

June 19, 2006

Her Excellency Ambassador Khunying Laxanachantorn Laohaphan
Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations
351 East 52nd Street
New York, NY 10022

Dear Ambassador Laohaphan:

I am writing to request a meeting to discuss the issues related to the exhumation of the Hmong dead buried at *Wat Tham Krabok* Monastery, Saraburi, Thailand. The Human Rights Program at the University of Minnesota has been working to: (1) prevent further digging of graves at Wat Tham Krabok; (2) locate the whereabouts of the remains that have been exhumed; and (3) return the remains to family members.

We were pleased to read the statement of your delegation that was given at the Fifth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, on May 17, 2006, and to know that your Government is looking into the situation at Wat Tham Krabok. As you know, this is an issue of profound concern to the Hmong community, many of whom live in Minnesota and whose family members have been exhumed without their knowledge or permission.

The Human Rights Program believes that the exhumations in October and December 2005 in Wat Tham Krabok violated the international human rights of family members, including the right to be free from discrimination, the right to manifest one's religion or belief, the right to culture and the right to family. I am enclosing for your information the communication sent by our program to the U.N. Special Rapporteurs on Racism and Religious Intolerance, asking for urgent action in order to prevent any further desecration of graves, to locate and return the remains of the Hmong ancestors buried at Wat Tham Krabok to their relatives who have been grievously affected by these actions. I am also enclosing a questionnaire developed to gather information about the exhumations at Wat Tham Krabok.

We hope your Government will be willing to work with the Human Rights Program to resolve the situation at Wat Tham Krabok. We request a meeting at your earliest convenience. We would prefer that you meet with us in Minnesota in order to involve the family members who have suffered most directly from the desecrations of the graves of their loved ones. I would be glad to work with you and your staff to host such a meeting at the University of Minnesota.

Her Excellency Ambassador Khunying Laxanachantorn Laohaphan
June 19, 2006
Page Two

Thank you again for your willingness to address this difficult situation. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Frey
Director