

[Draft to be submitted to the Norwegian Nobel Committee in case the European Union does not respond to People's concerns in its Thai-EU FTA negotiations.]



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Subject: An appeal for a withdrawal of the Nobel Peace Prize 2012 from EU

Dear Norwegian Nobel Committee,

We, civil society groups in Thailand, would like to appeal to you, the Norwegian Nobel Committee, to withdraw the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize 2012 from the European Union.

In the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony in 2012, you praised the EU for its role in promoting peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe. Contrary to the high honour being bestowed, the EU is currently proceeding with what is considered a drastic violation in human rights, creating social conflicts, and sabotaging democratic system in Thailand.

Albeit successive protests among advocate groups for the poor, the EU representatives are pursuing in the process of negotiating with Thai government for a Thai-EU Free Trade Agreement in what would become legal bindings that deprive the majority of Thai citizens from cheaper medicine; an access to seeds among impoverished farmers. Yet, this Thai-EU Free Trade Agreement would promote alcohol consumption among potential drinkers – among them youngsters.

The misconduct of the EU in pressuring various developing countries such as Thailand, to comply with its conditions and requirements in free trade negotiations, however, seems to be in contrast with the high expectation of the Nobel Peace Prize Awardee. The stricter regime of intellectual property rights protection that goes beyond WTO rules can only be interpreted as the pursuance of maximum profit for transnational corporations of the EU as the priority agenda. Data exclusivity requirements and border measures can only result in the destruction of local pharmaceutical industries. The ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) and the Budapest Treaty would keep patented seed prices high and out of the reach of small farmers. The investment protection regime that allows foreign investors to sue governments for policies that infringe on their profits could constrain a government's ability to safeguard its

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people's right to health and to protect the environment. Deregulation with respect to alcoholic drinks and cigarettes would also be detrimental to the well-being of the population.

In a nutshell, this agreement would blatantly sabotage security systems in Thailand that would weaken the society. as a whole for the majority poor to be poorer, but the minority rich to be richer.

In a situation where scarce resources are threatened to be taken away from the people in the third world, any decent democratic countries would opt for a choice for the best of the people's interests. It's because they know too well that driving the people to a dead-end will lead to anarchy or social unrest at best.

Reputable for your distinctive selection for Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, the Norwegian Nobel Committee should be sensitive with any misbehavior your Nobel Peace Prize laureates may conduct. Undoubtedly, the European Union Commission is about to commit a social crime against Thai citizens in pressuring our government to comply with its requirements without heeding voice of protests from people who would be suffered from the consequences of the agreement.

We, the Thai civil society groups, would like to appeal to the Norwegian Nobel Committee to withdraw the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize from the EU for its inhumane misconduct against peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights.

With Best Regards,

Thai civil society groups:

FTA Watch, The Thai Network of People living with HIV/AIDS (TNP+),
Stopdrink Network, Alternative Agriculture Network (AAN), Assembly of the Poor ,
4 regions of Slum Network, Sating Pra Peninsula Food Security Network,
Seed Exchange Network, Farmer Council, P-Move Renal Failure Patient Group ,
Cancer Patient Group, Thai NGO Coalition on AIDS , AIDS ACCESS Foundation,
Foundation for AIDS Rights, BioThai Foundation, Thai Holistic Health Foundation,
Foundation for Consumers, Rural Pharmacists Foundation,
Rural Pharmacy Association, Drug Study Group, Ecological Alert and Recovery –
Thailand (EARTH), Labor Alliance Group, Harm Reduction Working Network (12D)
Alcohol's Danger Protection Campaign Network ,
The Network of Community Affected by Alcohol, Focus on the Global South
The Network of the Alcohol's Danger Surveillance in Bangkok,
The Youth Network of the New Drinkers' Protection,

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