

Thai CSOs Coalition for the UPR



## **THAILAND**

# Joint UPR Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review 39th Session of the UPR Working Group

The Rights of Khon Isaan (Isaan People) in Thailand

Submitted on 25 March 2021

## Submission by:

The Human Rights Violations in Isaan Monitoring Group was founded in 2017 to monitor human rights violations related to issues of natural resources and environment, civil rights and political rights, as well as threats to human rights defenders, in Northeastern Thailand.

The Sai Thong Rak Pah Network aims to build a network for providing training in human rights, forest law, and policies related to natural resources, land, and forest management. The trainings are based on the needs of communities and would lead to strategy and policy recommendations for just and fair land ownership distribution and community rights. Trainings will be provided to personnel in five Sai Thong communities together with local authorities and university students.

Amnat Charoen Friend of Women Center is the center to provide support by giving advice in Isaan region, building capacity, empower and seek collaboration in local government and CSOs to support the cases. Also promoted the rights of women, children, youth, elderly, disability and vulnerable groups on Human rights International Standard.

**Isaan Gender Diversity Network (IGDN)** is a new platform of gender diversity in Isaan (Northeastern Region of Thailand) is a place where everyone can build up networks, discuss issues to create movements, reflect problems with us at Isaan Gender Diversity Network (IGDN) including civil rights, gender diversity, arts, culture or economy in order to make equality in our society.

Manushya Foundation is a women-led and innovative non-profit organization with the goal to reinforce the power of local communities, in particular women human rights defenders, so they can advance their human rights and fight for equality and social justice. Manushya means "Human Being" in Sanskrit; it was founded in 2017 to engage, mobilise and empower local communities across Asia to be at the center of decisions and policies that affect them by: connecting humans through inclusive coalition building and; by developing strategies focused at placing local communities' voices at the centre of human rights advocacy and domestic implementation of international human rights obligations and standards. Manushya Foundation strengthens the solidarity and capacity of communities and grassroots to become Agents of Change fighting for their rights and providing solutions to improve their lives, their livelihoods and the human rights situation on the ground.

The Thai CSOs coalition for the UPR (Universal Periodic Review) was created during Thailand's Second UPR cycle and comprises local communities and national civil society organizations from all human rights sectors and across Thailand. The coalition is as of today the widest coalition of Thai CSOs ever brought together to contribute to the UPR process and other UN human rights monitoring mechanisms as well as development obligations. The formation of the Thai CSOs Coalition for the UPR has enabled local communities from different regions of Thailand, experiencing similar challenges (such as land evictions, land grabbing, abusive working conditions), to meet each other and build solidarity, creating momentum and commitment to work together as a strong national movement to hold the government accountable on its international human rights obligations.

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For more information on this Joint UPR Submission, please contact: Human Rights Violations in Isaan Monitoring Group Lead: Nattaporn Artharn

Email: beerare@gmail.com Tel: +66 (0) 929015445 Manushya Lead: Emilie Pradichit
Email: emilie@manushyafoundation.org

Tel: +66 (0) 9517 65921

Web: www.manushyafoundation.org



#### Introduction

- 1.1 In this submission, The Human Rights Violations in Isaan Monitoring Group, Sai Thong Rak Pah Network, Amnat Charoen Friend of Women Center, Isaan Gender Diversity Network (IGDN), and Manushya Foundation examine the compliance of the Thai government with the recommendations received during the 2<sup>nd</sup> UPR cycle of Thailand, particularly in relation to the protection of people from the Isaan region. In this context, we analyse the efforts made by the Thai government to implement recommendations concerning the compliance of national legislation with the international human rights obligations of Thailand in relation to the rights of people living in the Isaan region, and the enhancement of their access to health, education, welfare, and justice. The authors then draw specific, measurable and result-oriented recommendations to ensure that the rights of Khon Isaan are respected and upheld.
- During the 2<sup>nd</sup> UPR cycle, Thailand received no recommendation specifically addressing the 1.2 rights of people from the Isaan region, demonstrating a lack of understanding of the issues faced by Khon Isaan in Thailand. Nevertheless, the Thai government received a total of 40 recommendations in relation to (1) the protection of vulnerable persons, ethnic minorities and poor peasants, (2) the right to an adequate standard of living, (3) access to healthcare and education, and (4) land-related rights. Moreover, it received four recommendations specifically addressing discrimination against women and their advancement, which particularly affects Isaan women. The Thai government supported all of the recommendations.
- 1.3 Thailand hosts a great variety of ethnic groups, and the large majority of the population is Thai or Isaan. The Isaan region (160,000 km²) is the poorest area of Thailand, where the average per capita income is about USD 400 per year. Subsequently, 70% of the population is classified as poor.<sup>2</sup> We are deeply concerned with Thailand's treatment of people from the Issan region, who are facing discrimination and severe challenges in accessing their human rights, as the Thai government has failed to put in place a comprehensive approach to enhance the protection of their rights, in particular to ensure access to their land for people who are evicted and have their livelihoods disrupted, and to ensure access education, health, justice and effective remedies.
- 1.4 Discrimination against Isaan people is not a new issue in Thailand. In 1904, when Thailand reclassified all ethnic Lao within its borders as Thai, they were classified as 'an inferior sort of Thai' and they have been treated as second class citizens compared to inhabitants of Bangkok and central provinces.<sup>3</sup> To date, this perception of Isaan people persists, and, while Isaan is the most populated region of Thailand, it remains the poorest region, due to the discrimination against them.
- 1.5 This submission indicates that Thailand does not have in place adequate policies that fully protect Isaan people's rights and dignity, i.e., policies that enhance their status and decrease the level of discrimination against them. Moreover, due to the persistence of poverty, Isaan women face further hardship and find it difficult to overcome obstacles in society. These issues will be discussed in the following manner:



- Section 2 discusses Thailand's ratification of international human rights instruments and domestic legislation safeguarding the rights of minorities, ethnic, linguistic or descentbased groups.
- o Section 3 examines the obligations of Thailand in relation to Isaan people's access to health and social welfare.
- Section 4 analyses the negative portrayal of Isaan people and the stereotypical image of women as 'mia farang' (white foreigners' wife).
- Section 5 discusses Thailand's implementation of UPR recommendations and compliance with the right to land of people from the Isaan region.
- Section 6 discusses Thailand's implementation of UPR recommendations concerning the guarantee of fundamental human rights of Isaan children's access to education.
- Section 7 examines Isaan people's lack of access to justice and effective remedies.
- Section 8 entails a set of recommendations to advance the implementation of UPR recommendations received during the 2<sup>nd</sup> UPR cycle, addressing the challenges and rights violations discussed in foregoing sections.
- 2. Ratification of international human rights instruments and domestic legislation protecting minorities and ethnic groups' rights
- 2.1 During the 2<sup>nd</sup> UPR cycle, the Thai government received eight recommendations concerning the ratification of significant international human rights instruments safeguarding the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups, and adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, of which it accepted six and noted one, but implemented none of them. Notably, none of the recommendations specifically addresses the rights of the people from the Isaan region, who have been left out due to their ethnicity, descent, or nationality.
- 2.2 The Northeast region, known as the Isaan region, is the most populated region of Thailand, housing over 22 million people or 33% of the total population of Thailand. The people in the region refer to themselves as 'Khon Isaan' (Isaan people) rather than as Thai. They are of Lao descent, and are also referred to as 'Lao Isaan.' Based on their cultural and linguistic differences, Isaan people distinguish themselves from Thai people. Language is one of their defining characteristics, considering that their mother tongue is Lao. Because of their defining characteristics, discrimination against Isaan people is a perpetuated phenomenon in Thailand.



- 2.3 Equality and non-discrimination are guaranteed under the Constitution of 2017. Article 27 of the Constitution of 2017 states that "[a]ll persons are equal before the law, and shall have rights and liberties and be protected equally under the law. (...) Unjust discrimination against a person on the grounds of differences in origin, race, language, sex, age, disability, physical or health condition, personal status, economic and social standing, religious belief, education or political view which is not contrary to the provisions of the Constitution, or on any other grounds shall not be permitted." Even though the Constitution of 2017 prohibits unjust discrimination, there remains issues with the protections afforded under it. Firstly, the term discrimination has not been defined. Secondly, not all the grounds of discrimination mentioned in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) are included, as discrimination based on colour, descent, and national and ethnic origin is left out. Thirdly, a distinction is made between 'just' and 'unjust' discrimination. No limitations are set for 'just' discrimination, which encompasses measures to eliminate obstacles or promote people's ability to exercise their rights or liberties.
- 2.4 No domestic legislation has been enacted to eliminate discrimination against all persons. On top of that, community rights of ethnic minority groups and indigenous people have been reduced in the Constitution of 2017, compared to the Constitution of 2007, so they are guaranteed less constitutional protection against discrimination. In Article 66 of the Constitution of 2007,6 the community rights of local communities were emphasised: they had the right to conserve or restore their customs, local wisdom, arts or good culture, as well as the right to participate in the management and maintenance of natural resources. While these rights are significant to protect the livelihoods and lifestyles of ethnic minority groups, these rights are no longer recognised and provided for in the Constitution of 2017, particularly in Article 41. As these rights are no longer guaranteed, ethnic minorities are guaranteed less constitutional protection against discrimination. Ethnic minorities are often living in and adjacent to reserved forest areas and national parks and are reliant on the natural resources in the forest. While they make a livelihood in forest areas and greatly contribute to forest conservation, the Thai government and people in cities often blame these groups for destroying forest areas. Furthermore, ethnic minority groups are often discriminated against because of their culture and customs. As their right to conserve or restore their culture and customs is no longer guaranteed in the Constitution of 2017, they have less protection when they face discrimination.
- 2.5 Rejections, hostile school and work environments, limited freedom of gender expression, limited career advancement opportunities, pay gaps, lower job security, and limited access to social benefits are the most common ways through which discrimination is perpetrated in Thailand for marginalised communities in the educational system and the labour market.



- 2.6 Notably, there was no meaningful participation of Isaan people in the drafting process of the Constitution of 2017, despite the Thai government's commitment to 'encourage public debate on the draft Constitution' during the 2<sup>nd</sup> UPR cycle, the recommendation was not implemented. In the "Talk for the Freedom of the Constitution with the Isaan People" event in the Isaan region organized by Isaan people, where people discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the draft Constitution of 2017, 11 people were prosecuted for disobeying NCPO Order No. 3/58. Accordingly, the Constitution of 2017 is marked by the exclusion of Isaan people from expressing their opinions and discussing them publicly.
- 2.7 The Thai government formed through the general election held in 2019 ignored the voices of Isaan people, even though Isaan people constitutes one third of the population of Thailand. If the democratic elections are held granting one vote per person, the votes of Isaan people would play an important role in determining the country's leaders. Instead, the Thai government, being prejudiced against Isaan people, i.e., believing that Isan people do not have knowledge, excluded the voices of the Isaan people by allowing the 250 appointed senators to take on the role of selecting the Prime Minister of Thailand, resulting in government policies not being made based on the needs of the Isaan people.
- 2.8 Generally, there has been increasing centralization in natural resource management in Thailand through the 20-Year National Strategy as defined in the Constitution of 2017 to ensure continuity in the use of natural resources. However, similar to the Constitution of 2017, there is a lack of meaningful participation of Isaan people in, for example, the 10-year Cane and Sugar Strategy (2015 2026) to increase the sugarcane plantation area to 6 million rai by 2026 and to support the expansion of sugar mills in the Isaan region from 20 factories to 30 factories, which does not arise from the needs of the Isaan people. Moreover, the promotion of Isaan people to grow sugarcane will destroy the ecosystem and negatively impact the health of Isaan people, as sugarcane cultivation requires weeding chemicals and results in an increased risk of water sources and plants that are food sources of Isaan people being contaminated with toxic chemicals.

# 3. Isaan people's access to health and social welfare

3.1 During the 2<sup>nd</sup> UPR cycle, the Thai government received thirteen recommendations regarding access to healthcare, education and social welfare, which it supported but did not implement. None of the recommendations received specifically address Isaan people's situation, but rather address the population in general.



- 3.2 The Isaan region has long been an essential force for Thailand's socio-economic and political development. Being the largest group of eligible voters, the region plays a pivotal role in determining the outcome of national elections. Due to the minor presence of formal enterprises in the region, and the lack of stable employment, which would entitle people to health insurance and social security, the majority of Isaan people have no choice but to rely on government programs, such as the Universal Health Coverage scheme (or the '30 baht scheme'), village funds, and debt relief programs. The provisions of government social welfare schemes are particularly important for improving the quality of life for Isaan people.
- 3.3 Despite the increasing affordability of healthcare and improvements in health outcomes, there remains significant obstacles remain in the Isaan region with regard to healthcare. The unequal distribution of health facilities, the high patient load, and the shortage of health practitioners are among the various healthcare challenges faced by the region. As a consequence, healthcare coverage in the Isaan region is not at a level equivalent to that of other more developed regions in Thailand. On top of that, these challenges are worse in the poorer provinces of the Isaan region. These challenges may be a consequence of the geographical position of the Isaan region, which leads to the improper allocation of health facilities and thereby unequal access to health opportunities. For instance, Mukdahan province in the Northeast region has seven hospitals, the same number as Ang Thong province in the central region of Thailand, but Mukdahan province is four times larger than Ang Thong province.<sup>8</sup> This means that patients in Mukdahan province are required to travel farther to access healthcare, which puts them at a significant disadvantage.
- 4. The negative portrayal of Isaan people and the stereotypical image of women as 'mia farang' (white foreigners' wife)
- 4.1 During the 2<sup>nd</sup> UPR cycle, Thailand received six recommendations concerning racial discrimination and its prevention, and four recommendations regarding discrimination against women and gender-based violence and abuse. The Thai government supported all of the recommendations but failed to implement them.
- 4.2 For decades, the ethnically and linguistically diverse people of the Isaan region have been the subject of pervasive bias, often described as docile and uneducated, or as "unsophisticated peasants," who can be bought and manipulated by ambitious politicians. According to Assistant Professor Ram, Isaan people are portrayed as uneducated, poor, and vulgar, and Thai soap operas depicted them as labourers in the agricultural sector. These facts lead to alarming consequences, such as Isaan people intentionally not speaking their native dialect, especially in Bangkok, out of fear of being discriminated.

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- 4.3 Moreover, due to the uneven distribution of resources and wealth in Thailand, Isaan people are often forced to migrate to Bangkok to seek employment. However, due to discrimination against them based on stereotypes, Isaan people are employed in low-paid jobs, mainly as taxi drivers or construction workers, and many women end up working in the sex industry. By working in such jobs, Isaan people earn low incomes and suffer from challenging working conditions and limited protection under labour laws.
- 4.4 Furthermore, the Thai government claims to punish hate speech and negative stereotypes on certain ethnic groups with charges of sedition or defamation under the Criminal Code. However, in reality, those penalised by these provisions are only those who express opinions critical of the Thai government and monarchy. Instead of preventing negative stereotypes and hate speech, the Thai government itself contributes to disseminating negative stereotypes on ethnic groups. For example, people in the Isaan region are still referred to as 'stupid,' 'mia farang,' and 'girls who do not value studying but like to work in bars and massage parlours instead.'12
- As a consequence of the underdevelopment of the Isaan region and the persistence of poverty, Isaan women are forced to find other ways to overcome obstacles and hardships in providing for themselves and for their families. Some decide to do so through marriage migration. While Isaan women marry foreigners in order to be able to take care of their families, the Thai government perceives their marriages differently. In August 2018, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) opened an education center for Isaan 'mia farang' in Khon Kaen, which 'especially target Isaan women and girls who do not value studying but like to work in bars and massage parlours instead.' The urban middle-class Thai also negatively perceives Isaan women who marry foreigners, viewing them as 'immoral materialists' who threaten 'Thai traditional values.'

# 5. The right to land of people from Isaan region

- 5.1 During the 2<sup>nd</sup> UPR cycle, the Thai government received no recommendations specifically concerning its compliance with the right to land of people from the Isaan region. Nonetheless, it received six recommendations related to the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, and the gap between rural and urban areas, including the unbalanced distribution of income among people. The Thai government accepted all of the recommendations but failed to implement them.
- As 85% of people in the Isaan region are farmers, they are dependent on their land to make a living. Thowever, their right to land has been continuouly threatened. In 2014, the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) implemented the Forest Reclamation Policy (FRP), Thailand's solution to climate change to tackle problems as forest destruction and trespassing on public land. The NCPO enforced NCPO Order No. 64/2014 to implement the FRP. With the implementation of NCPO Order No. 66/2014, the NCPO declared that its operations would only affect wealthy investors as the Order states that government operations must not impact the poor and landless who had lived on the land before the enforcement of NCPO Order No. 64/2014. While these Orders were repealed on 9 July 2019, they continue to criminalise the legitimate actions of communities and individuals, as the content of NCPO Orders Nos. 64/2014



and 66/2014, particularly their negative aspects have already been embedded into other laws including the new amendment to the National Parks Act of 2019.<sup>19</sup> Consequently, numerous villagers and community members, most of them located in the Isaan region, who have been living in forest areas for decades are severely impacted by FRP and have been evicted from their ancestral lands. For example, in the Sai Thong National Park Case in which fourteen villagers of Sab Wai village, located in Sai Thong National Park in the Northeast region of Thailand, were unfairly treated as criminals. In this case, in 2015, the villagers were charged under NCPO Order No. 64/2014 for trespassing and encroachment of a national park area. Despite the protection afforded to the villagers under NCPO Order No. 66/2014, from May 2019 to July 2019, they were found guilty by the Appeal Court, imprisoned, ordered to pay high fines, and to vacate their land. One of the 14 villagers, Nittaya Muangklang, the community leader and a woman human rights defender, heard the Supreme Court's verdict of one of her cases on 3 March 2021 and was found guilty with a suspended jail term sentence of three years.<sup>20</sup>

5.3 Moreover, risking land eviction and not being able to access their right to land, people from the Isaan region who make a livelihood through farming activities experience violations of their right to housing and right to work. When evicted from their land, they are not offered alternate land and have nowhere to go. Without land, they are unable to continue farming activities to make a livelihood. These actions lead to the violation of their right to work and to freely access employment opportunities.

#### 6. Isaan children's access to education

- During the 2<sup>nd</sup> UPR cycle, the Thai government received 12 recommendations regarding access to education, of which three specifically address children's right to education and the necessity to protect their rights. The Thai government supported all of the recommendations but did not implement them, particularly with regard to Isaan children.
- 6.2 Since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Thai government sought to consolidate its control over the Isaan region through a programme of 'Thaification.' Consequently, the national school system demanded teaching to be conducted only in the Thai language. This measure severely affected Isaan people, considering that their mother tongue is Lao and not Thai. For this reason, Isaan children are denied the opportunity to access basic learning in their mother tongue, which has the potential to result in poor Thai and Lao language skills.<sup>21</sup>

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Moreover, based on the enactment of the Promotion and Conservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage Act of 2016 and ratification of the Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Thai government claims to protect and conserve the 27 registered ethnic languages. Furthermore, with the preparation of a strategic plan to drive forward the National Language Policy to maintain and promote Thai, local, and ethnic languages used in Thailand, the Thai government appears to encourage ethnic children to study their own languages to improve the efficiency of their learning and promote equitable access to higher education through a bilingual system.<sup>22</sup> However, despite these claims, at the present time, the Thai national school system demands that teaching be conducted only in the Thai language, even in cases of students belonging to different groups who have their own mother tongues. Therefore, due to the fact that education is not provided in the mother tongue of ethnic groups, children belonging to these groups, having no knowledge of Thai, face barriers in accessing education and are often left behind by the education system in Thailand.<sup>23</sup> On top of that, in the curriculum, there is also a limited reference to ethnic groups and their distinct history, culture, and lifestyles.

# 7. Isaan people's access to justice and effective remedies

- 7.1 During the 2<sup>nd</sup> UPR cycle, the Thai government received five recommendations concerning access to justice and effective remedies, of which accepted one and noted four but implemented none. Nevertheless, the recommendations are rather generic and address the right to access justice and effective remedies of the general population rather than specifically addressing the challenges that Isaan people encounter when accessing justice and effective remedies.
- 7.2 In the Isaan region, where people are largely dependent on natural resources and the environment, such as on the Mun river, they are negatively affected by infrastructural development projects. Even though the law requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Environmental and Health Impact Assessment (EHIA) report to assess the impact of project implementation and allow stakeholders to express their opinions, the organization of public hearing is meaningless in practice. Police officers are used to control crowds to prevent people who disagree with project implementation from participating in the public hearing process, demonstrating that the Thai government and business actors in Thailand do not comply with the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP).



7.3 For example, the construction of the Pak Mun Dam changed the ecosystem of the Mun River, resulting in a significant decrease in the number and type of fish species migrating from the Mekong river. Consequently, fishing communities in ten provinces in the Isaan region have been affected by drastic reductions in fish populations and they currently face food insecurity.<sup>24</sup> To date, the situation has been ongoing for 30 years, but no measures have been taken to solve the problem, and communities have been denied compensation for the loss of their livelihoods.<sup>25</sup> Compensation has been declined because of discrimination against Isaan people of Lao descent. When community members filed a complaint and requested compensation, the government official who received the complaint did not want to listen to the community members because they spoke Lao. The official claimed that he was unable to understand their language (even though it is very similar to Thai and Thai people generally understand Lao) and that he would send translators instead. However, the Thai government never made an effort to send translators or assist the community members affected by the situation. Consequently, communities have never received compensation for the loss of their livelihoods. In the wake of discrimination, people from the Isaan region are unable to access their right to seek justice and adequate remedies for any damage suffered, and the Thai government has failed to ensure their right to effective remedies. Similarly, in the case of Sab Wai Villagers, they were manipulated and threatened into signing the documents to give away their land. The criminalization of 14 villages further put them in a dangerous situation, where they will lose their home, income, and livelihoods without corresponding relocation and any compensation measures due to the lack of effective remedies and justice.<sup>26</sup>

## 8. Recommendations

8.1 Regarding ratification of international human rights instruments and domestic legislation protecting minorities and ethnic groups' rights

In line with Articles 2, 4 and 5 of ICERD:

- a. Guarantee that all persons are equal before the law and are entitled, without any discrimination, to the equal protection of the law.
- Prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, language, political or other opinions, natural or social origin.
- c. Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law to eliminate discrimination against all persons and ensure that existing legislation does not have any discriminatory impact on any particular ethnic group.

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- d. Draft a new constitution with meaningful participation of Isaan people and ensure all Constitution Drafting Committee Members are selected from the election process.
- e. Promote the creation of an Isaan development strategy catered towards people from the Isaan region.

# 8.2 Regarding Isaan people's access to health and social welfare

In line with Article 5 of ICERD:

- a. Ensure that healthcare facilities, goods and services are designed to improve the health status of, and respond to the needs of, all persons without discrimination on the basis of, and taking into account, the ethnicity.
- b. Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure the enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of health, without discrimination, on the basis of ethnicity or race.
- c. Ensure the equal distribution of health facilities, the patient load, and the health practitioners all over the country.

## 8.3 Regarding the negative portrayal of Isaan people and the stereotypical image of women

In line with Articles 2, 4 and 7 of ICERD:

- a. Refrain from augmenting the hate speech and spreading negative stereotypes on ethnic and marginalised groups.
- b. Refine the objectives of the education centre for Isaan 'mia farang' and refrain from constructing a stereotyped image of Isaan women.

# 8.4 Regarding the right to land of Isaan people

In line with Article 5 of ICERD:

- a. Take steps to comprehensively regulate environmental protection and ensure strict enforcement of its environmental legislation, so as to prevent harmful effects on health of the population.
- b. Immediately drop all criminal and civil charges against the Sab Wai villagers for the legitimate use of their land; Stop, without further delay, the abuse of forest conservation laws and policies, to evict local communities and individuals from land they have been living on for generations



c. Address the impact of NCPO Orders Nos. 64/2014 and 66/2014 that disproportionately impacts the marginalised and poor local communities and their right to land, right to work and earn a livelihood, instead of targeting investors and large-scale businesses.

#### 8.5 Regarding Isaan children's access to education

In line with Article 5 of ICERD:

- a. Integrate mother tongue-based education into national education policies and expand its use with non-Thai speaking communities across Thailand, to reduce educational disparities and improve learning outcomes for all children.
- b. Uphold the principles of equality and non-discrimination in ensuring children's access to education and ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child underlines every policy relating to child education.
- c. Ensure that language does not represent a barrier in accessing education and no one is left behind by the educational system.

#### 8.6 Regarding the right to access justice and effective remedies

In line with Article 6 of ICERD:

- a. Take appropriate steps to ensure, through judicial, administrative, legislative or other appropriate measures, that when abuses occur, those affected have access to effective remedies.
- b. Provide effective remedies and fair compensation to those who have been affected by the unjust use of the law, policies, NCPO Orders, and for protecting their fundamental rights under these.
- c. Ensure the effectiveness of domestic judicial mechanisms when addressing human rights abuses, including considering ways to reduce legal, practical and other relevant barriers that could lead to a denial of access to effective remedies.



#### **Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Minority Rights Group, *Minorities and indigenous people*, available at: https://minorityrights.org/country/thailand/

<sup>2</sup> Fund Isaan, Why Isaan?, available at: <a href="https://fund-isaan.org/content/why-isaan">https://fund-isaan.org/content/why-isaan</a>

<sup>3</sup> Time, *If there is going to be a Thai civil war, Isaan will be its font line*, 3 April 2014, available at: <a href="https://time.com/2948172/thailand-isaan-province-identity/">https://time.com/2948172/thailand-isaan-province-identity/</a>

<sup>4</sup> The Asia Foundation, *Thailand's Inequality: Unpacking the Myths and Reality of Isan*, 5 June 2019, available at: <a href="https://asiafoundation.org/2019/06/05/thailands-inequality-unpacking-the-myths-and-reality-of-isan/">https://asiafoundation.org/2019/06/05/thailands-inequality-unpacking-the-myths-and-reality-of-isan/</a>

<sup>5</sup> Constitutional Court, Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand 2017, available at: http://www.constitutionalcourt.or.th/occ\_en/download/article\_20170410173022.pdf

<sup>6</sup> Thailand's Constitution of 2007, available at: <a href="https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Thailand\_2007.pdf">https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Thailand\_2007.pdf</a>

<sup>7</sup> The Asia Foundation, *Thailand's Inequality: Unpacking the Myths and Reality of Isan*, May 2019, available at: https://asiafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/TH Isan report 2019 re.pdf

<sup>8</sup> The Asia Foundation, *Thailand's Inequality: Unpacking the Myths and Reality of Isan*, May 2019, available at: https://asiafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/TH Isan report 2019 re.pdf

<sup>9</sup> Bangkok Post, *Myths and reality of Isan inequality,* 12 June 2019, available at: https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/1693608/myths-and-reality-of-isan-inequality

<sup>10</sup> Thisrupt, *The People of Isan: Thailand's second class citizens*, 9 September 2020, available at: <a href="https://thisrupt.co/society/isan-thailands-second-class-citizens/">https://thisrupt.co/society/isan-thailands-second-class-citizens/</a>

<sup>11</sup> Time, *If there is going to be a Thai civil war, Isaan will be its font line*, 3 April 2014, available at: <a href="https://time.com/2948172/thailand-isaan-province-identity/">https://time.com/2948172/thailand-isaan-province-identity/</a>

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