

No. 52101/

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
GENEVA**

May B.E. 2556 (2013)

Dear Mr. Sulyandziga, Mr. La Rue, Ms. Sekaggya, Mr. Crépeau and Ms. Ezeilo,

I wish to refer to your joint letter dated 26 April 2013, requesting the Royal Thai Government to provide clarification on the alleged case of Mr. Andy Hall, a British national, concerning the criminal charges brought against him by the Natural Fruit Company in Thailand.

The Permanent Mission of Thailand has forwarded your joint letter to the relevant authorities in Thailand for their further consideration. In the meantime, I wish to provide you with a preliminary response as follows :

1. As a democratic country that respects the promotion and protection of human rights for all, the Royal Thai Government is fully supportive of the work of all NGOs. Mr. Andy Hall has long been welcome as an active member of the Thai civil society. The Royal Thai Government even supported Mr. Andy Hall to participate in a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland as a civil society representative in 2011. We do not have any problems with Mr. Hall's academic and advocacy work as long as they are based on factual and reliable evidence.

2. The criminal charges brought against Mr. Andy Hall by Natural Fruit Company are between two private entities and is now being considered by the Court. I have full confidence in our judicial system in delivering justice to both parties.

Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga,

Working Group on the issue of Human Rights and Transnational corporations
and other business enterprises,

Mr. Frank La Rue,

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom
of opinion and expression,

Ms. Margaret Sekaggya,

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders,

Mr. François Crépeau,

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants,

Ms. Joy Ezeilo,

Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,**GENEVA.**

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Reference : AL G/SO 214(67-17) G/SO 214 (107-9) G/SO 214 (106-10) Trafficking (2004-5) THA 4/2013

3. In a democratic and rule-based society, the Natural Fruit Company has the right to file a lawsuit against Mr. Hall, should it deem the accusation in the report against the company inaccurate and thus damaging its reputation. Likewise, Mr. Hall certainly has the right under Thai laws to defend himself against such an allegation.

I believe that the initial information provided above addresses your concerns and will be helpful for the preparation of your report. The Permanent Mission of Thailand will transmit any further information received and remains at your disposal should you require additional information.

Yours sincerely,



(Thani Thongphakdi)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative

OHCHR REGISTRY

- 6 MAI 2013

Recipients :.....*SPD*.....
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