

## US Regime Change: Who Are Thailand's "Activists"

Foreign agents hiding behind rights advocacy are not "activists."

By [Joseph Thomas](#)

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Region: [Asia](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Media Disinformation](#),  
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*AFP recently published an article regarding Thailand's ongoing political conflict, portraying a so-called "student activist" the recent victim of what it calls, "increased ferocity under Thailand's military rulers."*

The article titled, "[Thai student leader pleads guilty to lese majeste](#)," claims:

A prominent student leader on Tuesday pleaded guilty to defaming Thailand's royal family by sharing a news story about the kingdom's new monarch on Facebook, his lawyer said.

Jatupat "Pai Dao Din" Boonpataraksa, 25, is the latest anti-junta activist to be hit with the country's draconian lese majeste law which bans any criticism of the monarchy.

However, the article categorically fails to mention that Jatupat Boonpataraksa is member of a foreign-backed opposition front aimed at carrying out destructive regime change just as US-European interests have done everywhere from South America and Eastern Europe, to North Africa and the Middle East.

AFP also fails to report that Boonpataraksa is part of an opposition that has regularly resorted to intimidation, violence, murder and terrorism, with members of the movement most recently carrying out a string of bombings in Bangkok, including one that targeted a hospital.



Boonpataraksa in particular receives direct aid and assistance from the US, Canadian and various European embassies in Thailand. His family members, since his imprisonment, have received visits from embassy staff, including Second Secretary at the Canadian Embassy in Bangkok, Shawn Friele.



**Shawn Friele**  
@sfriele

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Proud to stand with [@JCharoensiri](#) as she reports to prosecutor's office. We urge Thailand to drop charges against her and other HRDs



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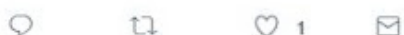
Canada in Thailand, Donica Pottier, CrCF\_Thailand and TLHR



**Shawn Friele** @sfriele · 6h

Replying to [@JQP6](#) [@Thai\\_Talk](#) and 6 others

Thanks for the kind words. US, EU, UK, Sweden, France and others were also in attendance to show support



Friele has also lent direct support to other members of this foreign-backed opposition including the US State Department-funded Thai Lawyers for Human Rights. His support included a thank you published on social media implicating foreign support provided by at least five other Western governments.

Thai Volunteer Service

Human Rights

\$58,000

Human Rights Volunteer Project

To support the development of a new generation of human rights activists. The Thai Volunteer Service will coordinate a program to place young people as volunteers with civil society organizations throughout Thailand to introduce them to human rights issues and encourage them to become active participants in the country's human rights movement.

Union for Civil Liberty

Human Rights

\$35,000

Access to Justice and the Protection of Human Rights under Martial Law

To promote and protect human rights. [The Thai Lawyers for Human Rights](#), hosted by the Union for Civil Liberty, will provide legal assistance to those affected by martial law rule. Activities will also include monitoring and documentation of human rights violations across the country.

Human Rights

\$35,000

Building a Human Rights Defenders Network

To strengthen the capacity and enhance the protection of human rights defenders. The project will establish a network of human rights defenders that will coordinate activities aimed at developing strategies and mechanisms to protect rights defenders, raising public awareness about violations of their rights, and advocating for public officials to adhere to the rule of law and ensure the safety of activists.

Grant descriptions are from the 2014 NED Annual Report.

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Thai Lawyers for Human Rights is just one of many foreign-funded fronts posing as “nongovernmental organisations” created and funded by the US State Department to execute US foreign policy objectives within the borders of a sovereign foreign nation.

Upon closer examination of Thailand’s “draconian lese majeste law,” it is clear that only members of this foreign-backed opposition movement are being targeted. Their convictions under the law are by far more lenient than more appropriate convictions for sedition, treason and providing material support for terrorism, convictions or even accusations of which in the West have resulted in extrajudicial executions, indefinite detention without trial and institutionalised torture.

AFP and other US and European media outlets intentionally omit these facts from their reports, creating the same sort of resentment among public perception toward Thailand and its institutions as it has fostered around the globe ahead of other regime change attempts.

While AFP and others attempt to create the perception that people like Boonpataraksa are independent activists fighting for humanitarian causes, they are in fact foreign agents

facilitating destabilisation on behalf of special interests on Wall Street and in Washington and within the capitals of their European allies.

While AFP attempts to defend Boonpataraksa as a mere activist, it should be noted that simply allegations of similar behaviour levelled against Russia regarding America's internal political processes have prompted sanctions, diplomatic expulsions, arrests and even threats of war.

Thailand's jailing of one foreign-backed agitator falls far short of America's reaction to alleged Russian interference despite the fact that US interference in Thailand is not only obvious, it is documented, even flaunted [on the US National Endowment for Democracy's \(NED\) own website](#).

America's reaction to alleged Russian interference indicates that Washington views foreign interference as intolerable, yet it has mobilised its media resources to denounce nations like Thailand who are confronting and convicting agents of foreign interests engaged in precisely what is clear cut foreign interference. The only real question now is how sustainable American and European hypocrisy is and if their double standards will enable or hinder attempts at destabilising and overthrowing Thailand's current political order.

As to why the US seeks regime change in Thailand and elsewhere in Southeast Asia, long-stated US foreign policy identifies a rising China as a direct threat to what American policymakers call US "primacy" over Asia. Overthrowing independent political orders all across Southeast Asia and replacing them with complicit client states allows Washington to create a united front with which to encircle and contain Chinese influence, both in the region and globally.

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*All images in this article are from the author.*

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