

Report of Investigation Results No. 1018/2560 concerning community right in case of a claim about impacts from construction of a pig farm

Issue of complaint

The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) received a complaint requesting an investigation on a claim that on 5th September 2016, a private company had asked a permission from Nong Pla Bark Subdistrict Municipality to construct buildings for a pig raising farm of CPF (Thailand) Company Limited in area of Village No. 9, Baan Jampa Thong, Nong Pla Bark Sub-district, Sri Chiang Mai District, Nong Khai Province. Because of this request, villagers in Baan Jampa Thong, Village No. 9 and Baan Na Pho, Village No. 4, in Non Pla Bark Sub-district, Sri Chiang Mai District, Nong Khai Province, together expressed their objection against this project to Nong Pla Bark Sub-district Municipality without receiving any response. Moreover, they were threatened, forced and persuaded to agree with and support this pig raising farm. At present, the work to construct the pig farm has already begun. The complainant saw that if construction is allowed to be completed, it would greatly create impacts on the environment in the area and way of life of people living in the area.

Actions Taken

The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand took this case into consideration and saw that in this case, villagers may be affected from the permission-sought construction of buildings for a pig raising farm of CPF (Thailand) Company Limited and had already expressed their objection against this project, but the problem had not been solved by Nong Pla Bark Subdistrict Municipality at all. This case therefore should be corrected by an agency with authority to do so and thus made the decision to send it to Nong Khai Provincial Authority to consider taking actions according to its duties and power according to Section 25, Paragraph 3, of the National Human Rights Commission Act B.E. 2542 (1999), which was the law in effect when the complaint was checked, and asked to be informed about the results of actions within 60 days.

Nong Khai Provincial Authority ordered related agencies consisting of Sri Chiang Mai District Office, Nong Khai Province Livestocks Office, Nong Khai Province Natural Resources and Environment Office and Nong Khai Province Public Health Office to check for facts and work together to solve the problem. Results of fact examination according to the petition found that **permission for construction of the pig farm was correctly considered and went along the legal requirements. The farm is a closed system with biological waste water treatment system. At present, the farm is under construction and no impact on environment and way of life of people in the area has occurred.** Problems as appeared in the petition were just prediction of the complainant while the pig farm has not yet started its operation. It is therefore a case that Nong Khao Provincial Authority, which is the agency with authority and responsibility to accept petitions, has already taken actions to examine related and deal with the problem as appropriate and thus becomes a case that can be considered to be the end of the case.