

# **An urgent call to prevent assassination by Thai State of 6 Thai political refugees in Laos**

Wednesday 22 May 2019, by [ACT4DEM](#) (Date first published: 21 May 2019).

**Since 2006 and 2014 military coups in Thailand, there are about 50 Thai political exiles in Laos, half due to lese majeste law.**

**The Thai Junta, especially during the New King era, set up a military unit to eliminate all 112 dissidents in exiles. Since June 2016, 8 Thai refugees disappear (like our brother Sombat Somporn). The last 6 cases happened during the last 5 month, from December 2018. Two bodies were found floating ashore Nakhon Phanom Provinces: handcuffed, legs-tied, eyes billfold, stomach were cut through to stuff with concrete poles to sink the bodies.**

**There are about 50 Thai political refugees in Laos, 25 people of them due to lese majeste law. This mean 16% of Thai political exiles in Laos have been murdered during the past two years. And if the assassination squad which is now deploying into Laos to kill the Faiyen, a musician group (6 people), is to be successful, it would mean that 52% of lese majesty 112 refugee in Laos has been eliminated by Thai Prayuth's Junta, while Laos government cannot do anything, and while the UN and the world leaders who vowed to respect human rights do nothing.**

**Please read the letter and help us to stop Thai junta's assassination squad from killing activist musicians.**

**Thai political exiles are now in need of international solidarity,**

**Thank you,**

**Junya Lek**



*Members of Faiyen*

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Dear Excellencies,

A group of Thai musicians in Laos are in imminent danger of their lives, of being murdered by the Thai state. They are right now in urgent need of sanctuary and protection.

### **Brief background**

For 5 years following the 2014 military coup, led by Royal Thai Army Chief General Prayuth Chan-Ocha, the people of Thailand had to endure every aspect of humiliation, suppression and oppression. On March 24 this year Chan-Ocha permitted the election of a 500 member of Parliament but Prayuth's junta retained the right to appoint the 250-seat Senate, which now includes 101 military generals.

The opening of the Parliament was delayed for the Coronation of the King as Head of State, and is now scheduled for 24 May 2019.

With the heavy military presence in the Senate, and all across the country, the political atmosphere in Thailand remains full of fear and speculation, not least because the people are well-aware that their new Head of the State has never shown any sign of respecting democracy.

The March 24 General Election is now recognised as one of the dirtiest in Thai history. During the last decade Thailand's draconian laws of lèse majesté have become known worldwide. The current Constitution continues to state that "The King shall be enthroned in a position of revered worship which shall not be violated. No person shall expose the King to any sort of accusation or action."

After the 1976 military coup Article 112 of the Thai Penal Code was amended to state that "Any person who defames, insults or threatens the King (the Queen, Heir-apparent or Regent) will be punished with a 3 - 15 year prison sentence." More recently the absolute power of the Head of State has been bolstered through the Computer Crimes Act and other such legislation.

Thailand's lèse majesté laws are aimed directly at precluding meaningful exercise of Freedom of Speech and Expression and Freedom of Assembly, and Chan-Ocha's junta has made it their mission to eliminate any voice that attempts to criticise the Head of the State. For the first time since the violent military crackdown against the Thai student body in 1976, around 200 hundred Thai people (politicians, students, community leaders and artists) have had to flee the country, mainly because of lèse majesté.

The Prayuth junta has formed an assassination squad that can be deployed all around the world to eliminate any dissident voice.

In Laos 8 LM 112 refugees have been murdered since 2016, 6 within the last 5 months.

22 June 2016 Itthipol Sukpaen, 29

29 July 2017 Wuttipong Kotchadhammakun, 47

12 December 2018 Surachai Daanwattananusorn, 75

12 December 2018 Chatchan Bubphawan, 54

12 December 2018 Kraidet Luelert, 47

January 2019 Chuchee Chiwasut, 65,

Siam Theerawut, 34

Kritsana Thapthai, 40.

At this moment there are 6 Thai musicians in Laos in imminent danger - facing immediate need of sanctuary and protection.

Four days ago (17.05) the 6 members of the musical group 'Faiyen' received a direct warning from a well-known international organisation in Thailand that Prayuth's assassination squad, the same squad that brutally murdered Surachai and friends in December, is coming for them on 22 May. Right now that squad is crossing from Thailand to Laos.

Upon receipt of this warning, in contact with 'Action for People's Democracy in Thailand' (ACT4DEM), Faiyen decided to make their situation fully public, and ACT4DEM launched a '#SaveFaiyen #Don'tKillFaiyen' campaign. Through Twitter Thailand the threat facing Faiyen has become common knowledge.

The assassination of the Faiyen musicians would be a horrible and terrible tragedy, an insult to musicians around the world, and yet another indelible blot against the Kingdom.

This is a letter to respected leaders of the world requesting that somebody step-in and take action to protect these musicians.

Thailand has provided space and facilities for UN offices and many international human rights organisations, but when it comes to protecting Freedom of Speech in Thailand, and the victims of LM 112, their reaction is frequently deplorable.

This time we do really beg your Excellencies for a speedy response. You have the power to save these citizens of conscience. Please step-up . . right now. Please take action to provide these musicians with sanctuary. They are brave people whose voice and music speaks for millions.

Yours sincerely,

**Junya Yimrpasert**

**Action for People's Democracy in Thailand (ACT4DEM)**

Email: act4dem gmail.com

. . and the members of Faiyen:

Trairong 'Khunthong' Sinseubpol

Romchalee 'Yammy' Sombulrattanakul

Nithiwat 'Jom' Wannasiri

Parinya 'Port' Cheewinkulpathom

Worravut Thueakchaiyaphum

Chaiyapruek 'Nui' Samanrak

21 May 2019

*Attachments:*

'#SaveFaiyen #Don'tKillFaiyen' petition in English and Thai (launched May 19).

Transcript of 'Message from Faiyen' calling for help.

'Save Faiyen' video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Km2zFZg9Kg&feature=em-comments>

Request for urgent assistance for 9 Thai asylum seekers (submitted on 27 January 2019)

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