

No. 52101/ 500



PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND  
GENEVA

OHCHR REGISTRY

5 August B.E. 2556 (2013)

06 AUG 2013

Dear Sirs and Madam,

Recipients : SPD

I wish to refer to your joint letter dated 30 July 2013, expressing concern regarding the alleged information received concerning the conditions of detention of Rohingya illegal migrants in Thailand. The Permanent Mission has forwarded your letter to the relevant agencies in Thailand for their further consideration. In the meantime, I wish to provide you with preliminary information as follows:

1. Since the beginning of the year 2013, the relevant authorities of Thailand have detained several Rohingya illegal migrants. Over 1,800 individuals are now in our care. The Royal Thai Government remains committed to looking after these illegal migrants on a temporary basis, in line with our domestic law and humanitarian spirit.

2. Thailand is cooperating closely with the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh who have agreed to help verify the status of these illegal migrants.

Mr. Anand Grover,

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Mr. François Crépeau,

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants,

Mr. Juan E. Méndez,

Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Ms. Rashida Manjoo,

Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences,

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,

GENEVA.

Fax 022 917 9006


Reference : AL Health (2002-7) G/SO 214(106-10) G/SO 214(53-24) G/SO 214(89-15) THA 6/2013

3. While Thailand is not a state party to the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, we continue to permit the UNHCR to conduct regular visits and identity determination for the Rohingya illegal migrants as well as to facilitate relevant solutions, including third country resettlement for those who are eligible.

4. Since February 2013, the UNHCR has been carrying out weekly visits to all Immigration Detention Centers and shelters of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand to assist in interpretation, establish family links and identify areas of origin. Nevertheless, the verification process mentioned above takes time and all the parties concerned, including the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh, and the UNHCR continue to work on the matter.

I hope the above information will address some of your general concerns. Further information from the relevant agencies concerned in Thailand will be transmitted to you once it is received.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thani Thongphakdi'.

(Thani Thongphakdi)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative