

THAILAND UPDATE**Government's view on immediate- and medium-term actions following the restoration of normalcy**

- On 21 May 2010, Prime Minister Abhisit addressed the public to assure them that the Government has been able to restore order in Bangkok and in other provinces, with the cooperation of government officials, volunteers and the Thai people generally.

- In the immediate term, the Government intends to move swiftly to restore normalcy and to start the process of rehabilitation and reconciliation. In parallel to physical rehabilitation with regard to the clearing of areas affected and buildings burned, the Government recognizes that the psychological aspect of this is crucial. In this regard, it would work to provide remedies and assurances to those affected, particularly from acts of sabotages, arson and other attacks by armed groups. Meanwhile, the authorities, including police, military and civilian officials as well as volunteers, would continue to provide safety and security for the public, Thai and foreign – both in Bangkok and other provinces.

- As the next step, as the situation improves, the Government will begin to lift some of the regulations announced under the Emergency Decree, particularly those that may affect some of people's rights and freedoms and their normal way of life. This will be done gradually taking into account the situation on the ground.

- Importantly, in the longer term, the Government recognizes the need to address the challenges which lie ahead, including the challenge of overcoming the divisions that have occurred among the Thai people. In this regard, the Prime Minister has affirmed that the Government would pursue what has been envisaged in the five-point national reconciliation plan, which the Prime Minister has proposed, along with the rehabilitation process that addresses all aspects to restore the sense of harmony and solidarity among Thai people – be they social, economic, political or psychological. This reconciliation and rehabilitation process would proceed based on the principles of participation, democracy and justice.

- With regard to prosecution of those breaking the law, the Government reaffirms that this will be done in accordance with due process of law, so as to bring justice to all sides. It should also be noted that one of the key elements in the Prime Minister's reconciliation plan is about establishing facts about the events which have occurred during the protests. On this, the Prime Minister has stressed that there will be an independent investigation of all incidents. Having taken utmost care in strictly abiding by the rules of engagement established in line with international standards, the Government is open to scrutiny and stand ready to be accountable in accordance with the law.

A Resolution Introduced in the US Senate in Support of the 5-Point Reconciliation Plan

- Sen. Jim Webb (D-Virginia) has introduced on May 20, 2010, a resolution requesting the US Senate to call for restoration of peace and urge all parties concerned in Thailand to renounce the use of violence and resolve their differences through dialogue. The resolution also supports the principles and goals of the 5-Point roadmap of the Thai Government for national reconciliation.

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