Secretariat of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
The United Nations
New York, New York

January 24, 2014

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

We extend to Your Excellency warm greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

We write to express our concern over the current political crisis in Thailand and to make an urgent appeal for your assistance in providing a possible solution, on behalf of the ICAPP, International Conference of Asian Political Parties, which represents over 340 political parties in 52 Asian states, both in government and opposition. Both Thailand's principal parties—the ruling *Pheu Thai* Party and the opposition Democrat Party—belong to our fraternal grouping and have been active members in its Standing Committee, which is composed of leading political parties of 22 countries.

As is well-known, protesters and pro-government forces in Thailand have been locked in a political deadlock that has now come dangerously close to civil strife. And this deadlock we believe only His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej could break. Given the fact that King Bhumibol is universally revered and around whom most moral authority emanates in Thailand, any initiative for reconciliation should not only have his blessings, but be under his auspices.

Since the King keeps scrupulously to his role as constitutional monarch, he is understandably reluctant to intervene in a partisan political dispute. But we believe it will be his lasting legacy to intervene and bring the two sides to a peaceful settlement of their political dispute. And Your Excellency's direct appeal to the King to do so would be fully justified since prolonged instability could have dire consequences in Thailand and well beyond the Indo-Chinese Peninsula.

We also hope that the United Nations will urgently take the initiative of its own for a political solution that preserves Thailand's democracy and promotes a constitutional path by seeking a consensus on a non-partisan "Government of National Unity." Such a Government should be composed largely of technocrats and non-controversial public figures, which, after a mutually agreed cooling-off period, can hold free and fair elections with participation of all political parties. This proposal offers a way out, since it would preempt any fresh attempt to derail democracy, while, concurrently, presenting a peaceful way out without playing favorites.

Your Excellency may also consider sending a special envoy or a "special U.N. mediation team" to help prevent a violent and disorderly confrontation between the two political forces in Thailand. The ICAPP, as a representative organization of all Asian political parties, offers to send a special mission to meet with leaders of both political parties in conjunction with the U.N. initiative and also to monitor the polls in the future to help ensure their credibility.

We realize there is no easy solution to the Thai crisis. But the restoration of stability in Thailand is crucial to our region, and we hope your office will agree to bring your influence to bear in the search for a just and peaceful solution.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and support for your statement of January 7, 2014 on the political situation in Bangladesh in the aftermath of the January 5 general elections.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Very truly yours,

Jose de Venecia
Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman
of the Standing Committee of the ICAPP;
Former Speaker of the House of
Representatives
Manila, Philippines

Chung Eui-yong
Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee
and Secretary General of the ICAPP;
Former Chairman of the Foreign Relations
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