

# **A call for solidarity: Denounce the leader of the Thai military junta . . . everywhere he goes!**

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## **Calling for solidarity to denounce the leader of the Thai military junta . . . everywhere he goes!**

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General Prayuth Chan-ocha, the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army - who conducted a military coup on 22 May 2014 (Thailand's 12<sup>th</sup> since 1947) and appointed himself Prime Minister of Thailand on 24 August - is flying to Malaysia on 1st December 2014, to discuss Thailand's Southern Conflict with the Prime Minister of Malaysia, and he will be in Busan, Korea 11 - 12 December to attend a Korea-ASEAN summit, and probably make to visit Japan directly after that.

Besides having gravely insulted the long struggle of Thai people for representative, democratic governance, Prayuth's criminal regime represents a threat to the development of peace and democracy throughout South-East Asia and the world. The Thai military holds the record for military coup d'états in the ASEAN community: 19 coups since 1946. This Thai-style military interventionism in civilian and political life may not be tolerated and must not be allowed to re-establish itself as an acceptable style of governance within the ASEAN Community or in any other part of the world.

Immediately after his coup Prayuth imposed martial law all across Thailand, forbidding public assembly of more than 5 people - except in tourist destinations. Many hundreds of people - leading politicians, academics, students and community organisers have been and are being arrested, interrogated and detained for 'attitude adjustment', being forced under threat of imprisonment to sign statements committing themselves to cease all activity opposing the Prayuth junta.

Prayuth's military regime works to stamp down on all voices of opposition. On a daily basis his regime is sending soldiers into university campuses and into villages - to any place where people gather, to arrest anybody considered a threat to the absolute power of the regime. The Prayuth regime is using, increasingly, Article 112 of the Thai criminal code - Thailand's archaic law of lèse majesté, to arrest anybody it wants and subject them to trial in a military court, in secret, behind closed doors, in an increasingly desperate attempt to re-establish a new reign of injustice in Thailand.

Prayuth is a dictator. He cannot represent Thai people and must not be allowed to engage in any dialogue in the name of or on behalf of the people of Thailand.

Prayuth's so-called 'National Legislative Assembly' which, approved by the King, he created to replace the elected Parliament, includes 97 generals, altogether 200 Prayuth cronies. Prayuth placed his brother (after raising his military rank) in command of the Third Army Region, which controls the dissident north. He aims to ensure that all ministerial and all key positions in the civil service are taken by his own people. All media in Thailand is under heavy censorship with the military

authorities attempting aggressively to bring use of the Internet in Thailand under their direct control.

It is very clear that the purpose of the Prayuth regime is to ensure the return to absolute power of the military and royalist elite. There is no sign that Prayuth has any intention of allowing Thailand to return to the democratic process.

For these reasons the concerned citizens of Thailand, of the ASEAN and all around the world are calling for solidarity - for people all around the world to organize actions for the return of democracy to Thailand e.g. actions to denounce the appearance of General Prayuth wherever he goes - especially if he is planning to arrive in your country . . . for instance by . . .

Gathering at 11.00 hrs in front of the Thai Consulate in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 1st December 2014 . . . to denounce Prayuth's appearance as a Prime Minister of Thailand.

#### Note about Prayuth

From the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, Prayuth Chan-ocha joined the 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment of the Queen's Guard. He went on to become an active organizer of the military coup that in 2006 over-threw the democratically elected Thai government. He then commanded the 40 000 troops of the Royal Guard that were used in the military crackdown on civilian protest in 2010 - when 100 civilians were shot dead by the military and some 2000 wounded. The military coup that he commanded in May this year represents the consolidation of his rise to power. Today, a military general in civilian disguise, General Prayuth, as a self-appointed Prime Minister, remains the Leader of the National Council for Peace and Order - the military set-up that controls the National Assembly.

*This call is sent out by:*

**Action for People's Democracy / ACT4DEM in Thailand**

**International Solidarity to Abolish Thailand's lèse majesté Law, Article 112**

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