



## Joint Statement

Thai Student Association in Germany  
Association of Thai Students in France  
Association of Thai Students in Switzerland  
Thai Student Assembly in Belgium

On the stance on the political demonstrations in Thailand

As of February 2020, public gatherings in protest to the government by students and the public at large have led to an increase in tension. This tension eventually resulted in the government forcing the political movement called “Khana Ratsadon” to dissolve on October 16, 2020.

Regarding the aforementioned state of affairs, the Thai Student Association in Germany, Association of Thai Students in France, Association of Thai Student in Switzerland, and Thai Students in Belgium hereby express (hereafter referred to as “we”) our stand on all events that have occurred in this statement.

We are of the opinion that actions taken by Khana Ratsadon have been in line with the principles of peaceful demonstration and freedom of expression as stipulated in and protected by the constitution and international human rights. Governments have a responsibility to protect and uphold said rights. While it is normal for individual opinions to differ in democracies, a mature society copes with such differences along the lines of humanitarian principles. We believe that silencing of opposing voices is not the answer, nor do we support the stifling of diversity of thought through fear when that diversity will lead to greater development and understanding for the Thai people.

Actions taken by the Thai government against demonstrators include; False allegations of violence and bullying of youth and parents at home by government officials. This continued until the police break-up of the rally on the 15th and 16th of October, which also saw an excessive amount of force by the police. At the police intervention many protesters were arrested during the night. Media were also threatened into silence and information blocked from reaching the public. Such

acts do not suit a legitimate democracy. Instead they violate the human and civil rights of Thai people.

While the state retains the power to act in accordance with the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations B.E. 2548, the enforcement of this law in present circumstances is unwarranted and unjust. This is due to the absence of terrorism or the use of force resulting in loss of life, bodily harm, or property damages in any way. Those in power should always keep in mind that the nation is the people. Therefore, national security measures that are opposed to the security and wellbeing of the people have no legitimacy, and so no place in our society.

We therefore call on the government to:

1. Immediately cease the current state of emergency.
2. Refrain from threatening its citizens.
3. Release those individuals detained by the government and restore the right to a legal defence and a fair trial.
4. Restore the right to freedom of speech and expression safeguarded within the constitution.

We live in a time of change. We believe that only open and honest discussion will lead us out of the current crisis.

We sincerely hope that our government and society are open to “the voices of our era”, and any voice that might make itself be heard. We strive for a Thai society wherein all citizens are equal under the law.

Thai Student Association in Germany

Association of Thai Students in France

Association of Thai Students in Switzerland

Thai Student Assembly in Belgium

16 October 2020