

Thai protests continue despite state of emergency

18th October, 2020



Thousands of protesters have taken to the streets in Thailand's capital Bangkok, despite the government declaring a state of emergency. Police arrested dozens of the pro-democracy demonstrators. They have been protesting

in cities across Thailand and online for over three months. Many of the protestors are students, but they are being joined by a wider cross-section of society. They are calling for a new constitution to ensure a true constitutional monarch under a democratic system. They are also demanding the dissolution of parliament, the resignation of Thailand's Prime Minister, and an end to "the intimidation of government critics".

The government said the protests have, "affected the government's stability, safety, property and staff". It said the protests were, "no longer a peaceful assembly," and were a threat to national security. The government announced a ban on gatherings of more than five people and prohibited the publication of online messages that could "harm national security". Police arrested 22 people on Friday for public disorder offences. There were three prominent activists among those arrested. Footage showing a woman being picked up by police and put into a police car went viral on social media. Police also photographed the crowds and warned demonstrators they could be prosecuted for violating the emergency decree.

Sources: cnn.com / npr.org / bangkokpost.com

Writing

Peaceful protests should always be allowed. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

protestors / capital / government / emergency / students / society / constitution / government / stability / peaceful / national security / public disorder / social media

True / False

- a) The article said hundreds of thousands of people protested in Bangkok. T / F
- b) Hundreds of people were arrested in the protests. T / F
- c) The protests have been going on for more than three months. T / F
- d) Protestors want an end to government critics being intimidated. T / F
- e) The government said the protests affected its staff. T / F
- f) There is a ban on gatherings of more than six people. T / F
- g) Thirty prominent activists were arrested on Friday. T / F
- h) Police have been photographing the crowds of protestors. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. despite | a. sovereign |
| 2. declaring | b. taken to court |
| 3. wider | c. meetings |
| 4. monarch | d. banned |
| 5. critics | e. proclaiming |
| 6. staff | f. unrest |
| 7. gatherings | g. broader |
| 8. prohibited | h. detractors |
| 9. disorder | i. in spite of |
| 10. prosecuted | j. personnel |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of Thailand?
- b) What do you know about this news?
- c) What have you ever protested about?
- d) What is democracy?
- e) Should peaceful protestors be arrested?
- f) What is a constitutional monarchy?
- g) What are you unhappy with about your country?
- h) What advice do you have for the protestors?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Thousands of protesters have taken | a. those arrested |
| 2. despite the government declaring a state | b. constitution |
| 3. joined by a wider cross- | c. decree |
| 4. They are calling for a new | d. offences |
| 5. government | e. of emergency |
| 6. a ban on gatherings | f. on social media |
| 7. public disorder | g. section of society |
| 8. three prominent activists among | h. critics |
| 9. went viral | i. of more than five people |
| 10. violating the emergency | j. to the streets |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How important is democracy to you?
- What would make you protest in the streets?
- What is the history of protests in your country?
- How would you resolve the crisis in Thailand?
- What do you think the situation will be like in six months?
- What advice do you have for Thailand's government?
- What questions would you like to ask the protestors?

Spelling

- Thousands of rtptseeors
- dozens of the pro-mdrcoaecy demonstrators
- a wider rcsos-ectsoin of society
- true constitutional onamcrh
- the dissolution of aripmalent
- the tdimnitaion of government critics
- affected the government's iabslitty
- no longer a peaceful seabmsly
- rhpibitoed the publication of online messages
- three prominent taiviscts
- warned demonstrators they could be oscepuretd
- ioavtlng the emergency decree

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. e	3. g	4. a	5. h
6. j	7. c	8. d	9. f	10. b

Role Play

Role A – Democracy

You think democracy is the best reason for street protests. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their reasons. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): food prices, the environment or war.

Role B – Food Prices

You think food prices is the best reason for street protests. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their reasons. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): democracy, the environment or war.

Role C – The Environment

You think the environment is the best reason for street protests. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their reasons. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): food prices, democracy or war.

Role D – War

You think war is the best reason for street protests. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their reasons. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): food prices, the environment or democracy.

Speaking – Protests

Rank these with your partner. Put the things you would protest about at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| • The environment | • Democracy |
| • Freedom of speech | • Food prices |
| • Your nation going to war | • Taxes |
| • Corrupt government | • Equality |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.