

VARANGKANA SUCHARITAKUL : ABSOLUTE CONVICTS AND LEGAL RIGHTS. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO.PROF.VIRAPHONG BOONYOBHAS, ASSO.PROF. VITIT MUNTARBHORN. 230 pp. ISBN 974-578-328-5

The purpose of the thesis on " Absolute Convicts and Legal Rights " is to study the rights of convicts as they appear in Thai law and related regulations, in comparison with United States law and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

The findings of the study indicate a high degree of recognition for the rights of convicts in the Thai law. This does not greatly differ from international standards and United States law. However, some difference can be found in relation to Thai mechanisms to receive grievances which are not off the standard found in the United States and the United Nations. Apart from the legal problems, there are several factors affecting the protection of prisoners rights, such as budgets, prison environment and staff attitude.

Therefore, it is recommended that some changes in relation to the rights of prisoners should be made, particularly in laws related to the provision of lawyers for legal advice. A committee for prison inspection should be set up independently, not under the Corrections Department. Subject to its nomination. Rather, it should be an independent committee consisting of a body of impartial outsiders, as well as competent officials in various government agencies.