



Press Statement by PDRC Spokesperson Akanat Promphan: 3 March 2014

**Yingluck's retreat from transparent and televised negotiations demonstrates insincerity;
external parties should not be invited to mediate on Yingluck government's behalf**

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(3 Mar. 2014) PDRC spokesperson Akanat Promphan made several observations regarding caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's call for PDRC secretary general Suthep Thaugsuban to enter into negotiations, and her additional conditions following his positive response to bilateral talks broadcast live across Thailand.

“Although PM Yingluck was the one to propose negotiations, when secretary general Suthep mentioned the need for open, transparent talks, she started to add multiple, impossible pre-conditions -- such as secrecy, terminating demonstrations first, and holding elections before any discussions -- thereby casting doubts on her own proposal,” criticized Akanat. “According to yesterday's Suan Dusit poll, the vast majority of people in Thailand favor talks, and they want those talks televised.”

“Yingluck was the one to propose discussions,” the spokesperson stressed. “Khun Suthep has simply suggested that talks must be open and broadcasted live so that all Thais can bear witness to these critical negotiations which concern everyone. We did not impose any impossible pre-conditions, like Yingluck's resignation. Therefore, whether the talks now take place is a test of whether or not she is sincere about resolving these issues.”

Additionally, spokesperson Akanat commented about Ms Yingluck's insistence that she is ready to die for democracy. “Unfortunately, Ms. Yingluck seems to have forgotten that democracy includes more than elections. Not only must democratic elections be free and fair, and absent of external influences to the voting process, but democracy also must include a foundational adherence to checks and balances by independent organizations, recognition and protection of human rights, freedom of expression and association – including the right to protest peacefully, and acceptance of the rule of law. Much of this has just gone by the wayside during the Yingluck administration.”

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Finally, spokesperson Akanat expressed his appreciation for the support of the United Nations Secretary-General to resolving the crisis. “We agree wholeheartedly with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's call on 23 February 2014 to respect human rights and the rule of law, to prevent any new attacks and to engage in meaningful dialogue towards ending the crisis and advancing

reform,” Akanat stated. “We would welcome the UN’s observation of the caretaker government’s investigation and management of the violent attacks on citizens, particularly involving the deaths of children, to ensure that their efforts are in line with international standards.”

However, the spokesperson censured caretaker Foreign Affairs Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul’s invitation to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to mediate in negotiations between Yingluck’s caretaker government and the PDRC. “It is highly inappropriate for the caretaker Foreign Minister to invite any external party, including the UN Secretary General, to mediate on behalf of the caretaker government,” rebuked Akanat.
