



มูลนิธิผสานวัฒนธรรม Cross Cultural Foundation

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Press Release

Trial observation in the second hearing is urged in the case a victim of torture, Ritthirong Chuenchit suing Prachinburi police after more than six years of justice seeking

On 2 November 2015, at 13.30, the Prachinburi Provincial Court will conduct the second pretrial discovery in the Black Case no. 2558/925 in which Mr. Ritthirong Chuenchit filed against seven police officers including two from the Muang Prachinburi Police Station and five from the Prachinburi Provincial Police. They are accused of being complicit in the abuse of official power, abuse of office, offences against body, and infringement on freedom as per Articles 157, 200, 295, 305, 310, 391 coupled with Articles 83 and 91 of the Penal Code with the maximum sentence of death.

In this case, Mr. Ritthirong Chuenchit alleged that on 28 January 2009 while he was an underage or 18 year old student, he was nabbed by the police allegedly for committing theft. While being held in official custody, he was subjected to torture committed by the investigating police officials causing grievous harm to him physically and mentally. Though, he was later discharged as the prosecutor decided to not indict him since the real perpetrator has been arrested and indicted, he continued to endure the pain from the torture which did not just make him physically weak, but also made him easily panic and as a result had to drop out from school.

In the past six years since his release, Mr. Ritthirong Chuenchit, the injured party and Mr. Somsak Chuenchit (father) have been complaining to various state agencies and independent organizations, but in vain. They were demanding that the arresting police officials who had inflicted on him torture be brought to justice. On 1 December 2014, Mr. Ritthirong Chuenchit and Mr. Somsak Chuenchit, his father, have approached the Cross Cultural Foundation (CrCF), a human rights organization and we have provided him with legal representation and helped him to bring the case against the seven police officials with the Prachinburi Provincial Court on 10 June 2015, the first pretrial discovery hearing was supposed to take place on 24 August 2015, but it has been rescheduled to 2 November as requested for by both the plaintiff and the accused.

In a landmark case, the officials as a result of their imprudent performance have appeared to have committed gross human rights abuse against an individual and implicated an innocent person. Mr. Ritthirong has become a victim of criminal proceeding and has been subject to an act of torture causing him long-lasting mental and physical trauma. Such an act is a violation of both domestic and international laws including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) to which Thailand has been a state party and required to comply with since 1 November 2009. According to the Convention, an act of torture perpetrated by a state official is a heinous crime and a state party including Thailand is obliged to bring the perpetrator to justice with no exception.

In this case, Thailand has neglected its duty to act in compliance with the Convention since it has failed to initiate an inquiry and to prosecute the alleged officials even though Mr. Ritthirong, the injured party and his father had been spending more than six years to seek justice and remedies from various state agencies and independent organizations. Eventually, they have to resort to seeking redress by filing the case with the Court themselves.

For more information, please contact:

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