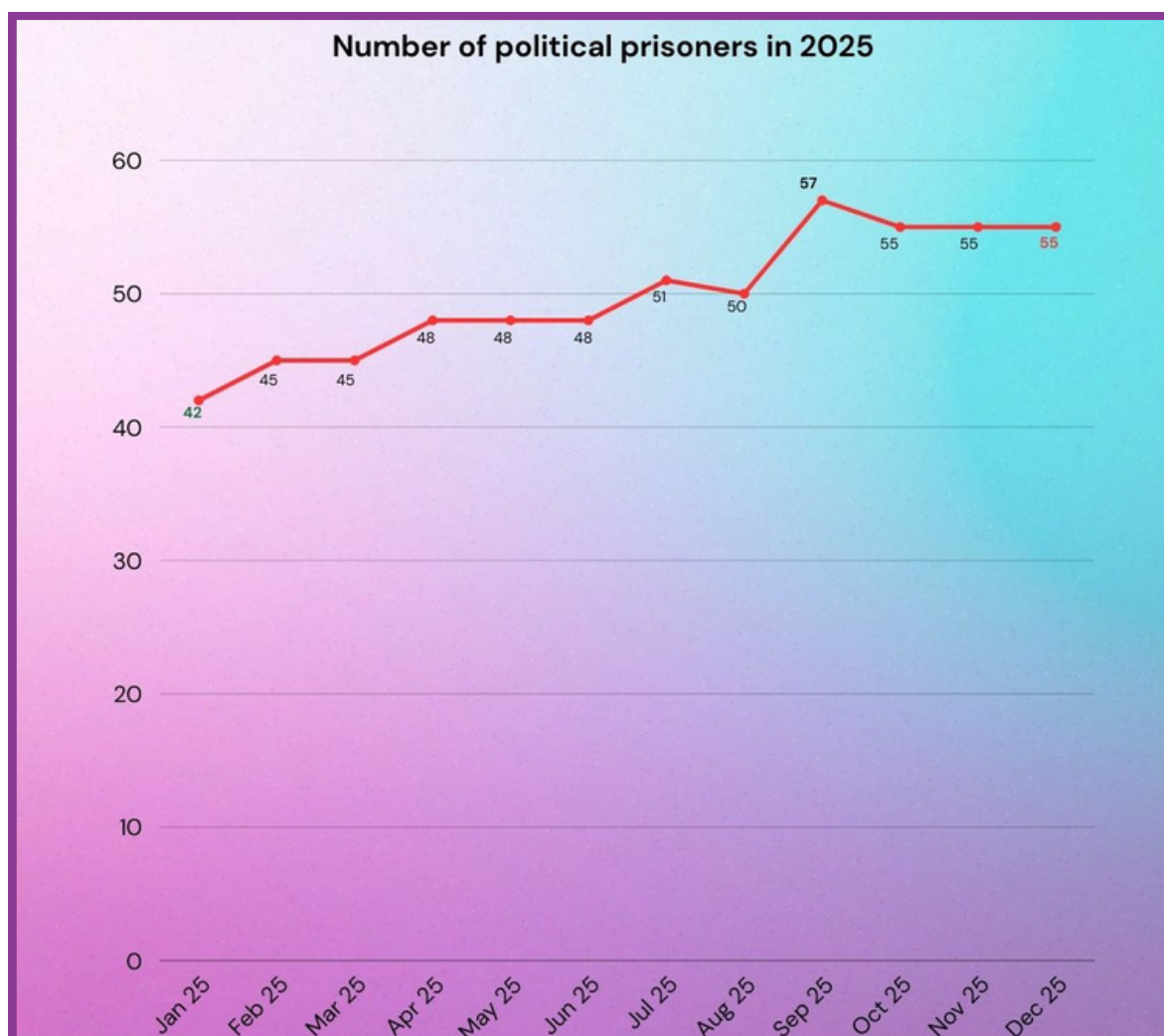




Annual Report 2025

A comprehensive review of our progress throughout
2025

Update on context and current situation of political prisoners



SUPPORTED OVER 100 PEOPLE

This year, Freedom Bridge supported between 42 and 57 political prisoners at different points, reaching more than 100 individuals.

REACHED 23 PRISONS

Assistance covers 23 detention facilities across 12 provinces. This nationwide reach underscored the scale of political imprisonment and the need for support.

Throughout 2025, ***Thailand continued to experience a sustained wave of political repression***, marked by the persistent use of criminal laws to suppress dissent and punish political expression. Authorities relied heavily on Article 112 (lèse-majesté), contempt of court provisions, and the Computer Crimes Act, resulting in ongoing prosecutions, harsh sentencing, and prolonged pre-trial detention.

Bail denial and detention prior to final verdicts remained widespread. As a result, the overall number of political prisoners remained high and unstable throughout the year, with new incarcerations only partially offset by temporary releases on bail or sentence completion.

The impact of political imprisonment extended far beyond prison walls. Families of political prisoners faced prolonged uncertainty, financial hardship, and severe psychological strain, particularly in cases where detainees were primary income earners or caregivers. Frequent and often sudden prison transfers disrupted access to food, healthcare, and family contact, while restrictive visitation policies further isolated detainees from their support networks.

Women prisoners, individuals with health conditions, and families with young children faced compounded vulnerabilities within an already restrictive detention system.

Against this backdrop, ***Freedom Bridge operated across all stages of the criminal justice process. The organization provided pre-verdict counseling to defendants and families, accompanied individuals through court proceedings, delivered sustained humanitarian and psychosocial support inside detention facilities, and supported families throughout periods of incarceration. Following releases, Freedom Bridge assisted with reintegration through home visits and continued psychosocial engagement.***

Throughout the year, the organization continuously adapted to shifting prison policies, administrative disruptions, and humanitarian needs, maintaining a people-centered approach grounded in trust, long-term accompaniment, and responsiveness to lived realities.

Political imprisonment in 2025 unfolded alongside a renewed national debate on the amnesty bill. However after the parliament was dissolved in December 2025, all pending amnesty legislation lapsed, resulting in no political prisoners being granted amnesty.

Thailand's Amnesty Bill (2024–2025)

Thailand's amnesty bill emerged from nearly two decades of political conflict marked by coups, mass protests, and deep polarization. Since the mid-2000s, authorities have repeatedly relied on criminal laws, including protest-related charges and Article 112 of the Criminal Code (*lèse-majesté*), to curb and punish political dissent by activists, politicians, and ordinary citizens.



How the Amnesty Proposal Began

In early 2024, *the People's Amnesty Bill* initiated by the umbrella People's Amnesty Network, representing more than 36,000 signatories was formally submitted to the House of Representatives. Its aim was to create broad pardons for all peaceful political expression, protest-related cases, and politically motivated charges, including those under Section 112.

Parliamentary Consideration

When parliament debated the issue in 2025, five different amnesty bills were considered. Two of them, including the People's Amnesty Bill, offered real relief for political prisoners because they covered all political cases, including Article 112. The other three bills were much more limited. They excluded *lèse-majesté* cases and focused only on certain protest-related offences.

In July 2025, lawmakers voted. *The two bills that would have helped most political prisoners were rejected.* The three narrower bills were accepted in principle, and a committee was formed to combine them into one bill.



How the Process Ended

Before the amnesty bill could complete the full legislative process, *Thailand's parliament was dissolved in December 2025* ahead of new elections. Under constitutional rules, all pending legislation immediately lapsed upon dissolution. *As a result, the amnesty bill, still under consideration and not yet approved by the Senate, automatically expired and did not become law.*



Implications and Current Status

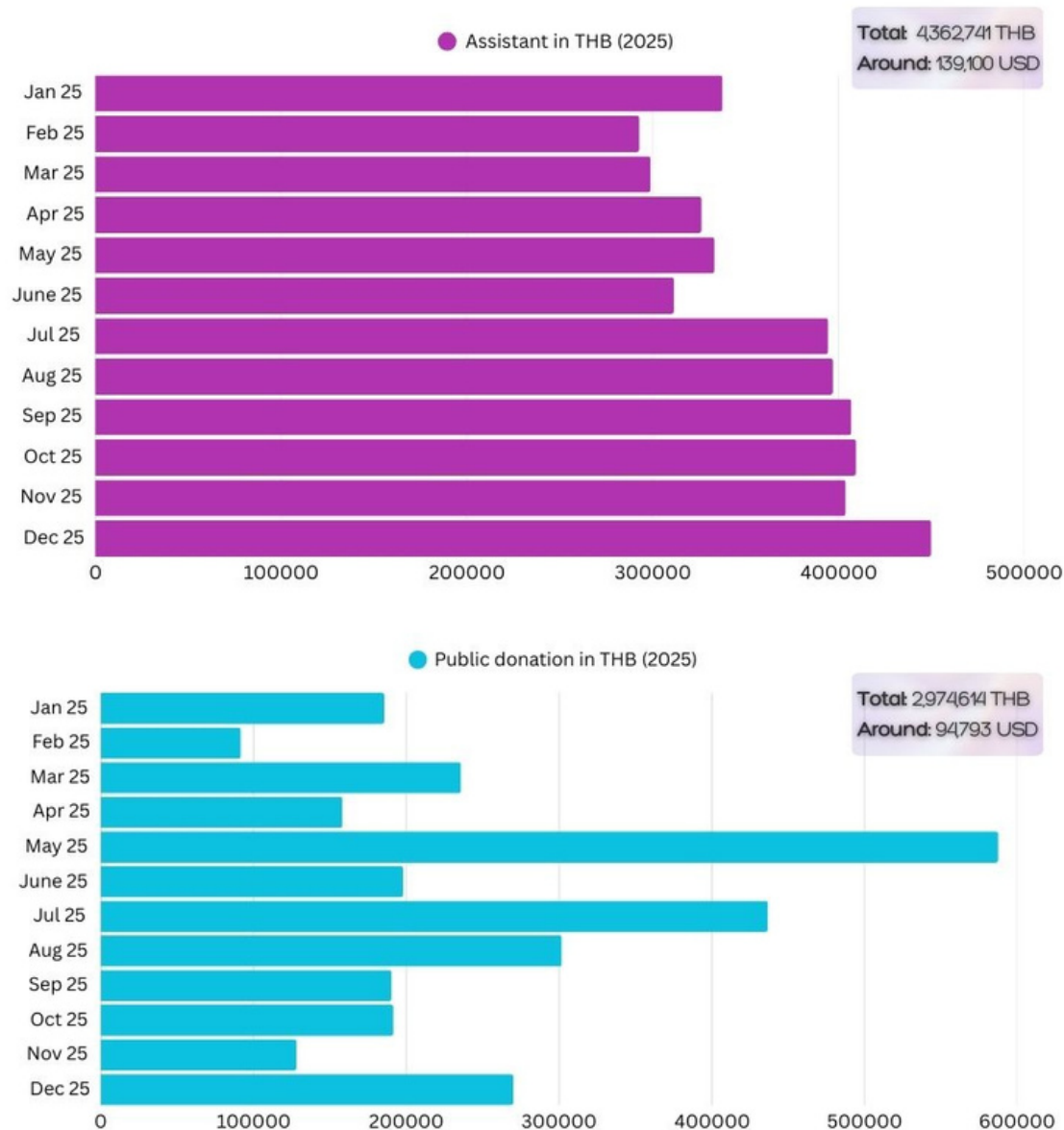
The lapse of the amnesty bill left thousands of political cases unresolved and reinforced ongoing divisions over how Thailand should address its history of political conflict.

Individuals charged under protest laws and Article 112 remain subject to prosecution and/or imprisonment.

Any future attempt at amnesty will require a newly elected parliament to restart the process from the beginning.



Main Impact



Humanitarian Assistance to Political Prisoners

Humanitarian assistance remained a core pillar of Freedom Bridge’s work throughout 2025, addressing chronic food insecurity, limited access to basic necessities, and inadequate healthcare within detention facilities. The organization provided sustained food support, financial deposits, and essential items to political prisoners held across multiple prisons nationwide, adapting assistance methods in response to frequent prison transfers and administrative restrictions. Targeted health-related support, including physical and mental healthcare interventions, helped mitigate gaps in prison medical services and respond to urgent needs.

With your support throughout 2025, we delivered comprehensive aid to political prisoners, their families, and those facing political charges.

3,000 ➡ **5,000**

To reflect rising costs, we increased our monthly cash support for political prisoners, ensuring their continued access to proper nutrition, health, and dignity.

100+

people received financial aid to sustain their daily living and household stability.

100+

Counseling sessions conducted to help people with their well-being



Educational Stability

9 children of political prisoners were supported, preventing school dropout and maintaining educational stability

Family Support



15 families received financial support



8 families received case management support



10 Home visits completed

Holistic Care

- ✓ Facilitate family visits
- ✓ Psychiatric Medication
- ✓ Hormones
- ✓ Counseling

Post Release Support

12 People

Support to Families of Political Prisoners

Freedom Bridge provided ongoing material and financial assistance to families affected by political imprisonment, recognizing the long-term economic and caregiving burdens caused by detention. Support included subsistence assistance, household necessities, education-related aid for children, and emergency assistance in cases of housing insecurity or sudden income loss. Home visits and direct engagement enabled the organization to identify risks early and respond to complex family situations with tailored support.



Freedom Bridge staff traveled to accompany a child of a political prisoner, enabling the child to reunite with his father in prison for the first time since his detention.

Psychosocial Support and Accompaniment

Psychosocial support was integrated across all stages of Freedom Bridge's work, from pre-verdict counseling to post-release reintegration. The organization accompanied prisoners and families through court proceedings, detention, and release, providing emotional support, practical guidance, and crisis intervention during periods of heightened stress. This sustained accompaniment reduced isolation, strengthened coping capacity, and helped families and prisoners navigate prolonged legal uncertainty.



Unchan, imprisoned under lèse-majesté charges, was released in August 2025 after 8 years of incarceration.

Advocacy and Communication

Throughout 2025, Freedom Bridge prioritized robust documentation and strategic public communication. We systematically recorded prison conditions, tracked visitation restrictions and healthcare gaps, and documented the lived experiences of political prisoners and their families.

To broaden our reach, we expanded public engagement through media interviews, podcasts, documentaries, and collaborations with content creators.



A video on "[Human Rights in Prison](#)," produced in partnership with a popular YouTuber, garnered over 75,000 views, significantly raising public awareness.

Our advocacy efforts spanned both national and international arenas. Domestically, we engaged with the Ministry of Justice, parliamentary committees, and diplomatic missions to present evidence-based findings.

Internationally, we participated in high-level briefings in Geneva, Paris, Brussels, and Dublin to highlight Thailand's political imprisonment practices and strengthen global solidarity networks.

Freedom Bridge representatives attended the award ceremony honoring [Arnon Nampa](#) in Dublin, utilizing the international platform to advocate for the rights and dignity of all political prisoners.



Moreover fundraising remained inextricably linked to our advocacy. Through community-based fundraising, university events, and civil society campaigns, we generated substantial support. These contributions not only sustained our humanitarian programs but also reinforced a powerful sense of public solidarity with political prisoners.

Books for Prisoners Initiative

Freedom Bridge's most successful public engagement initiative of 2025 was a nationwide book donation drive designed to foster broader conversations on human rights and humane treatment within the correctional system.

Thousands of books were donated from across Thailand. Freedom Bridge cataloged and redistributed these volumes to detention facilities where political prisoners are currently held.

While the initiative originated as support for political detainees, its impact extended to the broader prison population. Many political prisoners reported spending significant time in prison libraries, often acting as informal educators by helping fellow inmates, many incarcerated due to poverty and lack of education get to learn to read and write.



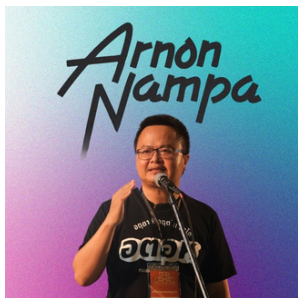
Even while facing injustice themselves, political prisoners demonstrated resilience and solidarity by fostering learning behind bars. The initiative highlighted the fundamental right to education and the essential role of literature in preserving human dignity within correctional institutions.

Looking Forward: A Continued Commitment to Justice

As Thailand enters 2026, the political landscape remains volatile. The systematic use of pre-trial detention and lengthy sentences continues to be a primary tool for silencing dissent, making the need for sustained humanitarian assistance and evidence-based advocacy more urgent than ever.

55 political prisoners remain incarcerated across Thailand, dispersed throughout at least 22 detention facilities. These individuals are not just statistics; they are lawyers, activists, and community members whose absence is deeply felt.

Among those currently detained are:



Arnon Nampa

A prominent human rights lawyer and father, serving multiple sentences for his peaceful advocacy and speeches during the 2020 democracy movement.



Mongkol "Busbas"
Thirakot

An activist from Chiang Rai who received the longest lèse-majesté sentence in Thai history totaling 46 years for his social media posts.



Pai Jatupat (Jatupat
Boonpattaraksa)

Activist and human rights defender who has faced repeated incarcerations for his unwavering commitment to democracy and grassroots organizing.

The continued imprisonment of these 55 individuals compounded by restrictive policies like the "10-names visitor rule" and limited access to healthcare underlines the importance of Freedom Bridge's integrated approach.

Grounded in solidarity and long-term accompaniment, Freedom Bridge remains committed to standing with these individuals and their families. We strive to bridge the gap between detention and dignity, ensuring that no one is left to face the weight of political imprisonment alone.



Thank you

For standing with political prisoners and their families

A view of the rice fields and mountains outside Chiang Mai Prison.

But for Pornchai, who grew up surrounded by nature, this beauty is out of reach.

He will see nothing but concrete walls for the next 10 years, simply for expressing his political beliefs peacefully and being charged under lèse-majesté law.

