



Statement of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT)

The NHRCT urges all parties to cease violence

On the night of 6 October 2021, a crowd control police officer was shot and seriously wounded when he was on duty in the area of Din Daeng. Previously, officers and some protestors had been also seriously injured during the protest.

From continuous monitoring the situation of various groups' political rallies and all affected parties, the NHRCT has serious concerns over the prolonged and severe clashes between crowd control police officers and some protestors.

Thus, the NHRCT urges all parties to consider the following:

1. The protestors should truly exercise their freedom of peaceful assembly and without weapons so that the importance of the demand is heard and that there is no condition for the police to use extreme crowd control operations. Nevertheless, the government must implement the crowd control procedures in accordance with the international standards. The operation must be strictly proportional and appropriate, and differentiate between the peaceful protestors and those who use violence, being tolerant to listen to different viewpoints.

2. All parties should consider supporting the central forum in order to have an open and honest discussion about the solutions. This forum will provide an opportunity for protestors and government officials to converse and listen to each other's viewpoints in order to decrease confrontation and violence. The NHRCT stands ready to support the process of finding a peaceful solution.

In addition, the NHRCT would like to express the appreciation to the Department of Rights and Liberties Protection, Ministry of Justice, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and the National Housing for accepting the NHRCT's proposal to jointly visit the Din Daeng residential area to listen to problems and demands from people affected by the assembly situation. It is hoped that all parties will exercise their rights and freedoms constructively within the framework of the Constitution and human rights principles and that all forms of violence will cease in order to avoid injury and loss to all parties, including the impact on nearby communities.

The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand

8 October 2021