**Violation of the Rights of Women and Children at the Bangkok Central Women's Correctional Institution**

According to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Thailand is a state party, every person shall be recognized as human and possesses dignity. However, women and children at the Bangkok Central Women’s Correctional Institution are treated as less than human. This treatment is in conflict with the ICCPR, the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules as stipulated below.

1. **Treatment of women during the judicial process and entry into the corrections system violates Rule 2 of the Bangkok Rules and Article 14 of the ICCPR.** 
   1. There is no difference between the treatment of pretrial detainees and sentenced prisoners.
   2. Prisoners are not provided with information about their rights as prisoners.
   3. Female prisoners from around the country with lengthy sentences are sent to the Central Women’s Correctional Institution in Bangkok, isolated from their families and friends.
   4. Letters written by prisoners are censored by the wardens.
   5. Food available for purchase in the canteen is overpriced.
   6. Criminal procedure for pregnant women and women with children is unclear.
   7. Prisoners and their lawyers must go through lengthy procedures to meet. Female prisoners whose sentence is final are denied access to lawyers, while male prisoners may still meet with lawyers.
   8. Many women experience long periods of pretrial detention.

# Women experience selective and discriminatory treatment in conflict with Rules 1 and 2 of the Nelson Mandela Rules and Article 18 of the ICCPR.

# There is a strict policy forbidding female prisoners from smoking cigarettes, while male prisoners are permitted to do so.

# Female prisoners may only have visitors from a list of 10 visitors; this policy was enforced strictly following the 2014 military coup.

# A double standard exists between ordinary and elite prisoners, in visiting block nos. 59 and 60. Elite prisoners have more time with visitors.

# Conversations between lèse majesté and state security case prisoners and their visitors, in visiting block nos. 52-56, are often recorded.

# Thai Muslim prisoners are not allowed to wear hijab, while non-Thai prisoners can.

# The food provided lacks nutrients and basic sanitation standards.

# Employment in the prison does not adhere to Rules 4 (2 ) and 54 of the Nelson Mandela Rules and Rules 4 and 13 of the Bangkok Rules.

# Wages paid for work inside the prison are unfair: 30-80 baht ($1-2.50) for three months of work.

# Work assignments are made arbitrarily.

# Information management inside the prison is not in line with Rule 6 of the Nelson Mandela Rules.

# The prisoner record system is slow and not computerized.

# Lèse majesté and state security systems only receive their prisoner cards after a delay. This affects the accounting of their release date and the reduction of sentences.

# Prisoners cannot access their own records and ascertain information about their release dates.

# Facilities for personal hygiene do not conform to Rule 5 of the Bangkok Rules and Rules 15, 17-19 of the Nelson Mandela Rules.

# The prison does not provide sufficient numbers or disposal methods for sanitary napkins.

# Facilities and services for washing clothes inside the prison are unsanitary.

# Lavatory doors are insufficient for privacy and prisoners can only access the lavatory between 9.30 – 10.00 am, 10.30 -11.00 am and 1.30 – 2.00 pm.

# Amount of water for bathing is insufficient for hygiene.

1. **Accommodation and work facilities are in conflict with Rule 5 of the Bangkok Rules and Rules 12-14 of the Nelson Mandela Rules.** 
   1. The dormitories have a capacity of 50 prisoners, but usually hold 70-80 prisoners.
   2. Each prisoner is permitted only 3 blankets to use as a pillow, floor covering, and blanket.
   3. Work facilities are poorly-lit and unventilated. Accidents occur, such as a fan that fell from the ceiling and injured prisoners.
2. **Activity space is insufficient contra to Rules 23 and 42 of the Nelson Mandela Rules.** Prisoners do not have space to exercise or complete necessary physical therapy. Sports equipment is limited.

1. **Accessing medical care is difficult and not in line with Rules 24-25 of the Nelson Mandela Rules and Rules 6 and 8 of the Bangkok Rules.**
2. Accessing basic care, including dental and psychological care, is difficult.
3. Tuberculosis is common and those infected are not separated from other prisoners.
4. External doctors are not able to access prisoners to examine them.
5. A prisoner who is gravely ill and needs urgent care after 21.00 must resort to shouting for help from wardens who are often far away from their stations. Prisoners have died waiting for the wardens to arrive.
6. **Pregnant prisoners and their children are not treated with dignity, contra to Rules 27-29 of the Nelson Mandela Rules.**
   1. Prisoners are not permitted to make any noise while enduring labor and delivery of their babies. They must leave the hospital within 30 minutes after delivery.
   2. Babies sleep with the mothers in dormitories surrounded by illness.
   3. The prison does not provide mothers with sufficient equipment to pump breast milk, food or diapers.
   4. On the birth certificates, the prison is listed as the birthplace.
7. **Double standards, punishment and difficulty in accessing information inside the prison are in conflict with Rules 30-31 and 33-40 of the Nelson Mandela Rules.** 
   1. Prisoners are punished by being denied the ability to visit their relatives and must then rely on letters; some prisoners are further punished by being denied permission to write letters.
   2. Discrimination and cronyism exist in the prison. For example, those close to the wardens are given underwear whereas other prisoners are not.
   3. The prison stipulates that prisoners must buy and wear a pajama set produced by the prison (t-shirt and pants). One punishment is for the wardens to take away the pants and force prisoners to wear a sarong instead. This is insufficient for sanitation and privacy.