



มูลนิธิองค์การกลางเพื่อประชาธิปไตย

Statement 2/2559

Open Forum for Democracy Foundation (or PNET) in Thailand was informed recently that the South Korean network organizations forming of the Citizen's Network for General Election of 2016 or "Change 2016" had their offices, homes and personal belongings raided and confiscated recently for alleged violation of Public Official Election Law, Article 93(1) and Article 108(1).

As per the information provided to PNET, the actions of the authorities includes raiding office's and personal premises of the office bearers of People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD) - an NGO with ECOSOC consultative status, and South Korean Civil Society Organizations Network - which consists of more than 500 South Korean NGOs.

PNET has worked in the past with PSPD as a member of the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) Foundation, in observing many elections in the Asian region, and is dismayed at the actions by South Korean government, and regret that such actions are being conducted against those protecting the democratic space in South Korea.

We are confident that the activities conducted under Change 2016 have benefitted the South Korean society, and were useful for the Korean voters and their political participation in a democratic society. Thailand and many other Asian countries have looked upon South Korean civil society as a good role model in term of helping the general public in screening candidates before they entering the parliament.

PNET supports these initiatives undertaken by PSPD and the work undertaken by Change 2016 in advocating "blacklist candidates", these are necessary initiatives required in the Asian countries to end the "vicious corruption and its political nexus" in Asian political landscape, resulting in many countries having poor quality of politicians.



Open Forum for Democracy Foundation

Ban Manangkhasila
514 Larn Luang Road
Dusit Bangkok 10300

pnetforum.org
facebook.com/pnetforum

email info@pnetforum.org



มูลนิธิองค์การกลางเพื่อประชาธิปไตย

While PNET does view publishing candidates and their detailed social and financial background as an activity to be undertaken by the Election Commission of the country for public information and decision-making. Providing information available in the public domain to general public and surveying voters' opinion openly and the media or civil society compiling them is upholding the UDHR's freedom of expression (article 19, 20, and 21).

South Korea is well known and recognized as a top democratic society respecting human rights in Asia. The seizure by authorities on 16th June, 2019, is deemed by PNET as an over-reaction of the Seoul Election Commission (SEC) and creates confusion among the people. In a democratic society, an independent body should support the country to promote peoples participation in an active manner, and promote a culture of transparent democracy by establishing strong civil society to check and balance with the candidates and parliamentarians.

PNET hopes that SEC and South Korean CSOs will mutually resolve the problems that have arisen due to the undemocratic actions by SEC, and work together for the sake of good intention of the South Korean people.

----END----



Open Forum for Democracy Foundation

Ban Manangkhasila
514 Larn Luang Road
Dusit Bangkok 10300

pnetforum.org
facebook.com/pnetforum

email info@pnetforum.org