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Re: Truth, Ethics, Responsibility & Democracy in Thailand

Dear Mr. Amsterdam,

I have had the opportunity to view the speeches you delivered to the Red-shirts' rally on Arksa road outside Bangkok in early April 2014, and your recent interview with CNBC. I've also heard that you are a very good lawyer because you've actively appeared in places to defend Thaksin Shinawatra and members of his followers (Red-shirt group and Phuer Thai Party) while vocally attacking his opponents including the Thai military branch, Thai courts and Thai laws. These aroused my interests to learn about you.

Based on your actions relative to Thaksin and Thailand's politics and legal systems, I can conclude that **you are very effective, clever and well-connected but you are not a good lawyer. In defending the interests of your employer, Thaksin, you are completely wrong in terms of facts, short on logics, and lacking in ethics and integrity.** Because of this, I'd like to provide you a few facts and examples to correct your gross mistakes (not misunderstandings) along with my comments based on constructive intent.

When you called and made your speech to the Red-shirts' April rally, the female Red-shirt on the stage intentionally translated most of your statement wrongfully into Thai and omitted key parts of your speech. At one point, she misinformed the audience stating that you would help provide FREE legal service to protect their rights! From your facial expression, I could detect that you were quite perplexed and wondering why the Red-shirt crowds kept applauding at every word you had uttered out. They even gave you a big applauds when **you said "We cannot allow the Election Committee to use the word – ELECTION"** in addition to your clear statement of **WE:**

- **Cannot allow Suthep to use the word, REFORM,**
- **Cannot allow Abhisit to use the word, DEMOCRACY,**
- **Cannot allow NACC (National Anti-Corruption Commission) to use the word, ANTI-CORRUPTON.**
- **Cannot allow the Judges of Constitution Court to call them-selves as Court.**

When you labeled **The PDRC and the Democratic Party as Thai Taliban**, the red-shirt crowds gave you another big round of loud applauds. Jatuporn Promphan, with his big mouth, must have smiled broadly from ear to ear when **you said "my friend, Jatuporn"** in the sentence referencing him. With the red-shirt you're wearing for the occasion, everyone thought you're one of them despite being a White guy. Whether the words and/or contents of your statements were clearly understood (by the red-shirts) and false or exaggerated based on the facts, every Thaksin's supporter seemed to like them and become fond of you. Because of their repetitive and frequent applauds, you probably felt a rock star; no wonder you like to give more speeches to the Red-Shirts.

Based on the details of your speech and your recent proactive media campaigns, any logical person with just high school education would easily agree with me you will happily and willingly do anything necessary in defending Thaksin's interests. We'd further agree that you are very manipulative, deceitful and self-serving. Your statements given to the Red-shirts and media led me to such conclusion.

- You are UNPROFESSIONAL. You openly accused members of the PDRC and Democratic Party as Thai Taliban. Based on this probable cause, it's too bad that Thai people who are your victims are too polite and passive to pursue the legal action "Libel Suit" against you.
- You are a HYPOCRITE. You've clearly encouraged the Red-shirt crowds which include members of Yingluck's cabinet and Phuer Thai Party to take on the reforms (on rule of law, and Article 112) while loudly prohibiting the opposition to do so.
- You are DISHONORABLE. You know well that Thaksin is the one who has created immense problems in Thailand. Your free entries to Thailand and the uncensored speeches made clearly confirm that individual's freedoms and rights have not been restricted or impeded. Article 112 and our revered monarch have nothing to do with the wrongdoings committed by Thaksin and his group. It's a very dirty and dishonorable act to intentionally link this law and the Royal institution to the current conflict due to misconducts by Thaksin and his cohorts. In emphasizing the need to reform Article 112 as the primary reason for preventing the reconciliation, you have exhibited your dishonesty.
- You are IGNORANT. If you think Yingluck, Thaksin and his followers are champions of human rights and Democracy, and if you believe that his populist policies are good for the people, why don't you help them emigrate to live in your country and become your leaders? Since you, some leaders in the Western nations, Thaksin and his followers often call for election so that democracy can quickly return to Thailand, you clearly have limited knowledge on the principle characteristics of democracy. When you called the Red-shirt "Pro-democracy", it's simply a fact distortion because they have no idea what democracy entails. Hence, let me help you on this. Democracy must have at least 4 pillars: Freedoms, Justice, Equality and Representation. Election alone is just the basic beginning process; it's in no way fully represent democracy. Please note that election is not exclusively restricted only to Democracy. If you, Thaksin, Yingluck and Phuer Thai Party's members are so confident that Thaksin's party would surely win the election again, why you and Thaksin as well as his followers are so afraid of the calls for reforms before the election by the PDRC and most Thais in and outside the kingdom? If you believe that the Democratic Party is the one that has engaged in vote-buying and electoral rigging, what is the compelling reason for you, Thaksin and members of his party to object to the temporary postponement of election until after the reforms have been carried out to ensure the clean and fair elections in future?
- You are MANIPULATIVE. You know very well that during 7 months of anti-govt mass demonstrations, the unarmed and peaceful protesters were routinely attacked by weapons of war from the thugs supporting Yingluck's govt and Phuer Thai party, and by the police with live ammunitions, excessive teargas and chemically filled water cannons. As a result, 24 people (including small children and women) died while nearly 1,000 injured. Yingluck's govt has become dysfunctional for so long. Since both sides refused to resolve the conflict amicably and reasonably, and with the threats of civil war are so very real and imminent, the coup d'etat (to the delight of majority of Thai) was unavoidably carried out to immediately halt the spiral deterioration and to revive the country. You're totally wrong to lie to the world that there's no justification for this. Your suggestion for a Thaksin's govt in exile and your search for a country to host such illegal gov't are reprehensible. In your search though, don't look far; Canada and the US would be the best place because your office and the office of your friends (Edelman PR firm, Kobre & Kim, Barbour Griffith & Roger, etc.) are there.
- You are IRRESPONSIBLE. If innocent, why did Yingluck and members of her cabinet/party try to hurriedly pass the blanket amnesty bill at 4:00AM? The bill would whitewash and free Thaksin, every criminal and accused including many members of Red-shirt and Phuer Thai party from wrongdoings despite firm objections by millions of Thai, Suthep Thuegsuban, and Abhisit Vejjajiva (your favorite English). Why don't you tell Thaksin to return to Thailand to face justice like a man? Since you, Thaksin and his hard-core followers have been telling the world that Thailand does not have Democracy but Fascist or dictatorial rule (by the elites and military establishment), why do you guys keep objecting to the comprehensive reforms to be carried out by a group of respectable, credible, qualified non-partisan and diverse professionals to revamp Democracy?
- You are ILLOGICAL. If your statement telling the CNBC anchorwoman is true that Thaksin and Yingluck are so popular, why would the majority of Thais with diverse backgrounds and in all walks of life protest against them wanting to expel them from positions of power? Since you've said Thailand does not have the rule of law and

have disdained our court/legal systems (Red-shirt members and Thaksin also share the same view), why are you guys against the majority voice of Thai people calling for reforms on this matter?

- You are DECEITFUL. While you baselessly accused all members of independent commissions, organizations and the Democratic Party of dwarfing the democracy in Thailand, you've objected and denied Thai people the right and opportunity to reform and strengthen the foundation for better democratic system. You've failed to tell the world that Parliamentary members from Phuer Thai party repeatedly casted the votes for their absent colleagues (but got caught red-handed) on a bill wanting to pass that would allow nepotism in the House. In the ethical societies, nepotism is prohibited widely in govt agencies and business firms including small nonprofit entities. You're quick to judge the coup lacks all legitimacy and violates both Thai and Int'l law, and that Phuer Thai party has the legal mandate to govern. But you omitted to tell the world that Yingluck's gov't and Phuer Thai party have repeatedly violated Thai laws, threatened the Courts and Independent Commissions while shunning away from accountability and responsibilities but focusing on rhetoric and lucrative populist programs.

One of these populist policies used as baits to lure and fool the poor is the rice subsidiary program. The program is actually called by Yingluck's gov't as the RICE PAWNING PROJECT. Can you tell us, is there any pawnshop on Earth that people can take perishable products instead of the valuable and durable items to pawn for cash? It's an unfair practice and illegal program based on WTO terms and international trade practices but you did not hesitate to give credit to Thaksin despite being a lawyer!

- You are SELF-SERVING. Your eagerness to travel all over the world asking leaders to cooperate with you in your initiative to sanction Thailand is clearly opportunistic and an act that is directly meddling in other's internal affairs. Anyone can sense that you'll benefit from the prolong conflicts. You're very good at stirring up troubles with lies and twisted facts. Your actions confirm that you're the major player, if not the mastermind, in Thaksin's evil scheme of using the world to encircle Thailand. It's clear that your goal is to fatten your wallet and bank accounts serving Thaksin's insatiable thirst for power and greed with his endless desire to plunder Thailand and rob Thai people who were once easy prey but no longer. Your legal ad and records give the impression that you are a caring man and strong advocate against human rights violations, why don't you volunteer to defend the rights of over 3,000 Thais who were victims of extrajudicial killing under Thaksin's policies during his PM terms? Why didn't you answer the calls for justice on behalf of the victim's families? Why didn't you ask your boss, Thaksin about this and take this up to the ICJ and the Human Rights Commission?
- You are LOW IN ETHICAL STANDARD AND INTEGRITY. In publically attacking our courts and justice systems when the decisions were against your employer and his law-breaking followers, you clearly show your contempt of the court and disdain of judicial and justice systems; the thing that lawyers do not generally do. In accusing Mr. Suthep Thuegsuban of murdering people in Thailand, and the Elites of manipulation of the courts and the Election Committee, you're behaviorally fond of fabricating lies and distorting the facts to support your statements and claims for the benefit of your employer or client in return for the easy but abundant fee. But of your employer's wrongdoings, you zip up your mouth and pretend nothing happened.

Fame and fortune acquired unethically at the hardship of others will not lead to respect, happiness and peace. According to Buddha's teaching, 3 things cannot be hidden: the Sun, the Moon and the Truth. Do good deeds to benefit the mass instead of individuals like Thaksin who are evil and rotten to the core. It's not too late for change.

Sincerely,



Pete

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