

United Nations Committee Against Torture (CAT) – 81st session

Review of Thailand's second periodic report

Joint shadow report by



FIDH – International Federation for Human Rights

and



Union for Civil Liberty (UCL)

30 September 2024

The joint FIDH-UCL shadow report details the Thai authorities' failure to comply with Thailand's obligations under various provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (namely, Articles 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15) with regard to: 1) prison conditions; 2) the use of the death penalty; 3) and deaths in custody and deaths of military cadets/conscripts.

1. Detention conditions and treatment of detainees remain well below international standards

The Thai government has failed to enact comprehensive prison reforms to effectively reduce the prison population and improve prison conditions in order to take steps to address the issue of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in correctional facilities, in violation of Thailand's obligations under the CAT.

1.1. Prison population increases, overcrowding persists

Despite recommendations made by various United Nations (UN) human rights monitoring bodies over the past decade to address prison overcrowding,¹ Thailand's prison population has

¹ Committee against Torture, *Concluding observations on the initial report of Thailand*, 20 June 2014, UN Doc. CAT/C/THA/CO/1, Para. 22; Human Rights Committee, *Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee*, Thailand, 8 July 2015, UN Doc. CCPR/CO/84/THA, Para. 16; Human Rights Committee, *Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Thailand*, 25 April 2017, UN Doc. CCPR/CO/THA/CO/2 Para. 34; Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, *Concluding observations on the combined initial and second periodic reports of Thailand*, 19 June 2015, UN Doc. E/C.12/THA/CO/1-2, Para. 28

remained persistently high and has regularly exceeded the official capacity of the prison system. The current total prison population is higher than it was at the time of the CAT's review of Thailand's first periodic report over a decade ago.

According to the statistics by the Department of Corrections (DoC), in May 2014, Thailand had a total prison population of 296,727 (254,182 men and 42,545 women).² Since then, the prison population steadily increased, reaching an all-time high of 386,902 inmates in May 2019.³ Between 2019 and 2022, Thailand observed a downward trend in the total prison population, as a result of measures for the early release of prisoners, such as mass royal amnesties, various special parole schemes, and sentence reduction mechanisms, including those implemented in response to the COVID-19 outbreaks in places of detention.⁴ During this period, the prison population went down around 30%.

However, following the suspension of those measures at the beginning of 2022 and the absence of mass royal amnesties, in 2023, Thailand's total prison population increased again. According to the latest DoC statistics, as of September 2024, the total prison population numbered 301,533 inmates (264,430 men and 37,103 women).⁵

The number of inmates imprisoned for drug-related offenses continued to account for the vast majority of the total prison population. In September 2024, 220,574 inmates (195,426 men and 25,148 women), or about 73% of the total prison population, were incarcerated for drug-related offenses.⁶ This represented an increase by about 8% from May 2014, when 204,663 (170,674 men and 33,989 women), representing 69% of the total prison population, were imprisoned for drug-related offenses.⁷

A category of inmates who continued to account for a significant proportion of the prison population is pre-trial detainees. In September 2024, 68,260 prisoners in Thailand, or about 22.64% of the total prison population, were held in pre-trial detention.⁸ The number went down slightly from May 2014, when the pre-trial population totaled 69,187 detainees, or about

² Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees nationwide*, 1 May 2014, <http://www.correct.go.th/stat102/display/result.php?date=2014-05-01&Submit=๓๓๓> [in Thai]

³ Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees nationwide*, 1 May 2019, http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_result.php?date=2019-05-01&report= [in Thai]

⁴ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2022*, 24 March 2022, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-prison-report-covid>

⁵ Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees nationwide*, 1 September 2024, http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_result.php?date=2024-09-01&report= [in Thai]

⁶ Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees under the Narcotics Act nationwide*, 1 September 2024, http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_result.php?date=2024-09-01&report=drug [in Thai]

⁷ Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees under the Narcotics Act nationwide*, 1 May 2014, http://www.correct.go.th/stat102/display/drug_result.php?date=2014-05-01&Submit=๓๓๓ [in Thai]

⁸ Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees nationwide*, 1 September 2024, http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/report_result.php?date=2024-09-01&report= [in Thai]

23.32% of the total prison population.⁹ The rate of pre-trial detainees - both male and female - ranged between 18% and 23% between May 2014 and September 2024.¹⁰

The total occupancy level of the prison system continued to exceed its official capacity. According to the latest available figures from the DoC, as of October 2023, the Thai prison system comprised 143 prisons and correctional facilities, with a total accommodation space of 381,931m² for 238,580 inmates (204,846 men and 33,744 women).¹¹ The latest number of total prison population reported by the DoC in September 2024 showed that the total occupancy level of the prison system stood at 126%. As of 5 September 2024, 116 out of 143 prisons nationwide, or about 81%, operated above their intended capacity.¹²

According to the DoC, the increase in the prison population led to shortages of prison staff, which negatively affected prison operations, including with regard to the supervision of inmates as well as the rehabilitation of prisoners.¹³

Despite the expansion of minimum floor space per inmate in the shared accommodation of prisoners in 2022, from 1.2m² (60cm x 2m) per prisoner in previous years to 1.6m² (80cm x 2m), the current space allocation remained significantly (-52.9%) below the recommended international standard.¹⁴ Persistently high prison populations made it impossible to effectively implement such rule, and as a result, prisons continued to lack sufficient sleeping space, which has had a negative impact on the quality of their accommodation.¹⁵ Overpopulation in prisons has also negatively impacted the conditions of sanitary facilities, and consequently the personal hygiene of prisoners.¹⁶

1.2. Inadequate detention conditions, cruel punishment in prisons

Conditions in Thai prisons are inconsistent with international standards and in many cases may amount to torture or ill-treatment.

⁹ Department of Corrections, *Statistics of detainees nationwide*, 1 May 2014,

<http://www.correct.go.th/stat102/display/result.php?date=2014-05-01&Submit=%E0%B9> [in Thai]

¹⁰ FIDH, *Behind the Walls – A look at conditions in Thailand's prisons after the coup*, 28 February 2017,

<https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-report-calls-for-urgent-prison-reforms>

¹¹ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-underscores-inequalities-double-standards-in>

¹² Department of Corrections, *Report of overcrowding situations in prisons/correctional facilities*, 5 September 2024 [in Thai]

¹³ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-underscores-inequalities-double-standards-in>

¹⁴ According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the floor space available to each detainee in shared accommodations or dormitories should not be less than 3.4 m².

¹⁵ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-paints-bleak-picture-of-prison-conditions>

¹⁶ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2022*, 24 March 2022, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-prison-report-covid>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-paints-bleak-picture-of-prison-conditions>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-underscores-inequalities-double-standards-in>

Prisoners are subject to cruel punishments, solitary confinement, disciplinary measures, and degrading treatment by prison guards.¹⁷ Punishment involving the excessive use of force by prison guards is common in male prisons. Resort to force includes beating prisoners with wooden or plastic batons or bamboo canes, or kicking them with steel-toe boots. Such use of force typically occurs in cases of disciplinary offenses, such as fighting, gambling, tattooing, stealing, smoking, collecting medicines, and not following prison guards' orders.

Other practices that are blatantly inconsistent with international standards include the use of instruments of restraint (such as ankle shackles), solitary confinement, disciplinary segregation,¹⁸ and military-style training for violations of prison rules.¹⁹ Solitary confinement is typically imposed for serious offenses, such as fights between inmates. The duration of solitary confinement and disciplinary segregation usually depends on the severity of the offenses, and can last for up to three months.²⁰

In addition, the submissive and authoritarian cultures in prison lead to a pattern of degrading treatment by prison guards and officials, especially in women's prisons.²¹ For instance, prisoners have to sit on the ground or kneel while interacting with prison guards. Failure to do so can result in punishment.²²

The inability to access timely and quality physical and mental healthcare services remains a serious challenge for prisoners.²³ The in-prison healthcare services in many prisons are understaffed and lack appropriate medical equipment and supplies to attend to prisoners' medical needs. Specialized medical services in prisons are either unavailable or extremely limited compared to the size and needs of the prison population. The extensive bureaucratic process and security considerations routinely result in untimely diagnosis and medical attention for prisoners, particularly in cases of medical emergencies.

¹⁷ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2022*, 24 March 2022, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-prison-report-covid>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-paints-bleak-picture-of-prison-conditions>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-undercores-inequalities-double-standards-in>

¹⁸ Disciplinary segregation occurs when multiple prisoners are punished by being shackled and placed together in a cell separate from the other prisoners.

¹⁹ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-paints-bleak-picture-of-prison-conditions>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-undercores-inequalities-double-standards-in>

²⁰ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-paints-bleak-picture-of-prison-conditions>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-undercores-inequalities-double-standards-in>

²¹ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2022*, 24 March 2022, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-prison-report-covid>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-paints-bleak-picture-of-prison-conditions>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-undercores-inequalities-double-standards-in>

²² FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2022*, 24 March 2022, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-prison-report-covid>

²³ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2022*, 24 March 2022, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-prison-report-covid>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-paints-bleak-picture-of-prison-conditions>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-undercores-inequalities-double-standards-in>

Prisoners are often subjected to exploitative labor practices and punishment that may amount to torture or ill-treatment.²⁴ In December 2021, an investigative report published by the international news agency *Thomson Reuters Foundation (TRF)* revealed that prisoners in various Thai prisons were being forced to make fishing nets for private companies under the threat of punishment, including beatings and delayed release, if they did not meet stringent production targets.²⁵ Following the publication of the report, in 2022, Thai authorities pledged to adopt measures to eradicate abusive labor practices in prisons across the country, including an end to the contracts for the use of prison labor for the production of fishing nets.²⁶ Nonetheless, unfair labor practices have continued to exist, particularly in relation to laborious work in prisons which entails the production of various goods that are sold to the public or produced for private contractors.²⁷

Other ongoing challenges faced by prisoners include: insufficient food and potable water; limited contact with the outside world; lack of recreational and rehabilitative activities; and ineffective complaint procedures.²⁸

1.3. Ongoing restrictions to independent monitoring of prison conditions

The Thai government has failed to ensure systematic, effective, and independent monitoring and inspection of all prisons through regular visits by human rights organizations.

Access to Thai prisons for independent human rights organizations has continued to be tightly restricted.²⁹ Prisons have remained inaccessible for independent monitors long after the relaxation of COVID-19 measures in correctional facilities in 2022.³⁰ In 2017, 2022, and 2023, the DoC denied FIDH and the Union for Civil Liberty (UCL) access to both civilian and military detention facilities for documentation purposes.³¹

²⁴ FIDH, *Behind the walls - A look at conditions in Thailand's prisons after the coup*, 28 February 2017, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-report-calls-for-urgent-prison-reforms>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-paints-bleak-picture-of-prison-conditions>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-underscores-inequalities-double-standards-in>

²⁵ Reuters, *Prisoners forced to make fishing nets under threat of violence*, 23 December 2021

²⁶ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-paints-bleak-picture-of-prison-conditions>

²⁷ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-underscores-inequalities-double-standards-in>

²⁸ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2022*, 24 March 2022, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-prison-report-covid>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-paints-bleak-picture-of-prison-conditions>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-underscores-inequalities-double-standards-in>

²⁹ FIDH, *Behind the walls - A look at conditions in Thailand's prisons after the coup*, 28 February 2017, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-report-calls-for-urgent-prison-reforms>

³⁰ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-paints-bleak-picture-of-prison-conditions>

³¹ FIDH, *Behind the walls - A look at conditions in Thailand's prisons after the coup*, 28 February 2017, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-report-calls-for-urgent-prison-reforms>; FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2024*, 19 March 2024, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-underscores-inequalities-double-standards-in>

The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT), which is mandated to conduct visits to places of detention as well as in response to complaints made by inmates, is the only human rights organization that has been granted partial access to prisons to assess detention conditions and interview inmates.³²

1.4. Detention of civilians in military facilities

Civilians continue to be arbitrarily detained in military facilities without any effective safeguards to prevent torture and ill-treatment. Conditions in these facilities are reportedly poor and reflect those in the civilian prisons, amid tighter restrictions on access owing to its location in military bases.

Following the May 2014 coup, the Nakhon Chaisri temporary detention facility inside the 11th Army Circle base in Bangkok, established in September 2015, was used to detain dozens of civilians for their political affiliation and opinions.³³ Following its establishment as a detention facility, two deaths occurred in suspicious circumstances³⁴ and allegations of torture surfaced at the facility.³⁵

In March 2019, the 11th Army Circle moved its base to Chaeng Wattana Road, Thung Song Hong Sub-district, Laksi District, Bangkok. As a result, Thung Song Hong Temporary Remand Facility was established within the new 11th Army Circle military base for national security offenders,

³² National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, *NHRCT quarantine facilities at the Bangkok Remand Prison and the Bangkok Central Correctional Institution for Drug Addicts*, 10 December 2021, <https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/10344> [in Thai]; National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, *NHRCT visits Bang Kwang Prison to gather facts and problems related to the spread of COVID-19 in the prison*, 16 December 2021, <https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/10347> [in Thai]; National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, *Sayamon from NHRCT visits Thanyaburi District Prison to follow up on COVID-19 response and preventive measures in the prison*, 17 December 2021, <https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/10355> [in Thai]; National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, *NHRCT visited the Samut Songkram Central Prison*, 21 January 2022, <https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/9913> [in Thai]; National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, *NHRCT Supattra visited the Trat Provincial Prison*, 16 September 2022, <https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/10132> [in Thai]; National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, *NHRCT Supattra visited the Tak Provincial Prison and Tak Center for the Destitute in Tak Province*, 4 February 2023, <https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/9602> [in Thai]; National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, *NHRCT Sayamol visited the Khao Bin Central Prison in Ratchaburi Province*, 12 May 2023, <https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/9693> [in Thai]; National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, *NHRCT Supattra visited Chachoengsao Central Prison in Chachoengsao Province*, 9 March 2023, <https://www.nhrc.or.th/th/NHRC-News-and-Important-Events/9634> [in Thai]

³³ FIDH, *Behind the walls - A look at conditions in Thailand's prisons after the coup*, 28 February 2017, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-report-calls-for-urgent-prison-reforms>

³⁴ Khaosod English, 'Royal Imposter' suspect found hanging in prison, officials say, 24 October 2015, <https://www.khaosodenglish.com/politics/2015/10/30/1446187164/>; AFP, *Thai junta chief says military not to blame for custody death*, 10 November 2015, <https://thesun.my/archive/1607387-BSARCH337403>

³⁵ Nation, *Lèse-majesté suspect dies after hanging himself in detention cell*, 24 October 2015, <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/30271531>; Guardian, *Thai fortune teller held under royal defamation law found dead*, 9 November 2015, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/09/thai-fortune-teller-mor-yong-held-under-royal-defamation-law-found-dead#:~:text=Thai%20authorities%20said%20Suriyan%20Sucharitpolwong,at%20a%20Bangkok%20army%20barracks>; Reuters, *Chinese Uighur was tortured into confessing role in Bangkok bomb: lawyer*, 15 February 2016, <https://www.reuters.com/article/world/chinese-uighur-was-tortured-into-confessing-role-in-bangkok-bomb-lawyer-idUSKCN0VO0I4/>

under the administration of the Bangkok Remand Prison.³⁶ Despite being formally under civilian authority, Thung Song Hong Temporary Remand Facility is situated within a military base and is supervised by military officers.³⁷

Since September 2015, two ethnic Uyghur men from China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Bilal Mohammed and Yusufu Mieraili, have been detained inside the 11th Army Circle military base after being accused of the bombing of the Erawan Shrine in Bangkok in August 2015.³⁸ They were initially detained at Nakhon Chaisri Temporary Remand Facility, before being transferred to Thung Song Hong Temporary Remand Facility in November 2019.³⁹

At Nakhon Chaisri Temporary Remand Facility, Bilal Mohammed claimed to be a victim of torture and ill-treatment.⁴⁰ He alleged that the "confessions" he made, admitting his involvement in the Erawan Shrine bombing incident during the inquiry stage, were the result of torture and other ill-treatment by military and police officers at Nakhon Chaisri Temporary Remand Facility between 14 and 26 September 2015, including: the use of "waterboarding"; the use of a dog to menace him at close range; being threatened with death; and being threatened with extradition to China.

Following their transfer to Thung Song Hong Temporary Remand Facility, Bilal Mohammed and Yusufu Mieraili reported poor detention conditions at the facility, including inadequate access to healthcare, the lack of halal food, limited contacts with family and the outside world, and the strict visitation measures.

Due to the lack of transparency and extremely restricted access, it is unclear how many detainees have been held at the facility since its establishment. At the time of publication of this report, despite repeated requests to be transferred to a civilian prison, Bilal Mohammed and Yusufu Mieraili were the only two individuals detained at the Thung Song Hong Temporary Remand Facility, allegedly due to national security and safety concerns. Only their lawyers have been allowed to visit them at the facility.

2. High number of prisoners under death sentence remains at risk of execution

Despite a significant decrease over the past decade, the number of prisoners under death sentence in Thailand remains high. This is due to two main factors: 1) death sentences have continued to be imposed by courts at a steady rate; and 2) the high number of capital crimes, which have increased from 55 in 2014 to 65 in 2024, and include drug-related offenses and economic/financial offenses.

³⁶ Gazette, *Ministry of Justice Order on the establishment of territory of Thung Song Hong Temporary Remand Facility*, 29 March 2019, <http://www.correct.go.th/infosaraban62/letter/filepdf/1554189397.pdf> [in Thai]

³⁷ Information obtained from the lawyer of Bilal Mohammed, October 2023

³⁸ FIDH, *Thailand: UN body petitioned over human rights violations against Uyghur bombing suspects*, 7 December 2023, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-un-body-petitioned-over-human-rights-violations-against>

³⁹ Information obtained from the lawyer of Bilal Mohammed, October 2023

⁴⁰ Reuters, *Thailand bomb suspect breaks down, tells media, "I'm not an animal"*, 17 May 2016,

<https://www.reuters.com/article/world/thailand-bomb-suspect-breaks-down-tells-media-i-m-not-an-animal-idUSKCN0Y80FQ/>

Between 2014 and 2022, an average of 179 death sentences were imposed by courts of first instance, with a peak of 241 in 2016.

Death sentences imposed by courts of first instance (2014-2023)									
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
201	233	241	173	205	163	164	100	171	140

The number of capital crimes increased despite the Cabinet’s resolution on 26 July 2016 to reduce the number of criminal offenses punishable by death and ultimately abolish the death penalty for all criminal offenses.⁴¹

Death sentences have frequently been commuted to prison sentences through mass amnesties granted in conjunction with royal auspicious occasions. This explains why the number of prisoners under death sentence has steadily decreased over the past decade.

According to the latest statistics published by the Department of Corrections (DoC), in August 2024 there were a total 398 inmates (365 men and 33 women) under death sentence.⁴² This represented a significant decrease (-35%) from the number of inmates that were under death sentence immediately after the CAT’s review of Thailand’s initial report in May 2014. In June 2014, there were 612 such prisoners (562 men and 50 women) nationwide.⁴³

Prisoners under death sentence (2014-2024)			
Month / year	Male	Female	Total
June 2014	562	50	612
January 2015	597	52	649
March 2016	368	52	420
January 2017	364	71	435
July 2018	441	87	528
January 2019	466	86	552
January 2020	267	60	327
January 2021	228	29	257
January 2022	163	22	185
January 2023	203	24	227
January 2024	299	28	327
August 2024	365	33	398

Drug-related offenses have consistently accounted for most of the crimes for which a death sentence has been imposed. As of July 2024, 241 of the 398 inmates under death sentence (61%) had been convicted of drug-related offenses. This proportion increased from June 2014, when 274 prisoners under death sentence (or 45%) had been convicted of drug-related offenses.⁴⁴

⁴¹ Ministry of Justice, *Correspondence number Yor Tor 0904/5287: The death penalty*, 26 October 2018

⁴² Department of Corrections, *Statistics of prisoners under death sentence – August 2024*, 27 September 2024, <http://www.correct.go.th/executed/filepdf/1727408520.pdf> [in Thai]

⁴³ FIDH-UCL documentation.

⁴⁴ FIDH-UCL documentation.

Although women constitute a small minority of inmates under death sentence, nearly all of them have been convicted of drug-related offenses. As of August 2024, 31 (or 94%) of the 33 female prisoners under death sentence had been sentenced to death for drug-related offenses, which was nearly double the proportion (58%) of male prisoners under death sentence for drug-related offenses. Over the past decade, women convicted of drug-related offenses have consistently accounted for a disproportionately higher percentage of the prisoners under death sentence.

The risk of execution for prisoners under death sentence remains real. Since the CAT's previous review of Thailand's initial report in 2014, Thailand recorded one execution. On 18 June 2018, Theerasak Longji, 26, was executed by lethal injection at an unspecified location. Mr. Theerasak was found guilty of a premeditated murder he had committed in Trang on 17 July 2012.⁴⁵ Mr. Theerasak's execution was the first one to be carried out in Thailand since 2009.

As of July 2024, there were 13 facilities (including four correctional institutions for women) that were officially designated to incarcerate prisoners under death sentence, pursuant to the Ministry of Justice regulations.⁴⁶

The overwhelming majority of prisoners under death sentence were concentrated in a few prisons. More than 80% of male prisoners under death sentence were in two facilities, Bang Kwang Central Prison in Nonthaburi Province (275) and Songkhla Central Prison in Songkhla Province (45). Nearly 85% of female prisoners under death sentence were in one facility, the Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok.⁴⁷

According to official figures, as of August 2024, all three prisons were severely overcrowded, with occupancy rates ranging from 102% for Bang Kwang Central Prison, to 135% for Songkhla Central Prison, and 155% for the Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok.⁴⁸

Documentation of conditions for prisoners under death sentence is a challenge, because Thai authorities have consistently refused to allow access to prisons to independent human rights organizations [See above, 1.3. *Ongoing restrictions to independent monitoring of prison conditions*]. Between 2021 and 2023, FIDH and UCL were able to interview prisoners who had been released from four of the 12 facilities that have been designated to house prisoners under

⁴⁵ FIDH, *Shocking resumption of the death penalty condemned*, 18 June 2018,

<https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/shocking-resumption-of-the-death-penalty-condemned>

⁴⁶ The 13 facilities were: Bang Kwang Central Prison in Nonthaburi Province; Klong Prem Central Prison in Bangkok; Khao Bin Central Prison in Ratchaburi Province; Songkhla Central Prison in Songkhla Province; Phitsanulok Central Prison in Phitsanulok Province; Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province; Khlong Phai Central Prison in Nakhon Ratchasima Province; Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok; Nakhon Ratchasima Women's Correctional Institution in Nakhon Ratchasima Province (no prisoners under death sentence); Chiang Mai Women's Correctional Institution in Chiang Mai Province; Department of Corrections Hospital in Bangkok (no prisoners under death sentence); Surat Thani Central Prison in Surat Thani Province; and Chonburi Women's Correctional Institution in Chonburi Province (no prisoners under death sentence).

⁴⁷ Department of Corrections, *Statistics of prisoners under death sentence – August 2024*, 27 September 2024,

<http://www.correct.go.th/executed/filepdf/1727408520.pdf> [in Thai]

⁴⁸ The number of prisoners and the official capacity for Bang Kwang Central Prison were 4,671 and 4,590, respectively; 3,733 and 2,755 for Songkhla Central Prison; and 4,208 and 2,707 for the Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok; DoC, *Report on overcrowding conditions of inmates in prisons/detention centers*, 5 August 2024,

http://www.correct.go.th/rt103pdf/crowded_pdf.php?filename=2024_2024-09-05 [in Thai]

death sentence, namely: Songkhla Central Prison; Nakhon Si Thammarat Central Prison in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province; the Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok; and the Chiang Mai Women's Correctional Institution.

3. Deaths in custody remain largely unaddressed

Cases of deaths in custody have continued to occur in various places of detention across Thailand, including police stations, prisons, military detention facilities, and immigration detention centers (IDCs).

The authorities' lack of transparency in reporting cases of deaths in custody and their ongoing failure to conduct prompt, thorough, credible, and impartial investigations into such cases have reinforced the climate of impunity for such crimes.

Between May 2014 and September 2024, there have been at least 39 documented cases of individuals who died while being detained by police, military, and prison authorities [See below, *Annex*]. The actual number of such cases is likely to be much higher, as comprehensive and disaggregated data on such cases is not made publicly available by the authorities, with the exception of the Department of Corrections (DoC), which started regularly publishing the figures of deaths in prisons in 2023.⁴⁹ According to the latest DoC statistics, between 1 October 2023 and 27 September 2024, 699 prisoners died of “natural causes” and 20 prisoners died of “unnatural causes.”⁵⁰ Nevertheless, official details concerning the circumstances of the deaths of prisoners, especially in suspicious circumstances that might have entailed torture or ill-treatment, have often been lacking. The number of custodial deaths documented in this report also excludes cases of fatalities caused by contamination of food and water in prisons.⁵¹

Many of the documented cases of death in custody involved apparent torture or other acts that could amount to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, including excessive use of force while being punished [See above, 1.2. *Inadequate detention conditions, cruel punishment in prisons*] or during interrogations. For other individuals, their deaths were attributed to inadequate medical care or the authorities' failure to respond to medical emergencies in a timely manner during detention. The majority of the cases of custodial deaths as a result of access to healthcare (nine out of 13) occurred in IDCs. Other causes of death in custody, according to the authorities, include suicide and killings by other detainees.

Thai authorities have routinely failed to carry out credible investigations to identify the perpetrators and provide justice to the victims' families. Investigations into cases of death in custody were only conducted in those involving high-profile detainees or suspicious deaths that

⁴⁹ Department of Corrections, *Follow-up report of the Department of Corrections*, 29 September 2024, <http://www.correct.go.th/stathomepage/warroom.php> [in Thai]

⁵⁰ According to the DoC, unnatural causes of deaths include: suicide; accidents; homicide; sudden death; and unknown causes; Department of Corrections, *Prison mortality rate*, accessed on 18 September 2024 [in Thai]

⁵¹ FIDH, *Thailand Annual Prison Report 2023*, 7 March 2023, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/thailand-annual-report-paints-bleak-picture-of-prison-conditions>

received media attention. When investigations did take place, they rarely resulted in criminal prosecutions of those responsible for the deaths or full reparations for the families of the victims. Official information about investigations, prosecutions, and convictions of cases of deaths in custody is typically not made public by the authorities.

The Thai authorities' lack of transparency in reporting cases of death in custody makes it difficult to hold those responsible accountable and address poor detention conditions to prevent such deaths.

3.1. Deaths of military cadets/conscripts persisted

Since May 2014, reports of deaths of military cadets or conscripts as a result of torture or ill-treatment have continued to surface. Accountability for those responsible for these deaths has remained elusive due to inadequate investigations into these cases.

Between May 2014 and September 2024, at least 17 military cadets or army conscripts died from apparent injuries sustained during extreme disciplinary punishment that amounted to torture [See below, *Annex - 1. Deaths of military cadets/conscripts*].

The Thai military has failed to take effective preventive measures to put an end to excessive corporal punishment of military cadets and conscripts.

In May 2018, the Thai Army issued an order emphasizing the need to stop incidents of deaths of military conscripts during military training, including by closely monitoring the health of the conscripts.⁵² According to the order, all punishments must strictly comply with the Ministry of Defense regulations, and those involving physical assault are prohibited.⁵³ Army instructors face severe disciplinary action in case of deaths of conscripts.

Despite the order, military conscripts have continued to be subject to ill-treatment by their commanders.⁵⁴

In addition, there are no confidential and transparent mechanisms for army conscripts to report or complain about mistreatment by their commanders, which could be significant preventive measures against acts of torture and ill-treatment.

In February 2020, then-Army Commander-in-Chief Apirat Kongsompong stated that a communication channel would be established to enable soldiers to submit complaints of

⁵² Bangkok Post, *Army orders end to conscript deaths*, 15 May 2018, <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1465210/army-orders-end-to-conscript-deaths>

⁵³ Isara News, *Publishing photos-videos of punishments is also against the law! Army order new conscripts must not be physically assaulted*, 14 May 2018, <https://www.isranews.org/content-page/item/65917-isranews-65917.html> [in Thai]

⁵⁴ Amnesty International, Thailand: "We are just toys to them": Physical, mental and sexual abuse of conscripts in Thailand's military, 23 May 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa39/1995/2020/en/>

mistreatment.⁵⁵ Later the same month, a call center service was set up for soldiers of all ranks to lodge complaints of any mistreatment by their commanders directly to the Army commander-in-chief.⁵⁶ However, the complaint procedure lacks anonymity as soldiers are required to provide their name, rank, and affiliating unit in their complaints.⁵⁷ As of September 2024, there are no official statistics on complaints or information about disciplinary measures taken against military commanders.

The Thai Army has consistently denied any wrongdoing by military officers under their command and insisted that the deaths were the result of pre-existing health conditions.⁵⁸ In the majority of cases, the authorities failed to conduct credible investigations into the deaths, prosecute those accountable, and provide the victims' families with adequate reparations.

The lack of accountability also stems from the unwillingness of the deceased conscripts' family members to take any action against the Thai military due to fear of reprisals.⁵⁹

Exceptionally, on 23 November 2023, the military court in Pattani Province convicted eight soldiers and sentenced them to prison terms ranging between two and three years for beating Army Private Wichian Puaksom to death in 2011.⁶⁰ Prior to the verdict, in 2016, his family had received a series of threats and a criminal defamation lawsuit from the military, which wanted them to accept monetary compensation and remain silent.⁶¹ The defamation charges were eventually dropped in 2017.⁶²

3.2. Ineffective implementation of anti-torture law

Since its entry into force in February 2023, the Thai government has failed to ensure effective implementation of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act 2023.

⁵⁵ Khaosod English, *Army chief vows to hear grievances, refuse to quit over mass shooting*, 11 February 2020, <https://www.khaosodenglish.com/politics/2020/02/11/army-chief-vows-to-hear-grievances-refuse-to-quit-over-mass-shooting/>

⁵⁶ Khaosod English, *Army launches complaint center, without anonymity*, 19 February 2020, <https://www.khaosodenglish.com/politics/2020/02/19/army-launches-complaint-center-without-anonymity/>

⁵⁷ Khaosod English, *Army launches complaint center, without anonymity*, 19 February 2020, <https://www.khaosodenglish.com/politics/2020/02/19/army-launches-complaint-center-without-anonymity/>

⁵⁸ Prachatai English, *There are not many cases, but there are news reports of more than 21 deaths – a compilation of cases of military conscripts who died in military camps between 2009-2023*, 7 September 2023, <https://prachatai.com/journal/2023/09/105813>

⁵⁹ Amnesty International, Thailand: “We are just toys to them”: Physical, mental and sexual abuse of conscripts in Thailand’s military, 23 May 2020, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa39/1995/2020/en/>

⁶⁰ Prachatai English, *Soldiers sentenced to jail over death of tortured army conscript*, 25 November 2023, <https://prachataienglish.com/node/10738>

⁶¹ Cross Cultural Foundation, *The criminal defamation and Computer Crime Act related offence filed against Ms. Naritsarawani*, 27 July 2016, <https://crcfthailand.org/en/2016/07/27/the-criminal-defamation-and-computer-crime-act-related-offence-filed-against-ms-naritsarawani/>; Prachatai English, *Soldiers sentenced to jail over death of tortured army conscript*, 25 November 2023, <https://prachataienglish.com/node/10738>

⁶² Prachatai English, *Soldiers sentenced to jail over death of tortured army conscript*, 25 November 2023, <https://prachataienglish.com/node/10738>

The Act criminalizes torture, ill-treatment, and enforced disappearance and establishes legal and procedural safeguards against such crimes, including in the context of detention.⁶³ Article 22 of the Act requires responsible authorities to “continuously record audio and video throughout the arrest and detention process until the person is delivered to the inquiry official or released” and “immediately notify the public prosecutor and the chief district officer” of such arrest and detention. Article 23 further requires the authorities to prepare a detailed report of the arrest and detention, and that the information be made available to the family and lawyer of the detainee.

Under Article 26, allegations of an act of torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment can be reported to the court by the victim or those acting in the victim’s interest. In the event of death in custody, Article 28 requires responsible officials to immediately inform the Committee on the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance, an independent body established under the Act to ensure their prompt participation in the monitoring and examining of any act of torture.

On 21 September 2023, the Committee on the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance issued a regulation governing the audio and video recording of an arrest and during detention until individuals are handed over to the inquiry officer or released under Articles 22 and 23, as well as procedures for informing the public prosecutors and administrative officers about the arrest and the required information that must be recorded during an arrest under Article 26.⁶⁴

Since the Act’s entry into force, there have been reported instances where law enforcement officers conducted arrests without audio and video recording, or have sought consent from arrested individuals to delete video and audio records, in violation of the regulation.⁶⁵

For example, in January 2024, two police officers at the Aranyaprathet police station in Sa Kaeo Province tortured a man into falsely confessing that he had killed his wife. The acts of torture included forcing him to strip in a cold room, chaining him, and wrapping a black plastic bag over his head.⁶⁶ The police admitted that they did not record any audio or video during arrest and

⁶³ Gazette, *Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act B.E. 2565*, 24 October 2022, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oS2FckZGht8GmXy4wFcx5wGUoy0P_quw/view

⁶⁴ Ministry of Justice, *Regulation of the Committee on the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance on the audio and video recording during arrest and detention, the notification of detention, and the recording of information of detainees 2023*, 21 September 2023, <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-1WIV5RhG2q6tyor3Mie0uEViJpUDwUk> [in Thai]

⁶⁵ ICJ, *Thailand: One year on, authorities have fallen short in implementing the landmark Anti-torture and Enforced Disappearance Act*, 22 February 2024, <https://www.ici.org/thailand-one-year-on-authorities-have-fallen-short-in-implementing-the-landmark-anti-torture-and-enforced-disappearance-act/>

⁶⁶ Bangkok Post, *Voice clips show police knew they had ‘wrong guy’*, 19 January 2024, <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2727144/voice-clips-show-police-knew-they-had-wrong-guy>

detention because the man “turned himself in.”⁶⁷ The man was released when security camera evidence showed his wife had been beaten and killed by five youths.⁶⁸

In November 2023, police officers at the Pathumthani provincial police station in Pathumthani Province arrested two individuals on charges of drug possession and took them to withdraw approximately 300,000 baht (approximately 7,968 Euros)⁶⁹ from an ATM in exchange for not being prosecuted.⁷⁰ One of the accused was also sexually assaulted by the police. No audio or video was recorded during the arrest and detention, and the police did not notify the public prosecutor and the chief district officer of the arrest as required by the Act.

In addition, out of the 17 documented cases of military cadets and conscripts who died from torture [See above, 3.1. *Deaths of military cadets/conscripts persisted*], three of them occurred following the entry into force of the Act. Despite persistent cases of deaths as well as ongoing allegations of torture and ill-treatment of military cadets and conscripts,⁷¹ only one case has led to a criminal prosecution.⁷² On 4 August 2023, family members of Private Kittithon Wiangbanphot filed a complaint under the Anti-Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act against two soldiers for committing cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, resulting in his death on 16 July 2023 [See below, Annex - 1. *Deaths of military cadets/conscripts*].⁷³ In December 2023, two soldiers were indicted at the Central Criminal Court for Corruption and Misconduct Cases Region 5 in Chiang Mai Province for violation of the Act.⁷⁴ At the time of the submission of this report, the case is in the process of witness examinations.⁷⁵

⁶⁷ Standard, *Anti-torture committee states that in the case of Buaphan’s husband, police cannot wrap a rubbish bag over his head and need to record a video during every arrest*, 18 January 2024, <https://thestandard.co/buaphan-case-husband-is-suspect-for-interrogation/> [in Thai]

⁶⁸ Bangkok Post, *‘Torture’ led to false confession*, 20 January 2024,

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2727465/torture-led-to-false-confession>

⁶⁹ 1 EUR = 37.649 THB based on the European Commission’s official exchange rates in September 2024.

⁷⁰ Bangkokbiz, *NHRC states police’ extortion of money-sexual assault of suspects in violation of the Anti-torture Act, recommends investigation and remedy*, 21 June 2024, <https://www.bangkokbiznews.com/politics/1132498> [in Thai]

⁷¹ Cross Cultural Foundation, *To human dignity of all privates: lessons learned from the death of Private Kittithon Wiangbanphot*, 11 September 2024, <https://crcfthailand.org/2024/09/11/to-the-human-dignity-of-every-soldier/>

⁷² ICJ, *Thailand: One year on, authorities have fallen short in implementing the landmark Anti-torture and Enforced Disappearance Act*, 22 February 2024, <https://www.ici.org/thailand-one-year-on-authorities-have-fallen-short-in-implementing-the-landmark-anti-torture-and-enforced-disappearance-act/>

⁷³ Cross Cultural Foundation, *To human dignity of all privates: lessons learned from the death of Private Kittithon Wiangbanphot*, 11 September 2024, <https://crcfthailand.org/2024/09/11/to-the-human-dignity-of-every-soldier/>

⁷⁴ Prachatai English, *Prosecutor indicted army instructors in relation to the death of ‘Private Kittithon’ from training at Mengrai Maharaj military camp*, 22 December 2023, <https://prachatai.com/journal/2023/12/107335> [in Thai]

⁷⁵ Cross Cultural Foundation, *To human dignity of all privates: lessons learned from the death of Private Kittithon Wiangbanphot*, 11 September 2024, <https://crcfthailand.org/2024/09/11/to-the-human-dignity-of-every-soldier/>

ANNEX

1. Deaths of military cadets/conscripts

	Victim's name	Location of death	Date of death	Authority responsible	Accountability measures
1.	Sanan Thongdinok	1st Infantry Regiment - King's Own Guard, Bangkok	6 June 2015	Army	Sanan's mother filed a civil lawsuit against the Army. On 2 August 2022, the Supreme Court ordered the Army to pay his family 17 million baht (approximately 451,539 Euros) ⁷⁶ in compensation for Sanan's death. ⁷⁷
2.	Songtham Mutmat	Yala Hospital (transferred from a Military Camp in Yala Province)	4 April 2016	Army	Songtham's mother filed a civil lawsuit against the Army. ⁷⁸ The family later reached a civil settlement with the Army and received undisclosed compensation for Songtham's death. ⁷⁹
3.	Panya Ngoenrian	Phramongkutklo Hospital, Bangkok (transferred from military barracks in Kanchanaburi)	22 June 2016	Army	No information.
4.	Noppadol Worakitphan	Surat Thani Hospital (transferred from Vibhavadi Rangsit Military Camp, Surat Thani Province)	19 August 2017	Army	The Army set up a fact-finding committee to determine the cause of Noppadol's death. ⁸⁰
5.	Phakhaphong Tanyakan	Armed Forces Academies Preparatory School in Nakhon Nayok Province	17 October 2017	Army	A committee of 11 military officers set up to investigate Phakhaphong's death found that his death did not stem from injuries sustained from punishment. ⁸¹ His family filed four lawsuits against relevant officials. As of 2021, the family had not received any remedy from Thai Army. ⁸²
6.	Adisak Noiphitak	Thep Satri Si Sunthon Military Camp Hospital, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province	11 November 2017	Army	No information
7.	Muhammad Irfan Jehma	Military Training Camp in Chonburi prison	14 February 2018	Army	No information
8.	Kittisak Bunmanee	Phatthalung Hospital (transferred from Abhai Borirak Camp, Phatthalung Province)	3 June 2018	Army	Kittisak's family received 100,000 baht (approximately 2,656 Euros) in compensation from the Army. ⁸³

⁷⁶ 1 EUR = 37.649 THB based on the European Commission's official exchange rates in September 2024.

⁷⁷ Cross Cultural Foundation, *Supreme court ordered Thai Army to pay 17 millions to Sanan's relatives in compensation following his death during participating military training*, 8 September 2022, <https://crcfthailand.org/2022/09/08/16249/> [in Thai]

⁷⁸ Prachatai English, *Family of soldier beaten to death refutes military claims*, 5 April 2016, <https://prachatai.org/english/node/6009>

⁷⁹ Today, *Soldier got killed. Who is to blame?*, 11 September 2018, <https://workpointtoday.com/soldier-got-killed-who-is-to-blame/> [in Thai]

⁸⁰ Bangkok Post, *Army to be grilled over private*, 23 August 2017, <http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/1311215/>

⁸¹ BBC, *One year after, Tanyakan Family with four pending case in search for justice for Mei*, 18 October 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/thai/thailand-45899295> [in Thai]

⁸² Manager Online, *Do not forget "Mei", a call from family of the deceased after four years on the road of justice over the management of Thai army*, 14 October 2021, <https://mgronline.com/local/detail/9640000101670> [in Thai]

⁸³ Matichon, *Sprained ankle caused death*, 6 June 2018, https://www.matichon.co.th/region/news_986932 [in Thai]

9.	Kacha Pacha	Anandamahidol Hospital (being detained at 3rd Infantry Battalion's Infantry Division 31. Lopburi Province)	24 August 2018	Army	Three conscripts were charged with colluding in Kacha's murder and detained. ⁸⁴
10.	Leuchanont Nantabut	Military police battalion under the Thai Armed Forces Headquarters, Bangkok	17 May 2019	Army	A military panel was set up to investigate Leuchanont's death. ⁸⁵ As of April 2020, no results of the investigation had been publicly announced. ⁸⁶
11.	Seri Butwong	Air Force Hospital, Bangkok	14 September 2020	Air Force	Seri's family received 200,000 baht (approximately 5,312 Euros) in compensation for his death. ⁸⁷
12.	Rachot Senasanit	Military prison, Khon Kaen Province	1 November 2020	Army	No information. ⁸⁸
13.	Jesadakorn Natesaengsri	Queen Sirikit Hospital in Chonburi province (transferred from Navy's 2nd military police battalion at Sattahip Naval Base, Chonburi Province)	28 April 2022	Navy	Investigation launched. ⁸⁹ As of May 2020, Jesadakorn's family received 12,000 baht (approximately 318 Euros) in compensation from the Navy and additional 70,000 baht (approximately 1,859 Euros) from fundraising among soldiers in the battalion. ⁹⁰
14.	Wiravat Trachuwanit	Air Force Security Force Command, Bangkok	24 June 2022	Air Force	No information. ⁹¹
15.	Wannawut Lamphapha	2nd Cavalry Division King's Royal Guard - Adisorn Camp, Saraburi Province	4 June 2023	Army	No information. ⁹²
16.	Kittithon Wiangbanphot	Mengrai Maharaj Military Camp, Chaing Rai Province	16 July 2023	Army	Two soldiers were indicted at the Central Criminal Court for Corruption and Misconduct Cases Region 5 in Chiang Mai Province. As of September 2024, the witness examination was still ongoing. ⁹³
17.	Woraprat Phadmasakul	Phramongkutklao Hospital, Bangkok	2 August 2024	Army	Thirteen drill instructors from the 21st Infantry Regiment were accused of fatally assaulting

⁸⁴ Bangkok Post, *Beaten conscript dies after 24-day coma*, 14 September 2018, <https://www.bangkokpost.com/news/crime/1540030/beaten-conscript-dies-after-24-day-coma>; Khaosod English, *Private Dies After Senior Soldiers Beat Him Into Coma*, 14 September 2018, <http://www.khaosodenglish.com/news/crimecourtscalamity/crime-crime/2018/09/14/private-dies-after-senior-soldiers-beat-him-into-coma/>

⁸⁵ Bangkok Post, *Military panel set up to look into conscript's death*, 24 May 2019, <https://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/1683244>

⁸⁶ FIDH, UCL, and ILaw, *Assessment of Thailand's follow-up actions for the implementation of the UN Human Rights Committee's recommendations*, 27 April 2020, https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/20200423_thailand_iccr_follow-up_bp_en.pdf

⁸⁷ Thairath, *Soldier died. Doctor said it was because of irregular heartbeat not assault*, 15 September 2020, <https://www.thairath.co.th/news/politic/1930147> [in Thai]

⁸⁸ Thai PBS, *The army has ordered an investigation into the death of a conscript soldier in a camp in Khon Kaen Province*, 13 November 2020, <https://www.thaipbs.or.th/news/content/298329>

⁸⁹ Bangkok Post, *Base death prompts navy probe*, 4 May 2020

⁹⁰ Matichon, *Move Forward party called Ministry of Defense to expose about the welfare of low-ranking armed force personnels in the event of injury or death and said that no remedy has been provided in cases of two deceased soldiers*, 22 July 2020, https://www.matichon.co.th/politics/news_2276175 [in Thai]

⁹¹ Prachatai, *Relatives of Soldier in Distress after Mysteriously Hanging Himself in Camp, 4th Body, Don't Believe It Was 'suicide' - Air Force Expresses Condolences*, 27 June 2022, <https://prachatai.com/journal/2022/06/99274> [in Thai]

⁹² NHRC Facebook page, 4 July 2024, <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=797225875931143&id=100069312125516&set=a.238819018438501>; Prachatai, *Mother of Soldier Denies Son Had Ruptured Spleen Repaired - Army Chief Sets up Committee to Investigate Substandard Units*, 7 June 2023, <https://prachatai.com/journal/2023/06/104476>

⁹³ Cross Cultural Foundation, *Central Criminal Court for Corruption and Misconduct Cases Region 5 to examine the witness relating to the death of Private Kittithon Wiangbanphot*, 9 September 2024, <https://cfcfthailand.org/2024/09/09/56496/> [in Thai]

		(transferred from 21st Infantry Regiment - Nawamintharachini Camp, Chonburi Province)			Woraprach. They were detained at the 14th Military Circle Prison in Chonburi pending an investigation. ⁹⁴
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2. Deaths in military custody

	Victim's name	Location of death	Date of death	Authority responsible	Accountability measures
1.	Prakrom Warunprapa	11th Army Circle in Bangkok	23 October 2015	Army	No investigation conducted. ⁹⁵
2.	Suriyan Sucharitpolwong	11th Army Circle Base, Bangkok	7 November 2015	Army	No information. ⁹⁶
3.	Abdullayib Dolah	Ingkhayudh Boriharn Army Camp, Pattani Province	4 December 2015	Army	In 2016, the Pattani Court examined witnesses for the investigation into Abdullayib death. ⁹⁷
4.	Urai Sattanan	At home (after being interrogated at the Temporary Military Base in Roi-Et Province)	21 December 2015	Army	Urai's family filed a case at Phanom Phrai police station, calling for the investigation into the death. ⁹⁸
5.	Kittikon Suthiraphan	Military prison in Weerawat Yothin Army Camp, Surin Province	21 February 2016	Army	In July 2016, the Surin Provincial Court ruled that Kittikon had been assaulted to death by an Army private and several other people. Four people were charged by the police. The criminal case is ongoing. ⁹⁹ Kittikon's mother filed a civil lawsuit against the Army. ¹⁰⁰ On 22 February 2018, the Civil Court ordered the Army to pay Kittikon's mother 1.87 million baht (approximately 49,669 Euros) in compensation. ¹⁰¹
6.	Yutthakinan Bunniam	Surat Thani Hospital (transferred from the military remand facility at the 45th Military Circle Base in Surat Thani Province)	1 April 2017	Army	The trial of the defendants accused of Yutthakinan's death had been under way at the 45th Military Circle's military court since 2018. In addition, the Fourth Army Region ordered disciplinary action against all accused -- ranging from demotion and suspension to imprisonment. ¹⁰²
7.	Yutthana Saisa	Crown Prince Hospital, Nakhon Phanom Province (under the custody of the Surasak Montri Task Force of the 2nd Army)	17 April 2020	Army	Yutthana's parents filed a complaint with That Phanom police to seek justice for their son's death. Investigation was launched and found that 11 soldiers had been allegedly involved in Yutthana's death but no charges had been filed. ¹⁰³

⁹⁴ Bangkok Post, *13 soldiers held over recruit's death*, 15 August 2024

⁹⁵ Thai PBS, *Timeline of "Mor Yong, Prakom, Jirawong" cases*, 9 November 2015, <http://news.thaipbs.or.th/content/5933> [in Thai]

⁹⁶ Bangkok Post, *Lese majeste suspect 'Mor Yong' dies in army custody*, 10 November 2015,

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/759328/lese-majeste-suspect-mor-yong-dies-in-army-custody>

⁹⁷ Cross Cultural Foundation, *Court examined witnesses. The officer at interrogation center at Ingkhayudh Boriharn Army Camp testified for the death of Abdullayib*, 5 October 2016, <https://crcfthailand.org/2016/10/05/7308/> [in Thai]

⁹⁸ Khaosod English, *Drug suspect dies in custody; family suspects foul play*, 23 December 2015, <http://www.khaosodenglish.com/politics/2015/12/23/1450854327/>

⁹⁹ Voice TV, *Court rules Corporal Kittikon assaulted to death*, 26 July 2016, <https://www.voicetv.co.th/read/393159> [in Thai]

¹⁰⁰ Prachatai English, *Mother sues Thai Army over son's death*, 9 March 2017, http://prachatai.org/english/node/6989?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+prachataienglish+%28Prachatai+in+English%29

¹⁰¹ Bangkok Post, *Army to give mum B1.9m payout*, 23 February 2018,

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/1416763/army-to-give-mum-b1-9m-payout>; Nation, *Army told to pay mother of slain son*, 23 February 2018, <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/national/30339477>

¹⁰² Bangkok Post, *Army blames virus for slow trial pace in private's death*, 22 February 2022

¹⁰³ Bangkok Post, *11 soldiers believed involved in torture-death in custody*, 21 April 2020

8.	Sathaporn Phiatphat	Phetchabun Military Prison	6 November 2020	Army	Seven soldiers who allegedly assaulted Sathaporn to death were subject to disciplinary sanctions, including three months in solitary confinement. ¹⁰⁴
9.	Pichawat Wiangnon	27th Army Circle Guard House, Prasert Songkhram Camp, Roi Et Province	6 November 2020	Army	Pichawat's family received 155,128 baht (approximately 4,120 Euros) as a compensation. Officials allegedly involved into his death were subject to disciplinary sanction. ¹⁰⁵
10.	Khajonsak Sriyakul	Military prison in Somdej Phranaresuan Maharaj camp, Phitanulok Province	15 November 2022	Army	The Army prosecuted 11 soldiers allegedly involved in Khajonsak's death and collected 200,000 baht (approximately 5,312 Euros) from them to give to the victim's family. ¹⁰⁶

3. Deaths in prison

	Victim's name	Location of death	Date of death	Authority responsible	Accountability measures
1.	Surakrit Chaimongkol	Bangkok Remand Prison	28 August 2014	Department of Corrections	On 17 March 2016, Department of Corrections paid 200,000 baht (approximately 5,312 Euros) in compensation to Surakrit's family after the family agreed to withdraw the case from court. ¹⁰⁷
2.	Uthai Kongha	Maha Sarakhm Hospital (transferred from Maha Sarakham Provincial Prison)	24 November 2015	Department of Corrections	No information.
3.	Suriya Supharak	Takua Pa District Prison, Phang Nga Province	1 April 2017	Department of Corrections	No information.
4.	Patchara Klansuwan	Takua Pa Hospital (transferred from Takua Pa District Prison, Phang Nga Province)	16 April 2017	Department of Corrections	No information. ¹⁰⁸
5.	Patchirapong Boonyasema	Samut Prakan Central Prison Samut Prakan Province	18 April 2018	Department of Corrections	Investigation into Patchirapong's death ordered. ¹⁰⁹
6.	Prompanya Kethom	Sisaket Prison, Sisaket Province	14 April 2019	Department of Corrections	A committee was set up to investigate Prompanya's death. Four prisoners had been charged with the assault that caused his death. ¹¹⁰
7.	Manas Kongpan	Department of Corrections Hospital, Bangkok	1 June 2021	Department of Corrections	No information. ¹¹¹

¹⁰⁴ Report of Parliamentary committee on armed force, 2 December 2020, https://www.parliament.go.th/ewtcommittee/ewt/25_military/ewt_dl_link.php?nid=376&filename=index [in Thai]

¹⁰⁵ Report of Parliamentary committee on armed force, 2 December 2020, https://www.parliament.go.th/ewtcommittee/ewt/25_military/ewt_dl_link.php?nid=376&filename=index [in Thai]

¹⁰⁶ Prachatai, *There are not many cases, but there are news reports of more than 21 deaths, including the deaths of conscripts in the camp from 2009-2023*, 7 September 2023, <https://prachatai.com/journal/2023/09/105813> [in Thai]

¹⁰⁷ TLHR, *Mother of PAD shooting suspect agreed to received compensation from Department of Corrections and withdrew the court case relating to her son's death in custody*, 27 March 2016, <https://tlhr2014.wordpress.com/2016/03/27/surakit-death-in-custody/> [In Thai]

¹⁰⁸ Workpoint, *Hemorrhage found in the brain of inmate died in Takua Pa Prison*, 19 April 2017, <http://www.workpointtv.com/news/29594>; Thairath, *Relatives of dead man in Takua Pa Prison doubt autopsy result*, 20 April 2018, <https://www.thairath.co.th/content/917675> [in Thai]

¹⁰⁹ Bangkok Post, *Wife seeks justice over prison inmate's brutal death*, 20 April 2018, <https://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/1449418/>

¹¹⁰ MGR Online, *Arrested 4 offenders. The prisoners assaulted drunk driving charged prisoner to death. Mother of the victim thanks to prison commander and police*, 27 April 2019, <https://mgronline.com/local/detail/9620000040727> [in Thai]

¹¹¹ Bangkok Post, *Key human trafficker dies in jail*, 3 June 2021; Thai PBS, *Key Rohingya smuggling ring leader dies in prison*, 3 June 2021

8.	Asol Ekphet	Bang Khen Prison, Bangkok	23 September 2021	Department of Corrections	No information.
9.	Netiporn Sanesangkhom	Thammasat University Hospital in Pathumthani Province (transferred from the Department of Corrections Hospital in Bangkok)	14 May 2024	Department of Corrections	No information. ¹¹²

4. Deaths in police or other authorities' custody

	Victim's name	Location of death	Date of death	Authority responsible	Accountability measures
1.	Anand Koedkaeo	Maharaj Hospital (transferred from Nakhon Ratchasima police station)	13 November 2015	Police	On 27 July 2017, the Nakhon Ratchasima Provincial Court ruled that Anand's was tortured to death by police officers. Anand's parents sued the police for malfeasance in connection with their son's death. ¹¹³ In July 2019, the Lawsuit was withdrawn after Anand's family reached a settlement with the police. ¹¹⁴
2.	Thawatchai Anukul	Mongkutwattana hospital (transferred from the Department of Special Investigation, Bangkok)	30 August 2016	Ministry of Justice	On 4 August 2017, the Bangkok Criminal Cour concluded that Thawatchai was "put to death by somebody else." ¹¹⁵ No further information available.
3.	Alexandre Cazes	Narcotic Suppression Bureau (NSB)	12 July 2017	Narcotic Suppression Bureau (NSB)	No information. ¹¹⁶
4.	Jamnong Krohging	Buriram Hospital	9 April 2018	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Investigation launched. ¹¹⁷ Family filed case for negligence against authorities responsible for Jamnong's arrest.
5.	Thanayut Tepso	Prachantakham police station, Prachinburi Province	9 October 2018	Police	The investigation report has not been made publicly available. ¹¹⁸
6.	Thongkham Phuthaddok	Mueang police station, Kalasin Province	25 November 2018	Police	The family did not raise questions about Thongkham's death. ¹¹⁹
7.	Phuttaporn Sophapon	Weruwan police station, Khon Kaen Province	30 March 2020	Police	Phuttaporn's relatives filed a lawsuit accusing the police officers who detained him of malfeasance. Inquiry panel set up to investigate Phuttaporn's death. ¹²⁰
8.	Jeerapong Thanapat	Mueang Nakhon Sawan police station, Nakhon Sawan Province	5 August 2021	Police	On 8 June 2022, six policemen were sentenced to life imprisonment over Jeerapong's death. A seventh police officer was sentenced to five

¹¹² Bangkok Post, *Lawyer says activist's autopsy raises questions*, 16 May 2024,

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2794185/lawyer-says-activists-autopsy-raises-questions>

¹¹³ Prachatai English, *Court rules drug suspect tortured to death by police*, 31 July 2017,

<https://prachatai.com/english/node/7299>

¹¹⁴ Prachatai, *Anan's father withdrew that court case after reaching settlement with the Police following the death in police custody of his son*, 8 July 2019, <https://prachatai.com/journal/2019/07/83333> [in Thai]

¹¹⁵ Bangkok Post, *DSI custody death response misses the mark*, 7 August 2017,

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/1301299/dsi-custody-death-response-misses-the-mark>

¹¹⁶ Bangkok Post, *Cops find Canadian dead in cell*, 13 July 2017, <http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/1285943/>

¹¹⁷ Bangkok Post, *Probe begins into poacher's death*, 26 April 2018, <https://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/1452539/>

¹¹⁸ Thairath, *Detainee used a rope to commit suicide in Prachantakham police station cell*, 10 October 2018,

<https://www.thairath.co.th/content/1394265> [in Thai]

¹¹⁹ Manager Online, *Murder suspect hang himself to death at police station in Kalasin province*, 28 November 2018,

<https://mgronline.com/local/detail/9610000117522> [in Thai]

¹²⁰ Bangkok Post. *New probe into station cell death*, 7 Apr 2020

					years and four months in prison for malfeasance and coercion. ¹²¹
9	Than Shin U	Pak Nam police station, Ranong Province	16 October 2022	Police	The family filed a criminal case at Pak Nam police station calling for the investigation into Than Shin U's death. Ranong Provincial Court ruled that authorities were not responsible for Than Shin U's death. ¹²²
10.	Michael Matthew Winder	Patong police station, Phuket Province	24 April 2023	Police	Investigation launched. ¹²³ No results of the investigation have been publicly announced.
11.	Pakorn Niamrat	Sadao Hospital (transferred from Than Muk Military Camp in Sadao District, Songkhla Province)	10 October 2023	Police	Investigation ordered. ¹²⁴ On 25 August 2024, Pakorn's mother submitted a complaint to Center for Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance. ¹²⁵

5. Deaths in Immigration Detention Centers (IDCs)

	Victim's name	Location of death	Date of death	Authority responsible	Accountability measures
1.	Abdullah Abduweli	Hat Yai Hospital (transferred from Sadao IDC, Songkhla Province)	22 December 2014	Immigration Bureau	No Information.
2.	Samina Faisal	IDC, Bangkok	24 December 2015	Immigration Bureau	No information.
3.	Ijaz Masih	Police hospital (transferred from Suan Phlu IDC, Bangkok)	27 May 2017	Immigration Bureau	No Information.
4.	Zainab Bi Bi (F)	Hat Yai Hospital (transferred from Sadao IDC, Songkhla Province)	2 November 2017	Immigration Bureau	No Information.
5.	Bilal	IDC	1 August 2018	Immigration Bureau	No Information.
6.	Sakhi	Suan Phlu IDC, Bangkok	24 October 2018	Immigration Bureau	No information. ¹²⁶
7.	Robat	Suan Phlu IDC, Bangkok	24 October 2018	Immigration Bureau	No information. ¹²⁷
8.	Aziz Abdullah	Suan Phlu IDC, Bangkok	11 February 2023	Immigration Bureau	No information.
9.	Mattohti Mattursun (aka Muhammad Tursun)	Suan Phlu IDC, Bangkok	21 April 2023	Immigration Bureau	No information.

¹²¹ Bangkok Post, *Life imprisonment for police who tortured suspect to death*, 8 June 2022

¹²² Cross Cultural Foundation, Paknam Police Hospital updated the criminal case and summoned family of the deceased for further inquiry relating to the death of Than Shin U, 23 July 2024, <https://crcfthailand.org/2024/07/23/55696/> [in Thai]

¹²³ Bangkok Post, *Tourist found hanged in Patong police cell*, 25 April 2023

¹²⁴ Bangkok Post, *Police probe death of cadet during training session*, 13 October 2023

¹²⁵ Cross Cultural Foundation *Mother of Pakorn Niamrat, the police student who died during training in 2023 submitted a complaint at to the Center for Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance to bring the responsible officers to justice*, 28 August 2024, <https://crcfthailand.org/2024/08/28/56373/> [in Thai]

¹²⁶ Nation, *UPDATE: Cambodian, Vietnamese found dead in Immigration detention cell*, 24 October 2018, <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/breakingnews/30357053>

¹²⁷ Nation, *UPDATE: Cambodian, Vietnamese found dead in Immigration detention cell*, 24 October 2018, <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/breakingnews/30357053>