increasing the risk that serious violations may go unreported, uninvestigated, and unaddressed.⁸⁷

80. The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was adopted on 18 December 2002 and entered into force on 22 June 2006. It establishes a system of regular, independent visits to places of detention for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; NHRCT, *Press Release of the NHRC on the occasion of the "International Day in Support of Victims of Torture" on 26 June 2025*, 25 June 2025; <https://shorturl.at/iWY5I> [in Thai]

81. OHCHR, *Preventing torture: The role of National Preventive Mechanisms – A practical guide*, 1 January 2018

82. Thai Government, *Summary of the Cabinet Meeting - 29 April 2025*, 29 April 2025, <https://www.thaigov.go.th/news/contents/details/95900> [in Thai]

83. Ministry of Justice, *Letter Yor Tor 0401/2060 recommendation concerning the implementation of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act B.E. 2565 (2022) and the ratification of OPCAT*, 27 February 2025, https://resolution.soc.go.th/PDF_UPLOAD/2568/P_413494_6.pdf [in Thai]

84. The Unit was established in November 2023 with the mandate to visit all places of detention, including prisons, police stations, juvenile detention centers, immigration detention centers, drug rehabilitation centers, psychiatric institutions, training centers for new military cadets, and military interrogation or detention centers. In addition to the DoC Hospital in Bangkok, in 2024 the Unit carried out visits to four other prisons: Phitsanulok Central Prison in Phitsanulok Province; the Chonburi Women's Correctional Institution in Chonburi Province; the Central Correctional Institution For Young Offenders in Pathumthani Province, and Samut Prakan Central Prison in Samut Prakan Province; NHRCT, *Manual on preventive visits: from guidelines to tools for the prevention of torture and ill-treatment*, December 2025; <https://shorturl.at/saUsO> [in Thai]

85. Under Articles 4 and 9 of OPCAT, NPMs should be able to choose freely the places of deprivation of liberty in which visits are to be carried out, to determine whether the visits will be announced or unannounced.

86. These safeguards could include, for example, a clear policy on the types of information that can be collected during group interviews and private interview, the monitoring or transfer of inmates to other facilities in cases of particular concerns, or other types of intervention and assistance from other actors; Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, *Analytical self-assessment tool for National Prevention Mechanisms (NPM) - A preliminary guide by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture regarding the functioning of an NPM*, 6 February 2012, UN Doc. CAT/OP/1, para. 25

87. Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, *Analytical self-assessment tool for National Prevention Mechanisms (NPM) - A preliminary guide by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture*

The role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in this mechanism appeared to remain limited. In particular, it would be impossible to conduct joint visits to prisons and other correctional facilities with CSOs due to the DoC's ongoing refusal to allow external organizations to inspect and monitor detention conditions [See above, 4. *Limited access to prison for rights groups*].⁸⁸ These restrictions were inconsistent with a recommendation made to the Thai government by the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT) in November 2024 to "enhance" the role played by non-governmental organizations in monitoring places of detention.⁸⁹

regarding the functioning of an NPM, 6 February 2012, UN Doc. CAT/OP/1, para. 18

88. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which is established under OPCAT, recommended direct engagement between NPMs and CSOs, including the conduct of visits as well as dialogues with the authorities; Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, *Visit to Brazil undertaken from 19 to 30 October 2015: observations and recommendations addressed to the State party*, 16 February 2017, UN Doc. CAT/OP/BRA/3, para. 89

89. CAT, *Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Thailand*, 9 December 2024, UN Doc. CAT/C/THA/CO/2, para. 15

8. TIGHTER DRUG REGULATIONS LEAD TO MORE PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS

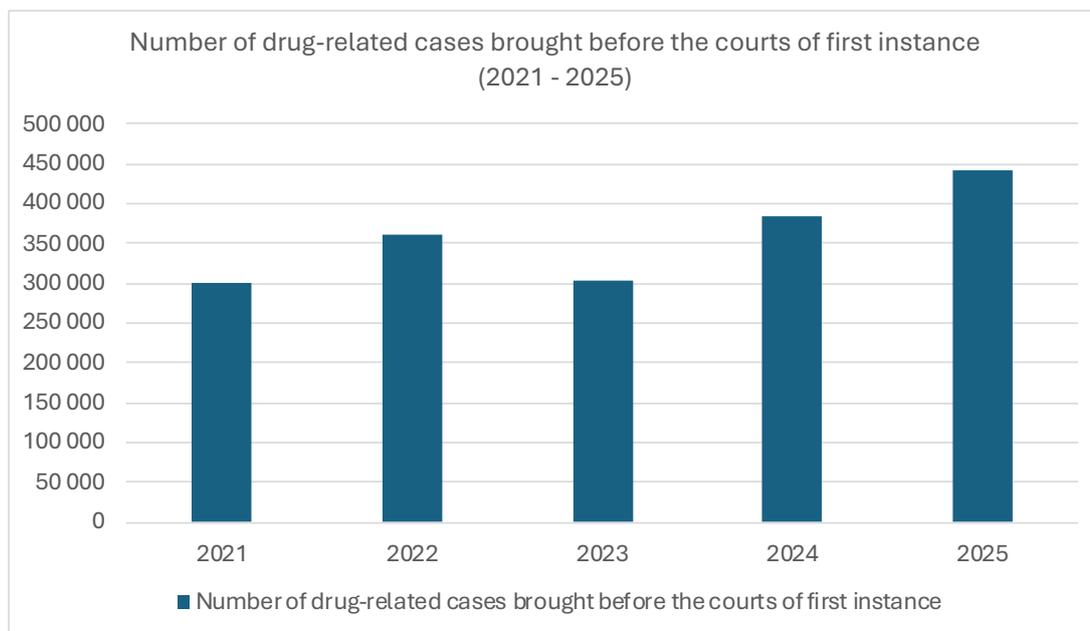
The lower limit on possession of methamphetamines and amphetamines for personal use, enacted in June 2024,⁹⁰ had a rapid impact in the number of drug-related prosecutions and convictions – both of which increased in 2025, along with the number of drug-related detentions [See above, *Chapter 2.4 Incarceration rate for drug-related offenses remains high*].

8.1. Number of drug-related prosecutions and convictions increase

The number of drug-related cases brought before the courts of first instance increased by 15%, from 382,800 in 2024 to 440,069 in 2025.⁹¹ This number represent an increase of almost 46% from the 301,451 cases recorded in 2021.

In 2025, methamphetamines and amphetamines--related cases accounted for nearly (97%) all drug-related cases brought before courts of first instance.⁹² The number of such cases, which stood at 428,642, represented a 15% increase from the 371,505 cases recorded in 2024.⁹³

Year	Number of drug-related cases brought before the courts of first instance
2021	301,451
2022	360,872
2023	303,884
2024	382,800
2025	440,069



90. FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2025*, 27 March 2025; Chapter 6

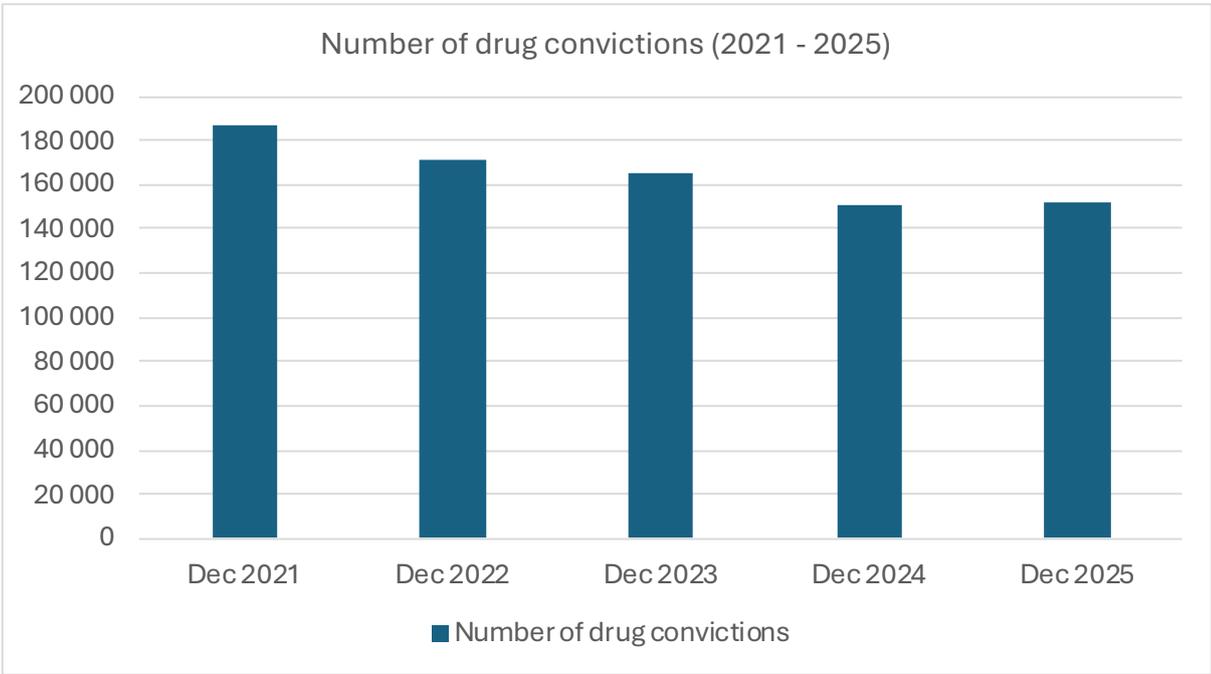
91. E-mail correspondence between FIDH and the Office of Planning and Budget of Court of Justice, 22 January 2025

92. Office of Planning and Budget of Court of Justice, *Court of Justice's performance report 2025*; <https://oppb.coj.go.th/th/content/category/detail/id/8/cid/2087/iid/448124> [in Thai]

93. Office of Planning and Budget of Court of Justice, *Court of Justice's performance report 2024*; <https://oppb.coj.go.th/th/content/category/detail/id/8/cid/2087/iid/448124> [in Thai]; E-mail correspondence between FIDH and the Office of Planning and Budget of Court of Justice, 22 January 2025

The number of convictions for drug-related offenses slightly increased (+0.4%), from 150,863 in December 2024 to 151,472 in December 2025. This development marked a reversal of a downward trend (-19% between 2021 and 2024) in drug-related convictions, which had followed the reforms of drug laws and policy implemented by the government at the end of 2021 with the aim to promote the use of non-custodial measures.⁹⁴

Year (as of 1 December)	Number of drug convictions
2021	187,204
2022	171,018
2023	165,576
2024	150,863
2025	151,472



94. FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2022*, 1 March 2022; Chapter 5

8.2. Admissions to drug rehabilitations increase

The tighter rules on possession of methamphetamines and amphetamine for personal use also appeared to be a contributing factor to the increase in the number of cases diverted to the rehabilitation system as an alternative to incarceration.⁹⁵

In 2025, approximately 227,228 cases had been diverted to drug rehabilitation, largely through the voluntary system.⁹⁶ The number of voluntary admissions to rehabilitation in 2025 stood at 188,331 which was a 9% increase from the 172,187 voluntary admissions recorded in 2024.⁹⁷

Admission to drug rehabilitation by referral system ⁹⁸							
Year	Voluntary system ⁹⁹		By court verdict ¹⁰⁰			Penitentiary system	Overall
	Article 113 of the Narcotics Code (NC)	Article 114 of the NC	Article 56 of the Criminal Code	Article 166 of the NC	Article 168 of the NC		
2021	92,826	12,281	46	7	12	16,474	121,646
2022	64,661	25,365	14	510	840	31,741	123,131
2023	101,109	55,825	169	449	951	21,130	179,633
2024	121,765	50,422	10,453	1,161	3,688	32,469	219,958
2025	117,432	70,899	33,295	1,774	3,828	19,764	246,992

95. FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2025*, 27 March 2025; Chapter 6

96. In 2025, the Ministry of Public Health adopted a new drug rehabilitation reporting system that affected its figures for previous years, which were reproduced by FIDH and UCL in their annual prison reports

97. Ministry of Public Health, *Report on admission to drug rehabilitation (New Narcotics Code)*, accessed on 23 January 2026; <https://antidrug.moph.go.th/report/normal> [in Thai]

98. Ministry of Public Health, *Report on admission to drug rehabilitation (New Narcotics Code)*, accessed on 30 January 2025; <https://antidrugnew.moph.go.th/Runtime/Runtime/Form/FrmReports/> [in Thai]

99. According to the Narcotics Code, enacted in 2021, drug users can be admitted to voluntary rehabilitation scheme as an alternative to prosecution by seeking treatment in drug rehabilitation centers before their arrest (Article 113) or after their arrest (Article 114)

100. Article 166 of the Narcotics Code stipulates that courts have the power to change the punishment from imprisonment to alternative measures, including drug rehabilitation, as prescribed under the Criminal Code, within a period not exceeding two years. Article 168 of the Narcotics Code stipulates that if a court considers that it is inappropriate to impose punishment on a defendant, it may ask the public prosecutor to order the admission of the defendant to a rehabilitation facility, with the defendant’s agreement. In addition, Article 56 of the Criminal Code stipulates that courts may suspend the sentence or order probation measures, including drug rehabilitation, if the individual convicted of a drug-related offense is a first-time offender or has been punished for petty offenses or negligence

9. PRISON CONDITIONS BELOW INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

9.1. Sub-standard accommodation conditions

Many interviewed prisoners and former prisoners reported insufficient living space in cells and the lack of consistent standards around the distribution and quality of bedding materials.

According to many interviewed prisoners and former prisoners, personal space allocated to inmates in shared cells fell below the international standard for personal living space of 3.4 m² per inmate, as recommended by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the minimum accommodation space of 1.6 m² (80 cm x 2 m) per inmate as mandated by the DoC.¹⁰¹

According to interviewed prisoners and former prisoners, inmates had minimal personal living space, ranging between 0.48 m² and 1.6 m² per inmate.

For example, former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison reported that, due to overcrowding, inmates had personal space of only about 40 cm in width on which to sleep, leaving them barely able to turn.¹⁰² According to a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison, his cell of 45 m² (9 m x 5 m) accommodated up to 60 prisoners.¹⁰³ A prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison said his cell of 24 m² (6 m x 4 m) accommodated 50 prisoners.¹⁰⁴ A prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison reported sharing a cell of 38 m² with up to 60 inmates, who had to sleep with their legs piled on top of one another.¹⁰⁵ According to a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison, a cell of 42 m² (7 m x 6 m) accommodated 37 prisoners.¹⁰⁶ According to a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution, a cell of 110 m² accommodated about 120-140 elderly inmates, with each inmate having personal space about the size of one mattress (about 70 X 160 cm), or less, to sleep on.¹⁰⁷ A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison said a cell of 45 m² (9 m x 5 m) accommodated 30 inmates.¹⁰⁸ A former prisoner at Trang Central Prison reported that a cell of 35 m² (7 m x 5 m) accommodated 22 inmates.¹⁰⁹

According to many interviewed prisoners and former prisoners, authorities failed to ensure consistent standards around the provision of quality bedding materials.¹¹⁰ While some prisons where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained provided adequate number of blankets and mattresses, others provided just blankets for inmates to sleep on.

Interviewed former prisoners at Trang Central Prison, Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison, the Bangkok Remand Prison, and the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution were provided with three blankets - one to cover their body and the other two as substitute for pillow and mattress.¹¹¹ A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison said that inmates typically received only one or two blankets, which were insufficient, so they had to purchase additional blankets or obtain them from inmates who had been released.¹¹² Prisoners at Khlong Prem Central Prison and the Bangkok Remand Prison

101. ICRC, *Water, sanitation, hygiene and habitat in prisons: Supplementary guidance*, 11 June 2020

102. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

103. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

104. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

105. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

106. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 17 October 2025

107. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

108. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

109. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

110. Rule 21 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "Every prisoner shall, in accordance with local or national standards, be provided with a separate bed and with separate and sufficient bedding which shall be clean when issued, kept in good order and changed often enough to ensure its cleanliness."

111. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

112. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

reported the unequal distribution of blankets or mattresses across different cells or prison zones.¹¹³

Other issues about bedding materials raised by interviewed prisoners and former prisoners included the poor quality of blankets and mattresses provided by the prisons.

A former prisoner from Phitsanulok Provincial Prison, who was given only one thin towel that barely fit the size of his body to sleep on, recalled: “The towel that’s on the concrete floor is very tiny and you feel the concrete right under you. It was so uncomfortable, so I kept turning over every few minutes.”¹¹⁴

A former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution commented that the mattresses distributed to inmates were too short for tall people and too thin.¹¹⁵ According to prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution, Khlong Prem Central Prison, the Bangkok Remand Prison, and former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison and the Bangkok Remand Prison, the cleanliness of bedding depended largely on individual inmates, who were responsible for washing their own bedding materials on specific days using personal detergents or paying other inmates for laundry services.¹¹⁶ A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison said that the blanket laundering was done about once a month.¹¹⁷



The towel that’s on the concrete floor is very tiny and you feel the concrete right under you. It was so uncomfortable, so I kept turning over every few minutes. ©FIDH

Some interviewed prisoners and former prisoners shared other concerns regarding poor living conditions in cells, such as inadequate ventilation and constant light exposure, which affected the inmates’ health and overall well-being.¹¹⁸

113. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

114. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 17 October 2025

115. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

116. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*; FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

117. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

118. Rule 13 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: “All accommodation provided for the use of prisoners and in particular all sleeping accommodation shall meet all requirements of health, due regard being paid to climatic conditions and particularly to cubic content of air, minimum floor space, lighting, heating and ventilation.” Rule 14 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: “In all places where prisoners are required to live or work: (a) The

In some prisons where interviewed prisoners and former prisoners were detained, the cells were poorly ventilated due to crowded conditions and insufficient fans.

A prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison and former prisoners at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison, the Central Women's Correctional Institution, and the Bangkok Remand Prison complained about flies, heat, and poor air quality in the cells.¹¹⁹ The prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison further noted that the heat and poor airflow, combined with overcrowding, often contributed to the spread of skin diseases, rashes, and violent interactions among inmates.¹²⁰

In addition, a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution complained that inmates were often exposed to rain on rainy days because the windows had to be kept open at all times.¹²¹

In all prisons where interviewed prisoners and former prisoners were detained, inmates had to sleep with the lights on, except at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution, where inmates were allowed to turn the lights off at night. Some prisons had more relaxed arrangement around lighting control, which allowed inmates to dim or switch off certain lights during nighttime. For example, a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution said that certain cell lights could be turned off, while a minimum level of light had to remain on.¹²² A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison reported that, in certain zones of the facility, inmates were allowed to adjust the brightness of the cell lights.¹²³

In all prisons where interviewed former prisoners were detained, inmates were responsible for keeping the cells clean and tidy on a daily basis.

A former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution complained about insufficient cleaning supplies provided by the prison.¹²⁴ A prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison and a former prisoner at Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution noted that inmates paid about 10-15 baht (about US\$0.30-0.50) per month to inmates assigned to clean the cells.¹²⁵

9.2. Torture and inhumane treatment or punishment

Most interview prisoners and former prisoners reported forms of punishment and procedures that could amount to ill-treatment and, in some cases, torture.¹²⁶

The majority of interviewed male prisoners and former male prisoners reported the excessive use of force by prison guards, involving kicking, slapping, and hitting them with wooden batons, as forms of punishment for disciplinary offenses, including fighting, smoking, possessing prohibited items, stealing, sexual harassment, and other violations of prison rules, such as disobeying orders. Such

windows shall be large enough to enable the prisoners to read or work by natural light and shall be so constructed that they can allow the entrance of fresh air whether or not there is artificial ventilation; (b) Artificial light shall be provided sufficient for the prisoners to read or work without injury to eyesight."

119. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 17 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

120. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

121. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

122. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

123. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

124. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

125. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

126. Rule 43 paragraph one of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "1. In no circumstances may restrictions or disciplinary sanctions amount to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The following practices, in particular, shall be prohibited:

- (a) Indefinite solitary confinement;
- (b) Prolonged solitary confinement;
- (c) Placement of a prisoner in a dark or constantly lit cell;
- (d) Corporal punishment or the reduction of a prisoner's diet or drinking water;
- (e) Collective punishment."

practice is inconsistent with international standards, which only allow 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.¹²⁷

All interviewed prisoners and former prisoners reported the use of disciplinary practices that could amount to ill-treatment and, in some cases, torture - such as the use of instruments of restraint (particularly ankle shackles, handcuffs, and chains), prolonged disciplinary segregation,¹²⁸ solitary confinement, and collective punishment. Based on the interviews, such practices were more prevalent in prisons - or sections of prisons - that held male inmates.

A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison reported that the use of solitary confinement could last for up to three months and, in many cases, was combined with the use of ankle shackles.¹²⁹ The same prisoner described the room for solitary confinement as “tiny and dark” and lacking fans.¹³⁰ A former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution reported solitary confinement was used as a disciplinary measure for inmates involved in fights or physical assaults.¹³¹

In most facilities where interviewed prisoners or former prisoners were detained, disciplinary segregation and the use of instruments of restraint were applied as sanctions for disciplinary offenses involving fighting or possession of prohibited items.

According to prisoners at Khlong Prem Central Prison and Chiang Mai Central Prison and former prisoners at the Bangkok Remand Prison and Trang Central Prison, inmates were held in disciplinary segregation, usually together with the use of ankle shackles and suspension of visitation, for about three to nine months.¹³² A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison reported the lack of fans in the cell used for disciplinary segregation.¹³³ The same former prisoner recalled a fellow inmate attempting suicide by hanging while being held in disciplinary segregation.¹³⁴

Many interviewed prisoners and former prisoners raised concerns about the excessive and, in some cases, arbitrary use of instruments of restraint for inmates who attended court hearings or those who were sentenced to long prison terms – practices that were inconsistent with international standard and Thailand’s Penitentiary Act [See above, 5. *Abuse of instruments of restraint*].¹³⁵

All interviewed inmates and former inmates said they were not aware of any type of oversight or safeguards concerning the prison officers’ decisions to apply restraints on inmates. Some interviewed former inmates explained that prison officers were required to record the use of restraints on inmates, which included details of rule violations and the time of application and removal.¹³⁶

127. 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.”

128. Disciplinary segregation occurs when multiple prisoners are punished by being placed together in a cell separate from other prisoners.

129. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

130. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

131. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correction Institution*, 12 December 2025

132. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025; FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

133. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

134. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

135. Rule 47 of UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: “(1) the use of chains, irons or other instruments of restraint which are inherently degrading or painful shall be prohibited. (2) Other instruments of restraint shall only be used when authorized by law and in the following circumstances: a) As a precaution against escape during a transfer, provided that they are removed when the prisoner appears before a judicial or administrative authority; (b) By order of the prison director, if other methods of control fail, in order to prevent a prisoner from injuring himself or herself or others or from damaging property; in such instances, the director shall immediately alert the physician or other qualified health-care professionals and report to the higher administrative authority.”

136. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025; FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison reported that newly admitted inmates, including pre-trial detainees charged with, and prisoners convicted of, “serious offenses”, such as murder or possession of more than 100 grams of illicit drugs, had to wear three to five kilograms of ankle shackles for at least one month, depending on the discretion of the prison officers.¹³⁷ The same former prisoner, who had to wear ankle shackles for three months, described them as “old and rusty,” requiring inmates to take special care of the contact areas to prevent skin irritation or injury.¹³⁸ The prison officers did not inform him of the reason for the prolonged use of restraints.¹³⁹ A former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison recalled that some prisoners who were returning from court to the prison were kept in chains that were “welded” onto their wrist, and that some of them had to shower with the chains on.¹⁴⁰ The same former prisoner witnessed a group of inmates who were kept in “chains” while undergoing a strip search and called the process “dehumanizing and intimidating.”¹⁴¹



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Some prisoners who were returning from court to the prison were kept in chains that were “welded” onto their wrist, and some of them had to shower with the chains on.

In addition, former prisoners at Pattaya Remand Prison and the Central Women’s Correctional Institution reported that some mentally ill inmates at the facilities were chained to poles in the prison building all day.¹⁴² The former inmate at Pattaya Remand Prison also recalled witnessing one mentally ill inmate kept in ankle shackles, which caused him severe pain.¹⁴³

According to interviewed prisoners and former prisoners, other kinds of punishment included: suspension of visitation rights and correspondence; prisoner “class” demotion,¹⁴⁴ cleaning of sewers; hard physical exercise; and sitting or standing under the sun for long periods.

137. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

138. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

139. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

140. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 17 October 2025

141. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 17 October 2025

142. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

143. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

144. The Thai prison system categorizes prisoners into six classes, based on their behavior: 1) Excellent; 2) Very Good; 3) Good; 4) Moderate; 5) Bad; and 6) Very Bad.

Former prisoners at the Bangkok Remand Prison and Pattaya Remand Prison reported that inmates who had completed their disciplinary segregation period had to undergo physical exercise, including running around the prison yard or rolling on the ground with their shirts off, and in some cases, with ankle shackles on.¹⁴⁵ These measures sometimes resulted in physical harm. For instance, the former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison recalled that inmates got severe burns on their shoulders and chests after being forced to do physical exercise under the sun.¹⁴⁶

In many prisons where interviewed prisoners and former prisoners were detained, inmates were subjected to invasive and humiliating body searches as part of routine security procedures, including upon admission and during transfers for court hearings or random cell searches. Such practice, which involved removing inmates' clothing and making visual inspection of their naked bodies in an open area in the presence of other inmates, failed to respect the privacy and dignity of inmates.¹⁴⁷

According to a former prisoner at Pattaya Central Prison, strip searches, which included full body inspection, bending over, and forced squats, were performed in open areas every time inmates left the prison for court hearings and returned.¹⁴⁸ A former female prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution said that new inmates were required to be fully naked and take a shower in front of other inmates who assisted prison officers as part of the prison's security procedure.¹⁴⁹

However, in some prisons where interviewed prisoners and former prisoners were detained, the authorities made certain adjustments to the search protocols for women and transgender women inmates.

For example, a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison reported that transgender women were exempted from mandatory strip searches as part of the security check when moving between different zones within the facility.¹⁵⁰ A prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison noted that, unlike male inmates, transgender women and gay men would not have to take their shirts off during routine security clearance or cell searches.¹⁵¹ A former inmate at Trang Central Prison reported female inmates were allowed to wear a towel during a body search, although the search was conducted outdoors and in the presence of other inmates.¹⁵²

9.3. Unfair and discriminatory practices

Some interviewed former inmates and one inmate reported that wealthy and foreign inmates enjoyed more favorable treatment from prison officers, including receiving little or no punishment after committing disciplinary offenses. Inmates were subjected to discriminatory practices based on their ethnicity and nationality.¹⁵³

Former prisoners at the Bangkok Remand Prison and Pattaya Remand Prison said that inmates of certain nationalities generally received preferential treatment from prison officers and faced less severe or no consequences after committing disciplinary offenses, as the authorities "wanted to

145. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

146. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

147. Rule 52 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "(1) Intrusive searches, including strip and body cavity searches, should be undertaken only if absolutely necessary. Prison administrations shall be encouraged to develop and use appropriate alternatives to intrusive searches. Intrusive searches shall be conducted in private and by trained staff of the same sex as the prisoner. (2) Body cavity searches shall be conducted only by qualified health-care professionals other than those primarily responsible for the care of the prisoner or, at a minimum, by staff appropriately trained by a medical professional in standards of hygiene, health and safety."

148. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

149. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

150. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

151. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

152. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

153. Rule 2.1 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "The present rules shall be applied impartially. There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or any other status. The religious beliefs and moral precepts of prisoners shall be respected."

avoid complications with foreign embassies.”¹⁵⁴ A former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison and a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison believed that prison officers avoided imposing instruments of restraint and disciplinary segregation to punish foreign inmates for offenses that would have warranted such punishments for Thai inmates.¹⁵⁵ The same former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison also noted that Chinese inmates paid prison officers for better living conditions and other privileges, including a special room in the prison building with access to smart TVs, air conditioning, and internet connection during daytime.¹⁵⁶

The account of the former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison was consistent with reports of complaints that prompted investigations into the preferential treatment afforded to Chinese inmates at the facility. In November 2025, it was reported that inmates at the Bangkok Remand Prison had submitted a complaint to the authorities alleging that senior prison officials granted privileges and special treatment to certain Chinese inmates at the facility, including access to electrical appliances, private rooms, and unauthorized visits from women for sexual encounters.¹⁵⁷ In the same month, the Ministry of Justice’s Department of Special Investigation (DSI) conducted an investigation into the allegations.¹⁵⁸ The investigation, completed in December 2025, found evidence of prohibited items, sexual services, and other forms of misconduct involving multiple prison officials.¹⁵⁹ As a result, the case was forwarded to the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) for further action, and three senior officials and three prison guards at the Bangkok Remand Prison were suspended from duty pending disciplinary proceedings.¹⁶⁰

One interviewed inmate reported witnessing discriminatory treatment against other prisoners based on their ethnicity. A prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison said that inmates of ethnic minorities, particularly those of Shan (Tai Yai) ethnicity, were often subjected to harsher punishments than other inmates for similar prison rule violations.¹⁶¹

9.4. Insufficient sanitary conditions

Inadequate sanitation, including insufficient water supply and the inconsistent provision of basic hygiene products, undermined inmates’ ability to maintain personal hygiene.

Some interviewed prisoners and former prisoners complained about the insufficient number of toilets in the cells to meet the needs of inmates.¹⁶² A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison reported that there was only one toilet in a cell that held 35 inmates.¹⁶³ According to former prisoners at Trang Central Prison, Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison, and the Bangkok Remand Prison, only one toilet was available in a cell that accommodated about 50 inmates, which was seriously insufficient and often resulted in long queues.¹⁶⁴

In most facilities where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained, running water in the cells was available for a short time, ranging from one to four hours per day, leaving inmates to rely on

154. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

155. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

156. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

157. Bangkok Post, *Corrections Department transfers Chinese inmates after luxury items found in Bangkok prison*, 21 November 2025

158. Bangkok Post, *DSI launches ‘VIP inmate’ probe*, 24 November 2025

159. Bangkok Post, *20 Bangkok prison officials linked to Chinese VIP inmates scandal*, 22 November 2025; Bangkok Post, *DSI wraps up probe into prison scandal*, 17 December 2025

160. Bangkok Post, *DSI wraps up probe into prison scandal*, 17 December 2025

161. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

162. Rule 15 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: “The sanitary installations shall be adequate to enable every prisoner to comply with the needs of nature when necessary and in a clean and decent manner.”

163. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

164. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025; FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

a limited amount of water stored in the tanks for washing or flushing the toilets.

For instance, a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution said that running water in the cell was available for only one hour, between 5 am and 6 am.¹⁶⁵ A former prisoner at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison reported running water was available from 5 pm to 8 pm.¹⁶⁶ Inmates at these facilities sometimes had to flush the toilet using drinking water from their personal bottles when running water was not available.¹⁶⁷ A prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison reported that inmates did not have running water in their cells after the daily water cut at 3 pm, and could access running water only after 4 am of the following day.¹⁶⁸ As a result, inmates at the facility often did not have enough water to use at night.¹⁶⁹ A prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison noted that running water was available only between 5 pm and 9:30 pm.¹⁷⁰ A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison stated that inmates in certain cells had less water than others because they were located far from the water pump.¹⁷¹

In addition, a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison reported a regular shortage of water in toilets in the communal areas, which often left inmates to endure unflushed waste and unsanitary conditions.¹⁷²

Interviewed former prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution and Trang Central Prison noted that the toilets in the cells often became clogged and inmates had to fix them themselves.¹⁷³ A former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison described the only toilet available in the cell as “gross” and having no privacy.¹⁷⁴

According to all interviewed inmates and former inmates, access to basic hygiene products, such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, and toothpaste, was inconsistent and inadequate.

Most interviewed inmates and former inmates reported that free toiletries were distributed infrequently, ranging from once every two months to two to three times per year.

For instance, interviewed former inmates at Trang Central Prison and Pattaya Remand Prison said that free toiletries were given to inmates about two to three times a year.¹⁷⁵ A former inmate at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution described the provision of free toiletries at the facility as “unreliable,” resulting in most inmates having to purchase such products from the prison shop.¹⁷⁶ In most prisons where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained, indigent inmates or those without relatives could apply to receive free toiletries or offer services to other inmates, such as washing their uniforms and blankets, in exchange for such products. A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison noted that inmates who did not have money in their bank accounts would receive free toiletries every two months.¹⁷⁷

Some interviewed inmates and former inmates raised concerns over the provision of clean and sufficient prison uniforms and restrictions on time and space for inmates to properly dry their uniforms and underwear.

165. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

166. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

167. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

168. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

169. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

170. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

171. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

172. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

173. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

174. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 14 October 2025

175. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

176. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

177. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

According to a former inmate at the Bangkok Remand Prison and prisoners at Chiang Mai Central Prison and the Bangkok Remand Prison, the number of prison uniforms provided to prisoners was insufficient, which required inmates to buy extra ones at the prison shop or use the ones left by released prisoners.¹⁷⁸ A prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution reported that the two uniforms provided by the prison were sometimes inadequate, especially during the rainy season (between May and October), when it took longer for inmates to dry their uniforms.¹⁷⁹

In addition, a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution noted the designated areas for inmates to dry their uniforms in the sun were insufficient.¹⁸⁰ As a result, inmates had to wear damp uniforms, which led many of them to develop skin diseases.¹⁸¹ A former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison added that inmates were allowed to hang their washed uniforms or underwear in the sun only from the morning until 2 pm, which often left inmates to collect them when they were not completely dry.¹⁸²

Interviewed female inmates and former inmates raised concerns about the insufficient quality and quantity of underwear provided to them by the prison, with the amount ranging between one to two bras and two pairs of underwear.

Former female inmates at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison who received two bras and two pairs of underwear upon admission to prison said they sometimes had to wash and wear them before they were fully dry, especially during the rainy season.¹⁸³ Former prisoners at Trang Central Prison and the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution said they received one bra and one pair of underwear upon admission.¹⁸⁴ The former inmate at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution noted that the prison distributed an additional bra and pair of underwear six months later.¹⁸⁵

According to interviews with male inmates and former inmates, prisons provided between one and four pairs of underwear, while some inmates reported receiving none. A former inmate at the Bangkok Remand Prison commented that the underwear provided to him by the prison was poorly fitting, while another interviewed inmate at the same facility said he never received any free underwear.¹⁸⁶ Former prisoners at Trang Central Prison and Phitsanulok Provincial Prison were also not provided with any underwear from the prisons.¹⁸⁷

In most prisons where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained, restrictions on the amount of water and time allocated for shower negatively affected inmates' personal hygiene.¹⁸⁸

In all prisons where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained, inmates showered together in the communal bathing areas twice a day. According to interviewed inmates and former inmates, inmates were allowed to shower for a limited time, ranging from two to 10 minutes.

Former prisoners at Trang Central Prison reported that the time limit for showering varied across the prison zones, ranging from five to 10 minutes at a time.¹⁸⁹ Former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat

178. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

179. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

180. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

181. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

182. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

183. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

184. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

185. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

186. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

187. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 14 October 2025

188. Rule 16 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "Adequate bathing and shower installations shall be provided so that every prisoner can, and may be required to, have a bath or shower, at a temperature suitable to the climate, as frequently as necessary for general hygiene according to season and geographical region, but at least once a week in a temperate climate."

189. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

Central Prison described showering time as “very brief,” lasting only two to three minutes, signaled by a whistle.¹⁹⁰ A former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution reported that inmates were allowed to shower for no longer than two minutes.¹⁹¹ Inmates at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution said that they were allowed to use approximately 10 bowls of water for bathing.¹⁹² Nonetheless, a former inmate at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution said that elderly inmates were allowed to shower first, with no restriction on the amount of water.¹⁹³

Former inmates at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison, Pattaya Remand Prison, and the Central Women’s Correctional Institution reported that temporary shortages of water and inconsistent water pressure made them unable to properly wash their bodies.¹⁹⁴

Former inmates at Pattaya Remand Prison and Phitsanulok Provincial Prison reported that the shower water was not clean.¹⁹⁵

According to most interviewed female inmates and former inmates, women faced significant challenges in maintaining their menstrual hygiene.¹⁹⁶

A former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution reported it was not uncommon to “step onto other women’s menstrual blood on the floor in the shower area.”¹⁹⁷ In addition, the same former prisoner recalled an incident in which another inmate was ordered to pull down her pants to prove that she was menstruating when she asked a prison guard for permission to use the toilet to change her sanitary pad.¹⁹⁸

The former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution further noted that inmates could not freely access toilets between 7:30 am and 2:45 pm, or when the prison was receiving visits from external organizations, unless they had permission from prison officers.¹⁹⁹ The use of toilets outside designated hours often resulted in punishment.²⁰⁰

In all women’s prisons and prison sections where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained, female inmates were supplied with menstrual hygiene products. However, according to the interviewed female inmates and former inmates, the quantities provided were insufficient, ranging from 12 sanitary pads per month to six sanitary pads every six month.

For instance, a former prisoner at Trang Central Prison reported that inmates received three to five sanitary pads per month and had to purchase additional ones themselves.²⁰¹ A prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution said that the prison distributed around 12 sanitary pads every month, with additional supplies provided upon request.²⁰² Former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison reported sanitary pads were only distributed occasionally, so inmates had to request them directly from the officers or buy additional ones at the prison shop.²⁰³ A former prisoner at the

190. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

191. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

192. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

193. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

194. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

195. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 14 October 2025

196. Rule 5 of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders states: “The accommodation of women prisoners shall have facilities and materials required to meet women’s specific hygiene needs, including sanitary towels provided free of charge and a regular supply of water to be made available for the personal care of children and women, in particular women involved in cooking and those who are pregnant, breastfeeding or menstruating.”

197. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

198. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

199. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

200. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

201. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

202. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

203. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution said inmates were provided with six to 12 sanitary pads once every six months.²⁰⁴

9.5. Poor quality of food and water

Most interviewed inmates and former inmates complained that food in prisons was insufficient, of poor quality, and nutritionally inadequate.²⁰⁵

In all prisons where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained, inmates were served three meals per day, except at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution where inmates received two meals per day, at 11:30 am and 2:30 pm.²⁰⁶ Many interviewed inmates and former inmates raised concerns over the poor quality and insufficient quantity of food, citing issues such as insufficient portions of meat, low quality ingredients, and the lack of flavor.

A former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison described food served in prison as "tasteless," so inmates typically added instant noodle seasoning packets to enhance the flavors.²⁰⁷ Former inmates at Pattaya Remand Prison, the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution, and the Central Women's Correctional Institution said that the amount of protein provided by the prison was always insufficient.²⁰⁸ The former inmate at Pattaya Remand Prison recalled that chicken served in prison meals "were 90% bones and inedible."²⁰⁹ Former inmates at the Bangkok Remand Prison, Pattaya Remand Prison, and Phitsanulok Provincial Prison described the rice as "hard," "old," and "undercooked."²¹⁰

Nonetheless, some interviewed inmates and former inmates, including inmates at the Central Women's Correctional Institution and former inmates at Trang Central Prison and Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison, found that meals served in prison were of adequate quality and quantity with reasonable portions of meat.²¹¹ The inmates at the Central Women's Correctional Institution explained that the food menu was rotated on a weekly basis to ensure variety.²¹² In addition, a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison commented: "The food [served at the facility] used to be very bad, but now it has become more appetizing."²¹³

A former inmate at Pattaya Remand Prison reported that inmates were allowed about 10 minutes to finish their meals, which was insufficient.²¹⁴ The former inmate at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison noted that he was not provided with eating utensils while in quarantine, leaving him to eat rice and curry with his bare hands.²¹⁵

Some interviewed inmates and former inmates raised the issue of the unfair and inconsistent distribution of food, which resulted in some inmates receiving inadequate portions.

204. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

205. Rule 22 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "1. Every prisoner shall be provided by the prison administration at the usual hours with food of nutritional value adequate for health and strength, of wholesome quality and well prepared and served. 2. Drinking water shall be available to every prisoner whenever he or she needs it."

206. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

207. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

208. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

209. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

210. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 14 October 2025

211. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

212. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

213. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

214. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

215. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 14 October 2025

For example, a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison reported that inmates who assisted prison officers received bigger portions of food.²¹⁶ A prisoner and a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison noted that some inmates who paid bribes to prisoners working in the kitchen would receive larger meat portions with each meal.²¹⁷ Interviewed former inmates at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution, Pattaya Remand Prison, and Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison said that inmates working in the kitchen and responsible for serving food to other prisoners often divided portions unevenly to benefit certain inmates.²¹⁸ According to interviewed former inmates at Pattaya Remand Prison and Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison, authorities took actions to address the issue of unequal food distribution by replacing prisoners working in the kitchen, but such problems remained unresolved.²¹⁹

According to all interviewed inmates and former inmates, various kinds of food and bottled water were available for inmates to purchase at the prison shop. However, according to former inmates at Pattaya Remand Prison and the Central Women's Correctional Institution, most inmates at these facilities relied entirely on the meals served by the prisons due to their limited financial means.²²⁰ The former inmate at the Central Women's Correctional Institution also noted that food available at the prison shop, costing about 60-70 baht (US\$1.90-2.20) per dish, was more expensive than food sold outside the prison.²²¹

In all prisons where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained, filtered drinking water was available from the water taps, including those located in sleeping cells. However, some interviewed inmates and former inmates raised concerns about the quality of the drinking water.

For example, a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison reported that the free drinking water was unclean due to the visibly dirty pipes and filters in the water tank.²²² A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison commented that the drinking water provided by the prison had a strong smell of chlorine.²²³

Ombudsman expresses concerns over safety of food and water in prisons

An Office of the Ombudsman's report, which was submitted to the Cabinet in September 2025, revealed that the provision of food and water as well as the sanitation conditions in prisons fell short of international standards.²²⁴

The findings, which stemmed from the Ombudsman's inspections to an unspecified number of prisons, highlighted that the insufficient food budget, combined with ineffective procurement processes and food inspections due to a lack of expertise, contributed to unsafe and nutritionally insufficient meals being served in prisons. Furthermore, many prisons lacked the capacity to provide clean water to inmates due to inadequate infrastructure.

The report recommended that prison authorities strengthen the internal monitoring of the procurement and inspection processes by enhancing the involvement of external organizations or experts in relevant fields - such as consumer protection or health and sanitation - to ensure compliance with food safety and quality standards. It further suggested that prisons improve their water storage and filtration systems to ensure inmates' access to sufficient and clean water supply.

The inspection report was not made publicly available.

216. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

217. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

218. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

219. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

220. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

221. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

222. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

223. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

224. Office of Ombudsman, *Letter 1301/34 Report to the Cabinet concerning the government authorities' failure to comply with*

9.6. Inadequate healthcare

Most interviewed inmates and former inmates reported that the prisons failed to provide effective and timely physical and mental healthcare services.²²⁵

In all prisons where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained, medical doctors from outside hospitals visited the facilities to provide services on a regular schedule, and inmates who wished to receive a medical consultation or treatment had to make an appointment in advance by submitting a written request, except in cases of emergency.

The frequency and waiting time for a doctor's visit and the prescription of medication varied greatly across prisons. According to interviewed inmates and former inmates, the frequency of a doctor's visit to the prison's health facility ranged from once a week to daily.

A former inmate at Trang Central Prison reported that a doctor visited the prison daily.²²⁶ A prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution said that a doctor visited the prison three days a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.²²⁷ Prisoners at Khlong Prem Central Prison and Chiang Mai Central Prison and former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison reported that a doctor visited the prisons' health facilities once a week.²²⁸ A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison noted that the schedule for a doctor's visits to the facility changed frequently and that he was only able to see a doctor after his embassy submitted a written request to the prison on his behalf.²²⁹

According to the interviewed inmates and former inmates, the waiting time for inmates to receive treatment or medication from a doctor ranged from an hour to almost a week, 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.

A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison reported that medical treatment was slow due to the infrequent visits of doctors, and the prescribed medicines often took several days to a week to arrive.²³⁰ The same former inmate added that doctors mostly provided medical care for prisoners at the facility via video conference, except for emergency cases.²³¹ A prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution recalled that she waited around one week after making an appointment to receive medical attention for her skin conditions.²³² She and a fellow prisoner at the facility noted that medical specialists, including orthopedists, hematologists, and gynecologists, provided services only on designated days of the week.²³³ A former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison said that inmates who had booked medical appointments typically had to wait around two or three days to see a doctor, during which time many had recovered from mild ailments.²³⁴ A prisoner at the same facility

Chapter 5 (duties of the state) of the Constitution of Thailand B.E.2560 (2017), 30 September 2025; https://resolution.soc.go.th/PDF_UPLOAD/2568/P_414660_4.pdf [in Thai]

225. Rule 24 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "1. The provision of health care for prisoners is a state responsibility. Prisoners should enjoy the same standards of health care that are available in the community, and should have access to necessary health-care services free of charge without discrimination on the grounds of their legal status. 2. Health-care services should be organized in close relationship to the general public health administration and in a way that ensures continuity of treatment and care, including for HIV, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, as well as for drug dependence." Rule 25 states: "1. Every prison shall have in place a healthcare service tasked with evaluating, promoting, protecting and improving the physical and mental health of prisoners, paying particular attention to prisoners with special health-care needs or with health issues that hamper their rehabilitation. 2. The health-care service shall consist of an interdisciplinary team with sufficient qualified personnel acting in full clinical independence and shall encompass sufficient expertise in psychology and psychiatry. The services of a qualified dentist shall be available to every prisoner."

226. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

227. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

228. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

229. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

230. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

231. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

232. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

233. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

234. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

noted that in each prison zone only a limited number of inmates per day could register for a medical appointment.²³⁵

A former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution said that medical appointments were available for booking once a week, and inmates were typically able to see a doctor the next day.²³⁶ A former prisoner at Trang Central Prison noted that the waiting time upon making an appointment was not long, typically within one to two hours.²³⁷

In some prisons where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained, inmates were able to acquire over-the-counter medicines from the prison nurses, officers, or fellow inmates who assisted prison officers. According to former prisoners at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution, the Bangkok Remand Prison, and the Central Women's Correctional Institution, the health facility could administer basic medicines, such as paracetamol and antihistamine, or provide basic care for minor ailments.²³⁸ The former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution as well as a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison noted that prisoners had to fill a form even to request basic medicine, such as paracetamol.²³⁹ According to a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison, only inmates who had a body temperature over 39°C could receive paracetamol from prison officers.²⁴⁰

The difficulty in accessing treatment and medication often resulted in inmates buying or trading prescribed medicines among themselves.

A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison recalled that she once bought paracetamol tablets from other inmates to treat a headache because the amount given by the prison was inadequate.²⁴¹ A prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison noted that inmates purchased basic medicines from other inmates who assisted prison officers or accumulated prescribed medication for later sale.²⁴² The same prisoner added that paracetamol cost 7 baht (about US\$ 0.20) per tablet and antibiotics cost 10-20 baht (about US\$0.30-0.60) per tablet.²⁴³ A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison reported that inmates usually bought medicines from other inmates who stockpiled them, instead of requesting them from the prison, as it was "easier and faster."²⁴⁴ The same former prisoner added that two paracetamol tablets were traded for two instant coffee packets.²⁴⁵

Most interviewed prisoners and former prisoners believed that prisoners with chronic illnesses received proper treatment and medication provided for, or facilitated by, the prison authorities.

Former inmates at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution and the Central Women's Correctional Institution said that inmates who had chronic conditions were provided with necessary medications and were able to see a doctor on a regular basis.²⁴⁶ A prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison reported receiving regular medications for his underlying health conditions.²⁴⁷ A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison noted that inmates who had chronic health conditions, such as hypertension and diabetes, were consistently supplied with necessary medications.²⁴⁸

235. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

236. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

237. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

238. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

239. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

240. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

241. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

242. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

243. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

244. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

245. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

246. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

247. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

248. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

However, some of the interviewed inmates and former inmates raised the issue of the prisons' failure to provide adequate treatment and medication for inmates with chronic conditions.

A former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison reported that the prison officers did not allow him to take his medicine for epilepsy in a timely manner, and that he was only able to obtain his daily medication on the second day of his detention.²⁴⁹ The former inmate added that one inmate suffering from cancer did not receive any treatment.²⁵⁰ A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison noted that, despite a regular supply of medication, inmates with chronic conditions did not receive adequate follow-up care and were not provided with diets suitable for their health conditions.²⁵¹ The same former prisoner noticed that foreign inmates experienced fewer barriers to necessary medical treatment than Thai prisoners, including with respect to referrals to outside hospitals.²⁵² He also recalled that one foreign inmate with diabetes was transferred to an outside hospital for treatment.²⁵³

Many of the interviewed inmates and former inmates reported the prisons' response to medical emergencies, particularly at night, was seriously inadequate.²⁵⁴

A former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison recalled witnessing an elderly inmate collapsing, with no response from the prison officers for more than an hour.²⁵⁵ A former prisoner at Trang Central Prison reported that prison officers took 30 minutes to one hour to respond to cases of medical emergencies at night.²⁵⁶ Prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison and Chiang Mai Central Prison and a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison stated that prison officers would intervene only when inmates exhibited "visibly serious conditions," such as loss of consciousness, shortness of breath, seizures, or severe open wounds.²⁵⁷ A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison said that the prison's response to medical emergencies at night was slow due to the limited number of prison officers on duty.²⁵⁸ The same former prisoner added that medical emergencies were generally dismissed by the prison officers, unless the condition was life-threatening.²⁵⁹ A former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution said that the emergency buzzer located in the cell sometimes malfunctioned, so inmates had to shout for assistance from prison officers who were stationed in other buildings.²⁶⁰ The same former prisoner added that the response time to medical emergencies at night largely depended on the discretion of prison officers, with some being more responsive than others.²⁶¹

A former inmate at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution recalled that the nurse who attended sick prisoners at night often used insulting language against them.²⁶² The same former prisoner noted: "The next day, the officers would come after inmates who pressed the emergency buzzer at night and forced their cell leaders to perform 100 jumping jacks [as a punishment]."²⁶³

249. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 14 October 2025

250. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 14 October 2025

251. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

252. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

253. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

254. Rule 27 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "1. All prisons shall ensure prompt access to medical attention in urgent cases. Prisoners who require specialized treatment or surgery shall be transferred to specialized institutions or to civil hospitals. Where a prison service has its own hospital facilities, they shall be adequately staffed and equipped to provide prisoners referred to them with appropriate treatment and care. 2. Clinical decisions may only be taken by the responsible health-care professionals and may not be overruled or ignored by non-medical prison staff."

255. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 14 October 2025

256. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

257. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

258. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

259. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

260. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

261. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

262. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

263. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025



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The next day, the officers would come after inmates who pressed the emergency buzzer at night and forced their cell leaders to perform 100 jumping jacks [as a punishment].

In some cases, inadequate responses to medical emergencies of prisoners resulted in fatal consequences. A prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison reported three cases of inmate deaths after delayed medical attention.²⁶⁴ A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison also reported witnessing two to three inmates who died due to what he believed were untimely responses to medical emergencies.²⁶⁵

The provision of specialized medical services in prisons continued to be limited compared to the needs of prisoners. The majority of interviewed inmates and former inmates reported the availability of mental health services at the facilities where they were detained. However, such services were limited to the prescription of medication, instead of the promotion of overall mental well-being of inmates.

Prisoners at the Bangkok Remand Prison and Chiang Mai Central Prison reported that inmates who were diagnosed with a mental disorder received regular medication for their conditions.²⁶⁶ However, the prisoners noted that inmates with mild mental health conditions had difficulty accessing treatment, unless they exhibited behavioral changes or physical signs of self-harm.²⁶⁷ Similarly, a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison said that mental health treatment was available only for inmates with severe mental health conditions and relied mainly on the prescription of medication, noting the lack of other forms of psychological support.²⁶⁸ A former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution said she was able to see doctors concerning her mental health.²⁶⁹ However, the same former prisoner noted that the treatment of inmates with mental health disorders was generally limited to the prescription and administration of strong sedative medications.²⁷⁰ A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison was referred to the DoC Hospital to see a psychiatrist only after multiple requests submitted by her lawyer.²⁷¹

264. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

265. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

266. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

267. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

268. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

269. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

270. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

271. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

A former male prisoner at Trang Central Prison noted that there was no mental healthcare available within the facility.²⁷² On the contrary, a female prisoner at the same facility reported that inmates in the female section of the prison with a history of mental health conditions were able to receive regular medication.²⁷³

Interviews with inmates and former inmates revealed other challenges in access to mental healthcare in prison. According to former inmates at the Central Women's Correctional Institution and Pattaya Remand Prison and an inmate at Khlong Prem Central Prison, inmates who requested to see a psychiatrist would receive an initial screening by medical staff at the prison health facility to determine if psychiatric consultation or treatment was needed.²⁷⁴ In addition, the former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison recalled that one foreign inmate was able to see a psychiatrist at an outside hospital only after an intervention from his embassy.²⁷⁵

Dental services were provided in all prisons where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained. However, most inmates and former inmates raised the issues of infrequent visits of dentists and long waiting times. Inmates typically had to wait several months to two years to receive dental care upon making an appointment.

A prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution reported that she waited almost two years to finally receive dental treatment.²⁷⁶ A former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution said that it could take almost a year after making an appointment to get treatment.²⁷⁷ A former prisoner at Trang Central Prison reported that dentists visited the male section of the prison approximately once a year or every two years.²⁷⁸ A prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison was able to see a dentist for tooth extraction and scaling between three and four months after booking.²⁷⁹ A former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution said that dental services were available twice a week, but the waiting time could be of several months due to the high number of prisoners at the facility and the complex procedures, particularly when referrals to outside hospitals for intensive dental care were required.²⁸⁰ The same former inmate noted that tooth extraction was the primary treatment option offered for any dental condition.²⁸¹ According to former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison, inmates had to wait about a month for a tooth extraction.²⁸²

In addition, a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison raised concerns about inconsistent information from the prison regarding dental services for foreign inmates.²⁸³ The same former prisoner complained that he received contradictory information from the prison officers on whether foreign inmates were eligible to receive free dental services.²⁸⁴

Interviewed female prisoners reported the availability of preventive healthcare services, including gynecological checkups.²⁸⁵

Former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison reported that the prison provided

272. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

273. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

274. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

275. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

276. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

277. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

278. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

279. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

280. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

281. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

282. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

283. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

284. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

285. Rule 18 of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders states: "Preventive health-care measures of particular relevance to women, such as Papanicolaou tests and screening for breast and gynecological cancer, shall be offered to women prisoners on an equal basis with women of the same age in the community."

preventive health checkups periodically, including screenings for cervical and breast cancer.²⁸⁶ According to interviewed inmates at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution, several types of health examinations, including pelvic examination, were available throughout the year for inmates to register in advance.²⁸⁷ A former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution said that inmates aged over 30 years old received screenings for cervical cancer.²⁸⁸

A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison, who identified as transgender woman, reported a positive development concerning the availability of gender-affirming hormone therapy at the facility.²⁸⁹ The same prisoner reported that she received such treatment.²⁹⁰

9.7. Transgender women and gay men remain vulnerable

Several interviewed prisoners and former prisoners reported transgender women and gay men in male prisons were subjected to forms of physical assault, sexual harassment, and intimidation by other inmates, with little protection provided by the prison authorities to the victims.

A former prisoner at Trang Central Prison and a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison reported that transgender women inmates were routinely subjected to verbal abuse and teasing by other inmates and, in some cases, by prison officers.²⁹¹ A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison, who identified as transgender woman, and a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison, who identified as gay, reported they routinely experienced unwanted touching by other male prisoners.²⁹² A former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison stated: “Transgender inmates were repeatedly subjected to unwanted touching of their breasts.”²⁹³



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Transgender inmates were repeatedly subjected to unwanted touching of their breasts.

286. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

287. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

288. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

289. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

290. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

291. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

292. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

293. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

Interviews with some prisoners and former prisoners suggested inadequate protection and ineffective responses to cases of gender-based violence and harassment.

According to an interviewed prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison, prison officers responded to cases of sexual harassment by giving warnings or imposing physical punishments, such as slapping or hitting alleged perpetrators.²⁹⁴ A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison reported that the initial response to a sexual harassment allegation involved separating the victim from the alleged abuser and hearing witnesses for the investigation.²⁹⁵ The same prisoner recalled that one inmate who sexually assaulted a transgender inmate by touching her breasts was transferred to another zone of the facility and required to perform physical exercise as punishment.²⁹⁶ A prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison, who identified as gay, submitted a complaint to the DoC through his lawyer after being teased by other inmates about his sexual orientation.²⁹⁷ About three weeks later, the authorities addressed the complaint by transferring him to another area of the facility.²⁹⁸

Some interviewed inmates pointed out the underreporting of gender-based violence and sexual harassment cases. A prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison reported that an inmate who was forced to perform oral sex on other inmates chose not to report the issue to the authorities in order to “avoid problems.”²⁹⁹ In addition, a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison noted that the victims of sexual harassment commonly relied on their lawyers or relatives to file a complaint on their behalf, instead of submitting them through the complaint box themselves due to the belief that such mechanism was ineffective.³⁰⁰

According to the interviews with inmates and former inmates, there was 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.

A separate cell for transgender women was arranged in most male prisons or certain zones of male prisons where interviewed male inmates and former inmates were detained. Former prisoners at Pattaya Remand Prison and Trang Central Prison and a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison said that transgender inmates were housed in designated cells separated from those holding male inmates.³⁰¹ A prisoners at Khlong Prem Central Prison reported that there were separate cells for transgender women in certain zones of the facility.³⁰² According to a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison, pre-operative transgender women were housed in designated cells, while post-operative transgender women stayed in a designated building located near the prison’s medical facility.³⁰³

Some prisons where interviewed former inmates were detained failed to facilitate specific shower arrangements for transgender women.

For example, former prisoners at the Bangkok Remand Prison and Pattaya Remand Prison reported that some transgender women had to cover their breasts while showering with male inmates.³⁰⁴ Former inmates at Trang Central Prison added that transgender inmates showered at the same time as other inmates but in separate rows.³⁰⁵

294. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

295. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

296. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

297. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

298. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

299. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

300. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

301. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

302. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

303. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

304. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

305. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

9.8. Poor labor conditions

Inmates participated in underpaid work that provided limited benefits for employment after their release.³⁰⁶

According to interviewed inmates and former inmates, two types of work assignment were available for prisoners: 1) jobs within the prison's vocational training programs; and 2) supporting roles within the prison. Only convicted prisoners could work under the prison's vocational training programs.

Unconvicted inmates assigned with supporting roles were responsible for performing tasks necessary for the daily operations of the prison, such as cooking, cleaning, doing the laundry, and performing maintenance chores. Inmates did not receive remuneration for this type of work, except for those working in the prison's cooking unit. According to interviewed former prisoners at the Bangkok Remand Prison and Pattaya Remand Prison, inmates with skills in plumbing, electrical work, carpentry, and construction were often recruited to join the prisons' maintenance unit.³⁰⁷

Work available under the prison's vocational training programs primarily involved the production of goods for private contractors. For instance, at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison and the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution inmates produced various kinds of goods, such as woven baskets, embroidered clothes, plastic flowers, and garlands.³⁰⁸

According to interviewed inmates and former inmates, inmates working for the production of goods or services, which was typically done for approximately three to 11 hours daily, received little or no pay. Remuneration for this type of work ranged from 90 to 5,000 baht (about US\$3-160) per month, which was lower than Thailand's daily minimum wage in 2025, which stood between 337 and 400 baht (about US\$11-13) per day.

Former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison explained that remuneration was determined by the prisoner's "class" and the type of work.³⁰⁹ As for the cooking unit at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison, inmates who belonged to the "Excellent" class earned about 16,000 baht (about US\$512) for three months of work.³¹⁰ Inmates belonged to the "Good" class earned around 14,000 to 15,000 baht (about US\$448-480) for the same period, while those belonged the "Moderate" class received approximately 10,000 baht (about US\$320).³¹¹ A former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution received 90 baht (about US\$3) per month for making garlands.³¹² According to a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison, inmates who produced woven baskets did not receive any remuneration, or were paid up to 280 baht per month (about US\$9), depending on their "class."³¹³ Inmates at the Central Women's Correctional Institution received between 100 and 4,000 baht (about

306. Rule 96 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "1. Sentenced prisoners shall have the opportunity to work and/or to actively participate in their rehabilitation, subject to a determination of physical and mental fitness by a physician or other qualified health-care professionals. 2. Sufficient work of a useful nature shall be provided to keep prisoners actively employed for a normal working day." Rule 98 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "1. So far as possible the work provided shall be such as will maintain or increase the prisoners' ability to earn an honest living after release. 2. Vocational training in useful trades shall be provided for prisoners able to profit thereby and especially for young prisoners. 3. Within the limits compatible with proper vocational selection and with the requirements of institutional administration and discipline, prisoners shall be able to choose the type of work they wish to perform." Rule 103 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "1. There shall be a system of equitable remuneration of the work of prisoners. 2. Under the system, prisoners shall be allowed to spend at least a part of their earnings on approved articles for their own use and to send a part of their earnings to their family. 3. The system should also provide that a part of the earnings should be set aside by the prison administration so as to constitute a savings fund to be handed over to the prisoner on his or her release."

307. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

308. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

309. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025. The Thai prison system categorizes prisoners into six classes, based on their behavior: 1) Excellent; 2) Very Good; 3) Good; 4) Moderate; 5) Bad; and 6) Very Bad.

310. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

311. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

312. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

313. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

US\$3-128) per month for sewing clothes.³¹⁴ A prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison reported that inmates had to pay prison officers to secure their positions in certain work units, including the prison's car wash service and cooking unit, which provided remunerations of around 1,000-2,000 baht (about US\$32-64) per month.³¹⁵

Interviewed former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison and the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution, and a prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution noted that inmates who participated in the prisons' vocational training programs were required to sign documents which provided information concerning their work status and responsibilities.³¹⁶

Some interviewed inmates and former inmates commented that the prison's vocational training programs provided limited benefits for their reintegration after release. A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison found that none of the work available in the prison was useful for his reintegration.³¹⁷ A former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution believed that skills she learned through the prison's vocational training program, which included the production of garlands and plastic flowers, were not practical for her post-release life.³¹⁸

In addition to the prisons' vocational training programs, in the majority of the prisons where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained, inmates, including pre-trial detainees, could participate in a variety of workshops and trainings based on their interest.

For example, prisoners at the Bangkok Remand Prison and Khlong Prem Central Prison reported that workshops on baking, cooking, and perfume-making were occasionally organized at the facilities.³¹⁹ A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison noted that hair styling training was provided by the prison with limited availability.³²⁰ A former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution reported that she attended a training course in astrology.³²¹

9.9. Isolation from the outside world

According to all interviewed inmates and former inmates, contact with the outside world was maintained primarily through family visits and correspondence.³²² Their access to news and external information was strictly controlled by the prisons.³²³

In all prisons where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained, family visits were conducted in person or online via the LINE messaging application. Most interviewed prisoners and former prisoners reported being allowed between 10 and 30 minutes for both types of visits. However, the frequency of family visits allowed was different across the prisons, ranging from once a week to daily for in-person visits, and from twice a month to daily for online visits.

314. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

315. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

316. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

317. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

318. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

319. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

320. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

321. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

322. Rule 58 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "1. Prisoners shall be allowed, under necessary supervision, to communicate with their family and friends at regular intervals: (a) By corresponding in writing and using, where available, telecommunication, electronic, digital and other means; and (b) By receiving visits. 2. Where conjugal visits are allowed, this right shall be applied without discrimination, and women prisoners shall be able to exercise this right on an equal basis with men. Procedures shall be in place and premises shall be made available to ensure fair and equal access with due regard to safety and dignity."

323. Rule 63 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "Prisoners shall be kept informed regularly of the more important items of news by the reading of newspapers, periodicals or special institutional publications, by hearing wireless transmissions, by lectures or by any similar means as authorized or controlled by the prison administration."

For example, inmates at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution could receive one visit per day, online or in-person.³²⁴ A former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution said that the in-person visits were allowed once a day from Monday to Friday, while online visits were permitted once a week.³²⁵ A prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison said inmates were allowed to receive three in-person visits per week and two online visits per month.³²⁶ Former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison stated that both in-person and online visits were permitted twice a week, on Wednesdays and Fridays.³²⁷ According to a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison, both in-person and online visits were each allowed once a week.³²⁸ Former inmates at Trang Central prison reported that inmates could receive visits every other day, on either odd- or even-numbered calendar days, depending on their assigned group.³²⁹

According to most interviewed inmates and former inmates, visits from lawyers were more flexible in terms of duration and frequency. Such visits were either allowed on weekdays or, in some prisons, every day, without time limits. However, some interviewed inmates and former inmates raised concerns about the lack of privacy during such visits.

A prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison and a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution reported privacy was compromised during lawyer visits due to the presence of other inmates or prison officers.³³⁰ The prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison recalled being threatened by prison officers after he complained about prison conditions to his lawyer.³³¹ A former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison reported “zero privacy” during visits.³³²

In all prisons where interviewed former prisoners were detained, inmates were allowed to write letters with limitations on their frequency and content. Depending on the prison, inmates could send out letters with a frequency ranging from once a week to daily.

For example, a former prisoner at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison and a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison reported that letters would be collected for mailing once a week.³³³ Former prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution and the Bangkok Remand Prison said inmates were allowed to send letters every day.³³⁴ However, the former inmate at the Bangkok Remand Prison noted that letters took nearly a month to be delivered.³³⁵

According to some inmates and former inmates, all outgoing correspondence was subjected to strict monitoring by prison officers. According to former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison and prisoners at Khlong Prem Central Prison and Chiang Mai Central Prison, letters containing offensive language or statements indicating suffering or poor living conditions in prison were not permitted to be sent out.³³⁶ The former inmate at Nakhon Si Thammarat explained: “Letters containing impolite language or reports about disciplinary punishments in prison or poor living condition would be rejected by the prison officers.”³³⁷

324. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

325. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

326. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

327. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

328. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

329. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

330. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

331. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

332. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 14 October 2025

333. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

334. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

335. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

336. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

337. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

According to a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison, the prison developed a new application for its electronic mail service to replace the “Domimail” application that had been in place since 2022.³³⁸ The same former inmate found that the new system was complicated and took a longer time to deliver the messages, compared to the “Domimail” application, which offered same day delivery.³³⁹

In all prisons where former interviewed prisoners were detained, televisions were available in the cells and communal areas. Nonetheless, the television programs were typically limited to entertainment, such as movies, gameshows, and music. Inmates’ access to information on current affairs through newspapers and news broadcasts was inconsistent across prisons.

A prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison noted that prisoners in certain prison zones could watch live programs - including news - on the television located in the prison’s canteen during the day, but the televisions in the cells only aired pre-recorded programs, such as movies.³⁴⁰ A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison added that inmates who shared the same cell could choose one television channel to watch, which included news and other live programs.³⁴¹ Former inmates at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution and the Central Women’s Correctional Institution reported that inmates could only watch television series and movies.³⁴² A former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution said only old newspapers were available at the facility.³⁴³

In all prisons where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained, inmates could access books at the prison’s library or receive them from their relatives.

According to former prisoners at Trang Central Prison and the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution and a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison, the libraries at these facilities contained various kinds of books, including non-fiction and autobiographies.³⁴⁴ However, interviewed inmates and former inmates in other prisons complained about the lack of variety of books in the prison libraries. For example, a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison noted the limited choice of books and explained that inmates were not permitted to receive books directly from visitors, but only through donations made to the prison library.³⁴⁵ A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison complained that books were mostly in Thai, and foreign language books could only be received upon request by foreign embassies.³⁴⁶ A prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison said most books available in the prison were about religion.³⁴⁷

9.10. Restricted access to recreational and rehabilitative activities

Inmates had limited opportunities to engage in recreational and rehabilitative activities that were beneficial to their physical and mental well-being.³⁴⁸

In most prisons where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained, access to recreational activities - such as sports and arts - or rehabilitative activities, was limited due to the strict daily routine and the lack of space.

338. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

339. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

340. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

341. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

342. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025; FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

343. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

344. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

345. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

346. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

347. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

348. Rule 105 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: “Recreational and cultural activities shall be provided in all prisons for the benefit of the mental and physical health of prisoners.”

For example, a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison reported that inmates could exercise mostly on weekends and public holidays when they were free from work assignments.³⁴⁹ A former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison said that inmates were allowed to participate in sport activities, such as football and volleyball, on weekends.³⁵⁰ A former inmate at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution reported that inmates only had time to exercise during the mandatory workout sessions in the morning.³⁵¹ According to a prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution and former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison, inmates could participate in aerobic exercise sessions that were occasionally organized in the afternoons.³⁵² The prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution added that the prison occasionally organized sport competitions, which commonly featured football, *takraw* [kick volleyball], and volleyball.³⁵³ Nonetheless, the same inmate noted that, outside of such events, prisoners rarely participated in regular sport activities due to the limited space.³⁵⁴

In some prisons where interviewed inmates and former inmates were detained, inmates had greater access to physical and recreational activities, particularly in terms of time and space.

According to a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison, sport activities, such as football, *takraw*, and basketball, were allowed every day, with more time allowed on weekends.³⁵⁵ The same former prisoner explained that “a large portion of the day was free” for such activities.³⁵⁶ According to prisoners at Khlong Prem Central Prison and the Bangkok Remand Prison, inmates were able to access exercise equipment in the facilities’ gym every day during their free time.³⁵⁷ The prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison reported inmates could also participate in other type of physical activities, such as boxing, jogging, and walking.³⁵⁸

A former male prisoner and a former female prisoner who had been detained in different sections of the Trang Central Prison, provided different accounts of their experience with regard to access to recreational and physical activities.³⁵⁹ According to the former male prisoner, inmates could play football in the afternoon on weekdays and all day on weekends.³⁶⁰ However, the former female inmate reported that inmates were unable to engage in sport activities except aerobic exercise sessions provided by the prison, due to the lack of space and time.³⁶¹

In some prisons where interviewed former prisoners had been detained, drug rehabilitation programs were available for inmates who were incarcerated for drug-related offenses.

According to former prisoners at Trang Central Prison and Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison, such programs focused on raising awareness about drug-related harm through games and lectures by prison officers and guest speakers.³⁶²

Some inmates and former inmates raised the issue of the lack of a dedicated space for religious activities.

349. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

350. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

351. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

352. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

353. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

354. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

355. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

356. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

357. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 14 and 15 October 2025

358. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

359. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

360. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

361. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

362. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

A former prisoner at Trang Central Prison said that Muslim prisoners had to pray in the sleeping cells due to the absence of a prayer room.³⁶³ A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison reported that the prayer room at the facility was so small that some Muslim prisoners had to perform their prayers in a designated corner of their cell.³⁶⁴

Formal education programs were available in all prisons where interviewed prisoner and former prisoners were detained.³⁶⁵ Nonetheless, some interviewed former inmates reported difficulties in accessing such programs.

For example, a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison reported that the prison officers provided little information about the educational programs available at the facility and that she only learned about them from other prisoners.³⁶⁶ According to a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison, all educational programs provided by the prison were available only in Thai.³⁶⁷

9.11. Ineffective complaint mechanisms

The majority of interviewed former prisoners revealed distrust in the prisons' complaint mechanisms, which stemmed from ineffective procedures and fear of retaliation.³⁶⁸

Most interviewed inmates and former inmates reported they were not adequately informed of their rights in detention, including the right to file a formal complaint to the prison authorities or other external independent bodies, such as the NHRCT and the Ombudsman.³⁶⁹

A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison said that information regarding prisoners' rights was not clearly communicated upon admission to the prison and was available only in Thai.³⁷⁰ As a result, foreign inmates learned about their rights, prison rules, and complaint procedures from other inmates - a situation that could lead to misunderstandings, due to the often inconsistent and contradictory information.³⁷¹

According to the majority of interviewed inmates and former inmates, the common procedures to file a complaint in prison was to put a letter into a complaint box or speak directly to the prison officers. However, they believed that such complaint procedures were ineffective and unsafe. A former prisoner

363. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

364. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

365. Rule 4 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "1. The purposes of a sentence of imprisonment or similar measures deprivative of a person's liberty are primarily to protect society against crime and to reduce recidivism. Those purposes can be achieved only if the period of imprisonment is used to ensure, so far as possible, the reintegration of such persons into society upon release so that they can lead a law-abiding and self-supporting life. 2. To this end, prison administrations and other competent authorities should offer education, vocational training and work, as well as other forms of assistance that are appropriate and available, including those of a remedial, moral, spiritual, social and health- and sports-based nature. All such programmes, activities and services should be delivered in line with the individual treatment needs of prisoners."

366. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

367. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

368. Rule 56 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "1. Every prisoner shall have the opportunity each day to make requests or complaints to the prison director or the prison staff member authorized to represent him or her. 2. It shall be possible to make requests or complaints to the inspector of prisons during his or her inspections. The prisoner shall have the opportunity to talk to the inspector or any other inspecting officer freely and in full confidentiality, without the director or other members of the staff being present. 3. Every prisoner shall be allowed to make a request or complaint regarding his or her treatment, without censorship as to substance, to the central prison administration and to the judicial or other competent authorities, including those vested with reviewing or remedial power. 4. The rights under paragraphs 1 to 3 of this rule shall extend to the legal adviser of the prisoner. In those cases where neither the prisoner nor his or her legal adviser has the possibility of exercising such rights, a member of the prisoner's family or any other person who has knowledge of the case may do so."

369. Rule 54 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states: "Upon admission, every prisoner shall be promptly provided with written information about: (a) The prison law and applicable prison regulations; (b) His or her rights, including authorized methods of seeking information, access to legal advice, including through legal aid schemes, and procedures for making requests or complaints; (c) His or her obligations, including applicable disciplinary sanctions; and (d) All other matters necessary to enable the prisoner to adapt himself or herself to the life of the prison"

370. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

371. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

at Trang Central Prison reported that there was no complaint box available in his zone.³⁷²

Former inmates at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison and an inmate at Khlong Prem Central Prison stated that very few inmates used the complaint box due to their belief that it would not lead to positive outcomes.³⁷³ A prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison said that prison officers often used inmates to intimidate other inmates not to submit a complaint.³⁷⁴ The same inmate commented: “No one dared to submit a complaint in the complaint box because it could lead to a disciplinary sanction.”³⁷⁵ A former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution described the complaint mechanism as “unsafe” and “ineffective.”³⁷⁶

Some interviewed inmates and former inmates believed that prison authorities were more responsive to complaints that were submitted via lawyers or foreign embassies.

A former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison noted that inmates were reluctant to submit complaints through the complaint box as they believed their complaints could be simply disposed of by prison officers.³⁷⁷ As a result, inmates in that facility usually relied on their lawyers or relatives to submit complaints to relevant authorities on their behalf.³⁷⁸ A prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison reported that prison authorities usually paid more attention to the complaints made by foreign prisoners through their embassies.³⁷⁹ A former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison explained that he did not report to the prison officers about an incident in which he was threatened by other prisoners due to fear of reprisal.³⁸⁰ The same prisoner recalled that one prisoner who was physically assaulted by other prisoners chose to report the case to police through their relatives instead of lodging a complaint with the prison authorities.³⁸¹

In addition, inmates and former inmates identified language and levels of literacy as barriers that further limited access to complaint mechanisms in prison.

A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison reported that the prison’s complaint procedures were available only in Thai, making it difficult for foreign inmates to access the process.³⁸² A prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison added that illiterate inmates sometimes had to pay other inmates to assist them in writing complaint letters.³⁸³

Some interviewed inmates and former inmates reported that complaints were effectively handled by authorities, particularly those related to food, accommodation, and sanitary conditions.

A prisoner at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution said that most complaints submitted in the complaint box by inmates were primarily about general living conditions, rather than incidents involving alleged misconduct of prison officers.³⁸⁴ A former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison said the prison installed additional fans in his cell after he raised concerns directly with the prison director about the poor ventilation in the cell.³⁸⁵ A former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison said that the prison improved the quality of food after receiving complaints from inmates.³⁸⁶ However, the same former inmate noted that the improvement lasted only about two weeks before the conditions

372. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Trang Central Prison*, 20 October 2025

373. FIDH, *Interview with former prisoners at Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison*, 20 October 2025; Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

374. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

375. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

376. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women’s Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

377. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

378. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

379. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Khlong Prem Central Prison*, 6 and 16 October 2025

380. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 14 October 2025

381. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Phitsanulok Provincial Prison*, 14 October 2025

382. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

383. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a prisoner at Chiang Mai Central Prison*, 23 September 2025

384. FIDH, *Interview with prisoners at the Central Women’s Correctional Institution*, 16 October 2025

385. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Bangkok Remand Prison*, 18 November 2025

386. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

returned to the previous state.³⁸⁷ A former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution reported that the prison increased the variety of books available in the prison's library following inmates' complaints.³⁸⁸ A former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution recalled that she once filed a complaint to prison authorities about the prison's disproportionate restrictions on access to television, which was imposed as a form of collective punishment in response to a fight involving a small number of inmates.³⁸⁹ Although the outcome of the complaint was not clearly communicated to her, the former inmate observed that such form of collective punishment did not reoccur.³⁹⁰

387. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at Pattaya Remand Prison*, 1 December 2025

388. Freedom Bridge, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Thonburi Women's Correctional Institution*, 15 December 2025

389. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

390. FIDH, *Interview with a former prisoner at the Central Women's Correctional Institution*, 12 December 2025

10. PRISON NEWS IN BRIEF

10.1. Former Prime Minister imprisoned

The latest twist in the prolonged judicial saga involving former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra led to his eventual incarceration in 2025.

Following an inquiry triggered by a complaint filed by a former Democrat Party lawmaker in January 2025,³⁹¹ on 9 September 2025, the Supreme Court's Criminal Division for Holders of Political Positions ordered Thaksin to serve one year in prison, to which he had been sentenced in 2023.³⁹² The court ruled that Thaksin's protracted stay at Bangkok's Police General Hospital (PGH) could not be counted as time served because it considered Thaksin's transfer in August 2023 from the Bangkok Remand Prison to the PGH, where he remained until his release on parole in February 2024, illegitimate. The court opined that the health conditions for which Thaksin had been transferred to the PGH were not emergency illnesses, and indeed Thaksin was not admitted to an emergency or accident unit at the PGH. In addition, Thaksin's transfer to the PGH bypassed proper procedures, which would have required the former Prime Minister to be first examined at the DoC Hospital, where he could have been treated as an outpatient.³⁹³

Following the court's decision, Thaksin was first taken to the Bangkok Remand Prison and then transferred to Bangkok's Khlong Prem Central Prison to serve his sentence.³⁹⁴

10.2. New regulations prohibit recreational use of cannabis

In June 2025, more than three years after the removal of cannabis from the list of illicit narcotic drugs, which decriminalized its possession, distribution, sales, and consumption,³⁹⁵ the Ministry of Public Health adopted a regulation under which cannabis was classified as "controlled herb" under the Protection and Promotion of Thai Traditional Medicine Knowledge Act 1999 and subjected it to regulatory controls, including the prohibition on its advertising and use for recreational purposes.³⁹⁶ As a result, possession, distribution, sales, and consumption of cannabis became strictly limited to medical purposes.³⁹⁷ Violations may lead to criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to one year and fine of 20,000 baht (US\$641).

The number of cannabis-related cases brought before the courts of first instance for its unlawful production, possession, and distribution increased from five in 2024 to 24 in 2025.³⁹⁸

391. Thai PBS, *Chanchai Issarasenarak: The whistleblower who put Thaksin behind bars*, 5 October 2025

392. Bangkok Post, *Supreme Court jails Thaksin for one year, rejects illness claims*, 9 September 2025

393. Bangkok Post, *Supreme Court jails Thaksin for one year, rejects illness claims*, 9 September 2025

394. Bangkok Post, *Thaksin to serve year-sentence in Bangkok's Klongprem Central Prison*, 10 September 2025

395. FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2022*, 1 March 2022

396. Bangkok Post, *New cannabis controls also ban most smoking in shops*, 25 June 2025

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398. Office of Planning and Budget of Court of Justice, *Court of Justice's performance report 2024*; <https://oppb.coj.go.th/th/content/category/detail/id/8/cid/2087/iid/448124> [in Thai]; E-mail correspondence between FIDH and the Office of Planning and Budget of Court of Justice, 22 January 2025

Recommendations

Recommendations to the Thai government

General recommendations

- 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).
- Conduct a comprehensive and transparent assessment of discrepancies in detention conditions across prisons and correctional facilities nationwide, and, based on its findings, establish and implement the highest attainable standards.
- 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.
- Ensure that officers in all prisons receive adequate training on international standards, notably the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules.
- Continue to allow independent inspection bodies, including the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) and the Ombudsman, unfettered access to all prisons in line with commitments made by Thailand during its second Universal Periodic Review (UPR).
- Allow non-governmental organizations with a relevant mandate to conduct visits to places of detention, interview inmates, and assess conditions without undue hindrance.
- Review and amend domestic legislation to guarantee the right to vote for prisoners in accordance with international human rights law and standards.
- Conduct thorough, impartial, and independent investigations into all cases of deaths in prisons and publicly release the findings of such investigations.
- Publish regular and comprehensive statistical information on deaths in prisons, their causes, and the outcome of the investigations into such occurrences.
- Publish regular and comprehensive figures about foreign prisoners detained in correctional facilities, disaggregated by gender, nationality, and type of offense.
- Ensure pre-trial detainees are held separately from convicted prisoners and their treatment is based on their status as non-convicted persons.
- Ensure that incarcerated minors are held separately from adult prisoners.
- 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.

- Implement without delay the Department of Corrections’ regulation concerning the detention of certain inmates in locations other than prisons, issued under Article 33 of the Penitentiary Act 1936 (amended in 2017).
- Continue the process of decriminalization of certain drug-related offenses, such as personal use and possession for personal use.
- Increase the legal threshold for the possession of methamphetamines and amphetamines for personal use, taking into account the Narcotics Code 2021’s rehabilitative approach to drug policy and efforts to reduce prison overcrowding.
- Ensure that the voluntary rehabilitation schemes under the Narcotics Code 2021 comply with universal harm reduction and human rights principles.
- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (OP-ICCPR).
- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).
- Take concrete steps towards the abolition of the death penalty for all crimes, including by:
 - Establishing an official moratorium on executions.
 - Significantly reducing the number of criminal offenses that can be punished by death, including those that do not meet the threshold of “the most serious crimes” under Article 6 of the ICCPR.
 - Removing the provision of capital punishment from all drug-related offenses.
 - Ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (OP2-ICCPR).
- Implement recommendations made by all relevant UN human rights bodies with regard to prison conditions.
- Extend an invitation for a country visit to relevant special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, including: the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD); the Special Rapporteur on the right to food; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation; the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing; the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity; the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons; and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Specific recommendations

Overcrowding

- Increase efforts to address and resolve the issue of overcrowding in prisons by adopting and implementing 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). Such measures could include:
 - The imposition of fines for first-time offenders, when there is discretion in imposing fines and/or prison time.
 - The imposition of fines or community service for minor offenses.
 - The avoidance of pre-trial detention for defendants awaiting trial for certain categories of offenses.
 - The use of home detention coupled with electronic monitoring devices to prevent the risk of flight.
 - The use of early release procedures, such as parole and conditional release.
 - Post-sentencing alternatives that facilitate prisoners’ reintegration into society.
 - Repatriation of foreign prisoners.

- Ensure that when pre-trial or remand detention is used, it is for as short a period as possible, and that bail bonds are not unduly onerous and are proportionate to the alleged offense.

Accommodation conditions

- Ensure sleeping cells have sufficient natural light, adequate ventilation supplied by fresh air, and cooling systems.
- Ensure prisoners are provided with clean and sufficient bedding materials suitable for the climate.

Punishment and ill-treatment

- Ensure that all prisoners are treated with dignity and humanely and are not subject to any forms or acts of discrimination.
- Ensure that no disciplinary sanction or other penalty for violations of prison rules and conduct amounts to torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.
- Refrain from using force against prisoners, unless as an exceptional response to the three situations permitted by international standards: legitimate self-defense; attempted escape; and active or passive resistance to a lawful order.
- Ensure that prison guards use conflict prevention, mediation, or other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to prevent or resolve conflicts with and among inmates.
- Refrain from imposing collective punishment, such as disciplinary segregation and the placement of prisoners in cells with no natural light ("dark cells").
- Amend the provisions in the Penitentiary Act concerning the use of instruments of restraint on prisoners to be in line with Thailand's international human rights obligations and international standards, particularly with regard to the prohibition of the use of restraints as a punishment, the limits on the duration of the use of restraints, and other safeguards against ill-treatment.
- Refrain from using instruments of restraint, except in cases and with the modalities permitted under international standards.
- Refrain from using instruments of restraint as a punishment for disciplinary offenses.
- Conduct individual assessments of the risk posed by prisoners when authorizing the use of instruments of restraint.
- Refrain from using instruments of restraint that inflict injury, physical pain, or humiliation and for extended periods of time.
- Refrain from placing prisoners in solitary confinement, except as a last resort and only for as short a time as possible and subject to independent review.
- Conduct thorough, impartial, and independent investigations into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, ensure that perpetrators are punished in accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations, and that victims receive adequate redress and compensation.
- Establish a mechanism tasked with investigating allegations of gender-based violence in prisons, and providing protection, support, and counselling to the victims and witnesses.
- Ensure that intrusive body searches of inmates are carried out only when strictly necessary by trained officers of the same gender, and in a manner that respects the privacy and dignity of inmates.

Respect of religious practices

- Ensure that prisoners can observe their religious precepts and customs, including those related to food, clothing, and hygiene.

Water and sanitation

- Ensure a sufficient water supply for personal hygiene and provide an adequate flow of water to showers and toilets throughout the day, particularly at times of heavy demand.
- Ensure that prisoners have unrestricted access to toilets at all times with the maximum possible level of privacy.
- Increase overall access to showers and allocate an adequate period of time for each prisoner to shower.
- Ensure that prisoners who are assigned cleaning duties are provided with sufficient and adequate equipment and materials.

Food and drinking water

- Improve the overall quality and nutritional value of food served to prisoners.
- Ensure that food is provided to all prisoners in accordance with their medical needs and religious and cultural principles.
- Ensure fair and consistent distribution of food among prisoners.
- Ensure prisoners are provided with clean eating utensils that are similar to those used outside prisons.
- Ensure clean drinking water is available from a tap or a container continuously, 24 hours a day.

Healthcare services

- Ensure effective and timely healthcare services that meet the needs of the prison population.
- Continue to conduct regular inspections with the assistance of physicians or competent public health officials to examine and address issues that may impact the health of prisoners, including: the quantity, quality, preparation, and service of food; the hygiene and cleanliness of the facilities and the prisoners; and the sanitation, temperature, lighting, ventilation, and bedding arrangements of the facilities.
- Ensure that prisoners have immediate access to medical attention in urgent cases, and that prisoners who require specialized treatment are transferred to institutions or hospitals outside prisons in a timely manner.
- Ensure the provision of adequate specialized medical services - including dental, psychological, and psychiatric care - for prisoners.
- Ensure that the provision of mental healthcare entails the treatment of mental illness, the promotion of mental well-being of prisoners, and the prevention of violence, self-harm, and suicide.
- Ensure that prisoners have access to preventive healthcare, including periodic screening for communicable and non-communicable diseases and health promotion activities.

Women and LGBTIQ prisoners

- Ensure that female prisoners continue to be provided with the necessary items to meet their specific hygiene needs, particularly an adequate provision of sanitary pads that are of good quality and free of charge.
- Ensure that female prisoners continue to receive specific healthcare services, including gynecological checkups and pre- and post-natal care.
- Ensure that LGBTIQ prisoners are treated with respect for their sexual orientation or gender identity and are protected from any forms of discrimination, violence, abuse, or harassment.
- Ensure that transgender inmates are not allocated to a male or female prison or a section of a prison solely on the basis of their biological sex, but that placement decisions take into account their gender identity and other risks of violence, abuse, or harassment.

- Continue to ensure the availability of specific healthcare services for LGBTIQ prisoners.

Prison labor and education

- Ensure that prisoners give their express written consent to work and are fully informed of the conditions of their work.
- Ensure that prison work programs aim to equip inmates with skills, experience, and self-esteem necessary for their successful reintegration into society upon release.
- Ensure that working conditions and hours for prisoners resemble as closely as possible those of similar work outside of prisons and are under no circumstances exploitative or afflictive.
- Ensure that prisoners receive decent and equitable compensation for their work, with a clearly defined and transparent process for calculating and establishing rates of remuneration.
- Enforce the 2020 Ministry of Justice regulation that prescribes that prisoners receive 70% of the profits from the work they are assigned.
- Conduct regular inspections of prisons, investigate all allegations of human rights violations related to prison labor, publicly report on the findings, and adequately compensate victims of abuses.
- Ensure that prisoners have access to meaningful programs of education and vocational training that are in line with their individual needs, take into account their social and economic backgrounds, and are best suited to their reintegration into society.

Access to the outside world

- Ensure prisoners are able to effectively communicate with their families, friends, and lawyers at regular intervals through visits, correspondence, and telecommunications.
- Ensure there is no unlawful or arbitrary interference in prisoners' privacy during both in-person and online visits from their family members.
- Ensure the privacy and confidentiality of all communications between prisoners and their lawyers.
- Ensure that prisoners have regular access to daily newspapers, magazines, books, and other cultural, recreational, and educational material.
- Ensure that no undue restrictions are imposed on the type of available books and other publications that prisoners wish to read and/or consult.

Opportunities for recreation

- Ensure that adequate recreational and cultural activities, including sports and arts, are provided for prisoners to maintain and improve their well-being and promote their social reintegration.

Prison complaints procedures

- Ensure that, upon admission, prisoners are provided with information about their rights, prison rules, and complaint procedures in a language they can understand.
- Ensure that the prison complaint system entails both internal and external mechanisms.
- Ensure that prisoners can file complaints anonymously and that all complaints are examined, thoroughly investigated, and adequately resolved.
- Ensure that prisoners are not subjected to any acts of reprisals from prison authorities or fellow prisoners in connection with complaints they have filed.
- Ensure that complaint procedures are accessible to prisoners with disabilities and language or literacy challenges.

- Publish regular and comprehensive statistical information concerning the number of complaints filed against prison authorities, investigations conducted, and disciplinary or other measures taken against wrongdoers.

Recommendations to the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT)

- Continue to request and perform regular visits to all prisons and correctional facilities to assess conditions and make recommendation to relevant authorities to bring conditions of detention in line with international standards.
- Publish findings related to visits to prison facilities in a timely manner and provide regular public updates on issues raised during such visits.
- Continue to ensure that all complaints made to the NHRCT about the prison system are investigated and resolved promptly and with appropriate remedies.
- Provide technical assistance in the training of prison officers on international standards on prison conditions.

Recommendations to states and intergovernmental bodies

- Urge the Thai government to increase efforts to address and resolve the issue of overcrowding in prisons by finding sustainable and effective measures to reduce the prison population.
- Urge the Thai government to improve conditions in prisons to be in line with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders, particularly with regard to the amount of space allocated per prisoner, sanitation facilities, the availability of adequate healthcare, and prison labor.
- Urge the Thai government to honor commitments made during its second and third UPR, including by granting the NHRCT and the Ombudsman unfettered access to all prisons.
- Provide the necessary technical assistance and training to prison officers on Thailand's international human rights obligations and relevant international standards relating to prison conditions and the treatment of prisoners.
- Make recommendations on prison conditions and the treatment of prisoners during the fourth UPR of Thailand.
- Regularly request official visits to prisons and correctional facilities to assess detention conditions.

Report partners



Union for Civil Liberty (UCL) is the first human rights organization in Thailand. It was founded in 1973 to advocate for, promote, and protect human rights and democracy. It has been working to: monitor human rights violations, government policies, laws, and actions; study and disseminate human rights knowledge and information; provide legal aid to disadvantaged and marginalized people through a nationwide network of human rights lawyers; and conduct campaigns for human rights and democracy, together with other human rights groups, organizations, and networks.



Freedom Bridge is an organization established in 2024 to call for the release of all political prisoners and the restoration of human rights and democracy in Thailand. It provides direct support to political prisoners and their families so that they can survive the immediate consequences of repression and remain connected to the broader pro-democracy movement.

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A general view of the entrance of Bangkok's Khlong Prem Central Prison on 18 October 2025.

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