

CONFIDENTIAL



No. 52101/ 6A7

PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
GENEVA

24 November 2011

Dear Mr. Sow, Ms. Rolnik, Ms. Albuquerque, Mr. Beyani, Mr. Crepeau and Mr. Schutter,

I wish to refer to your joint communication dated 18 November 2011 conveying your sympathies to the Royal Thai Government on the serious flood situation and recognizing our efforts to provide relief assistance to the people affected in response to such crisis. The Permanent Mission of Thailand wishes to thank you all for the kind understanding and support.

As you may have been well aware, this is the most devastating flood crisis Thailand has faced within more than five decades. Its magnitude has had indiscriminate effects on all Thai national and foreigners living in the country. Despite facing these immense challenges, I wish to assure you that it is a top priority of the Government and authorities concerned to do their utmost to provide relief services and facilitate distribution of all humanitarian supplies to those populations who are affected without distinction of their national identities. This includes migrant workers who have been an integral part and driving force of our economy.

Mr. El Hadji Malick Sow,
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention;
Ms. Raquel Rolnik,
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing;
Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque,
Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;
Mr. Chaloka Beyani,
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons;
Mr. Francois Crepeau,
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants;
Mr. Olivier de Schutter,
Special Rapporteur on the right to food

OHCHR REGISTRY

24 NOV. 2011

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Palais des Nations,
GENEVA.

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File No.: UA Housing (2000-9) G/SO 218/2 Food (2000-9) G/SO 214 (26-18) G/SO 214 (106-10) Water (2008-1) THA 8/2011

As you have also recognized, the Government has undertaken various measures specifically to assist migrant workers and address their needs and concerns, particularly the launch of a relief shelter at Rai Khing Temple in Nakhon Pathom province which had housed approximately 480 migrant workers and their families and the preparation for the second location in Ratchaburi province. Preliminary information regarding the relief shelter for migrant workers is also attached herewith for your information.

Notwithstanding these efforts, I wish to point out that the rapid and sweeping effect of the flooding throughout various parts of the country together with resources and personnel constraints have become serious challenges which inevitably may have obstructed coordination and operation among relevant authorities. In this connection, the Permanent Mission of Thailand would like to thank you for conveying the concerns as raised in your joint communication, all of which have already been transmitted to the authorities concerned in Thailand for further examination.

The Permanent Mission of Thailand will further convey any relevant information to you as soon as it is received. Rest assured that the Government attaches great importance to constructively engage with all stakeholders to overcome the challenges arising from the large flow of migrant workers – both legal and illegal – while ensuring that they are accorded with appropriate rights in line with our legislation and international human rights obligations.

Sincerely yours,



(Sek WANNAMETHEE)
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

Information on Relief Shelter for Migrant Workers

In line with the Royal Thai Government's humanitarian traditions, the Ministry of Labour has set up a relief shelter at Rai Khing Temple in Nakhon Pathom province for migrant workers who are affected by the flooding situation in Thailand. The relief shelter is operated by the Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour. The Department has assigned 30 officials to oversee and assist those seeking refuge at the shelter. As of 2 November 2011, the shelter currently houses approximately 480 persons including 22 children. The number of male and female adults are as follows: 368 persons from Myanmar, 87 persons from Cambodia, and 2 persons from Pakistan.

The migrant workers are requested to register with the officials at the shelter upon their arrival so that the officials may keep a record of incoming people and to assess the overall basic humanitarian needs. Once at the shelter, they are allocated a specific area within the Rai Khing Temple to safely take refuge, namely in the Rai Khing Temple School which is a four-storey building. Here the migrant workers will be provided with food and water as well as basic necessities such as toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, and shampoo. The basic humanitarian supplies for the shelter are provided by the Thai agencies concerned.

Over the past week, representatives from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok have been able to visit the shelter at Rai Khing Temple to monitor the situation and to see first hand the support and assistance provided by the Thai Government. From the visits, they were pleased with the conditions at the shelter and the relief efforts given by the local Thai authorities to those fleeing from the flood affected areas. Furthermore, they commended the Government on the management of the shelter despite the challenges as a direct result of the flood as well as the resource constraints.

However, looking ahead, the Department of Employment has already prepared a second location in which to house incoming migrant workers in the event that the Rai Khing Temple reaches its maximum holding capacity. The second location is located in Ratchaburi Province at the Centre for Skill Development of Ratchaburi and is fully operational if needed as the situation unfolds.

Social Division
Department of International Organisations
3 November 2011