

Peter Tangpiankij  
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An Open Letter to President Obama

June 4, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama, President of the USA  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Do the right thing, Friendship, Individual vs. National Interest, US & Thailand

Dear Mr. President:

In both of your election campaigns for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> term of your Presidency, I voted for you. Likewise, other Thai-Americans in communities around Seattle, Washington State and in other states across USA had also casted the vote for you. We voted for you because of your progressive policies (for peace, hope, change and equality) and your positive personal attributes of caring, integrity, hard-work, patient, perseverance, courage and confidence ("Yes, we can"). Your statement of "do the right thing" frequently given to the general public strikes the same tune as mine because it's been my personal motto for years. You certainly have done many things right since becoming our President despite persistent efforts by your political opponents and obstructionists in and outside Congress who have prevented you from greater achievements while stalling social progress and putting our country at risk.

While you've been doing many things right domestically and internationally which led you to be the recipient of the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize in 2009, recently though your administration has failed to do the right thing on the relationship with Thailand, a trusted and loyal friend of the US for almost 200 years. In the latest round of political crisis that started last August, as a native of Thailand where members of my family and relatives still residing, I naturally have followed very closely the tumultuous events that led to the coup on 5/22/14. Within hours after the bloodless coup which brought relief and joy to most Thais, your subordinates from the State and Defense Departments all rushed to publicly condemn the military's action of seizing power and kicking out the elected but dysfunctional and corrupted gov't of Phue Thai Party privately owned by Thaksin Shinawatra. The Secretary of State, John Kerry, immediately emerged to publicly tell the world that there was no justification for the coup. Mr. Chuck Hagel, the Defense Secretary, quickly followed the attack on Thailand by announcing the cut-off of \$10 million military aides and suspended the military cooperation. These swift actions are viewed by Thai people that America has abandoned her long-time friend instead of supporting and assisting Thailand and her people as a good friend should do during the difficult time. Your administration's actions generated immense disappointment to most Thais who have been fighting long and hard to obtain Real Democracy while getting rid of the most corrupted and irresponsible regime and successive governments under Thaksin Shinawatra's control.

Members of our family, relatives and friends in Thailand have asked us why the US gov't reacted in such a hostile manner instead of offering its sympathy and helping hands. I could not find any good answer to defend you and the US standpoint. All of my friends (Thai and American) in the US have not been able to find a valid reason either. We all are baffled, greatly disappointed and immensely embarrassed. We can only guess that the fugitive exPM, Thaksin Shinawatra's dirty money (used to hire Mr. Robert Amsterdam, other lobbyists and publicists in WA DC) has effectively influenced your administration's position. We strongly believe it's the case based on Mr. Amsterdam's direct involvements with the red-shirts and his statements given to the press together with relentless bombardments by Western media outlets with distorted facts and lies against the unarmed and peaceful anti-gov't demonstrators, and against Thai military. Despite having the best intelligence in the world, we're at loss as to why our US gov't has failed to distinguish the good guys from the bad guys! It's just impossible for you and other high ranking officials to

not know the facts involving the massive wrongdoings by Thaksin and his puppet governments that came into power afterward. I personally thought that perhaps you've been shielded from the truth. To ensure you know the truth and the other side of the story, I'd like to provide you with the following references from WWW so that you can research, review and analyze the facts and situations yourself.

1. Michael Yon's reports: Anatomy of Current Thai Protests. US threatens to cut \$10 million aid to Thailand
2. Dr. W. Scott Thompson's article in LA Times: Thai coup holds promise of democracy
3. NTO's YouTube report: Thailand Coup 2014 - Message to John Kerry and the World
4. Tony Cartalucci's reports: Collapsing Regime Turns to Terrorism. Countering the West's Paid-Pens
5. US diplomat from BKK embassy visited Red village ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZGw5balAxU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZGw5balAxU))

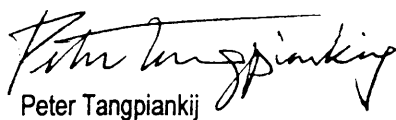
From the above sources, you can see that there are at least half a dozen good reasons that the bloodless coup was not only welcome but needed to secure peace, stability and democratic growth for Thailand. Furthermore, I must say that it is definitely an erroneous strategy, wrong policy and shortsightedness to abandon Thailand and the majority of Thai people while trying to help and satisfy one man (the fugitive exPM Thaksin Shinawatra), his wealthy family and his corrupt cronies. I admire and support the US policy of promoting democracy worldwide. But it's counter-productive to the goal and detrimental to peace and stability if we emphasize only on the election but ignore good governance and all the responsibilities that entail. As you know, Democracy involves much more than election. Election by itself is the initial process. Democracy must have at least 4 pillars: Representation, Equality, Freedoms and Justice.

Since King Rama 7<sup>th</sup> gave the democratic rule to Thailand and her citizens over 80 years ago, Thai people have struggled to have a fuller and real democracy. Thaksin Shinawatra was the worst leader among all the lousy and selfish PMs. **He has basically hi-jacked all aspects of Democracy, except the election which he and his followers used as the disguise for their Fascist and autocratic rule. It's a fake democracy, lack of clean and fair election, and colossal wrongdoings by leaders and politicians that have triggered the majority of Thai people to risk their live and well-being to stage the prolonged massive protests against Thaksin's gov't and his proxy regimes.** Yearning for a fuller and better democracy, they've proceeded to change, just like you've encouraged people in the US and around the world to do so. It's definitely not the best interest of the US to support Thaksin and his cronies while abandoning the majority of Thai people and Thailand.

Mr. President, as meticulous and wise as you are, I'm very disappointed that you've allowed the Defense Department to use the \$10 million aides as the leverage trying to interfere with Thailand internal affairs and to impose American ways against the will of the majority of Thai people! To the eyes and ears of people and leaders around the world, this is a dishonorable act. The word "Ugly American" has been uttered out again and circulating in the cyber world. This huge embarrassment (for the US gov't and American people – I am included) will likely backfire considering China and Russia are smiling and waiting on the wing with opened arms for Thailand. If this diplomatic blunder happens, for millions of Thai and US citizen, we'd be very disappointed and saddened.

As your supporter and admirer, I'd like to call for your personal intervention and reevaluation of the current policy on Thailand. There's still time for you to salvage, repair, restore and strengthen the relationship between people of the two countries. I sincerely hope that you'd exercise your power and wisdom for the mutual benefit of the two nations and the people. I strongly urge you to quickly take corrective actions for the interests of our two countries. **It's time to do the right thing again on this, Sir.**

Respectfully,

  
Peter Tangpiankij

Peter Tangpiankij  
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Mr. Barak Obama, President of the USA  
 The White House  
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 Washington, DC 20500

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