



No. 09001/ 267

*Royal Thai Embassy,
Ottawa.*

April B.E. 2558 (2015)

Dear Mr. Amber,

Thank you for your letter written on behalf of Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE) with regard to the Prime Minister's remarks concerning the Thai media. I appreciate your concern and your work in promoting and protecting worldwide press freedom and freedom of expression.

I wish to assure you that the Royal Thai Government respects freedom of expression and believes it is a basic foundation of a democratic society. Media outlets in Thailand are allowed to broadcast and express their views freely. The Prime Minister's statement has been misinterpreted and should be put into context. The remark was aimed at encouraging Thai journalists to be more constructive and balanced in their reporting of the news. While respecting media freedom and independence, the government seeks cooperation from the media to avoid sending out distorted and provocative messages, in particular the so-called hate speech, which will create more hatred among the people and lead to further social divisiveness. The Government reiterates the importance of the media's professional ethics and responsibility, which will help strengthen and constructively support democratic processes, thereby fostering more positive changes in the country.

The Government is also committed to laying a good foundation for the reform process and the long-term goal of a stronger, more democratic and people-centered development. This determination is reflected in the lifting of martial law,

Mr. Arnold Amber,
President,
Canadian Journalists for Free Expression,
TORONTO.

which is something that several western countries, including Canada, have been calling for. Much progress has also been made towards the drafting of a new Constitution, which is currently being deliberated by the legislative branch.

Once again, I appreciate your comments and views on this matter. We have conveyed them also to Bangkok.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Isarabhakdi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

(Vijavat Isarabhakdi)

Ambassador of Thailand to Canada