

No.37001/ 32



Royal Thai Embassy  
Oslo

4 February 2010

Dear Mr. Nils Ketil Andresen,

I wish to refer to the documentary film, "Pattaya at my feet" that was aired by TV2 on 1 February 2010 and the related articles by Mr. Nilas Johnsen of the VG on the same date.

In our view, the film is highly unbalanced and therefore unfairly casted Thailand and the Thai women as a whole in a negative light.

It is imperative to mention that prostitution is illegal in Thailand and involvement in child prostitution has a severe jail term penalty. The government does not condone these activities and enforces policies to actively solve the problem; still the issue is not simply a question of prostitution alone. It is one that stems from social problems relating to poverty, education, law enforcement, corruption, etc. It is fair to say despite continued efforts by the government to combat prostitution and the so-called "sex tourism", the situation exists and many challenges remained to be met.

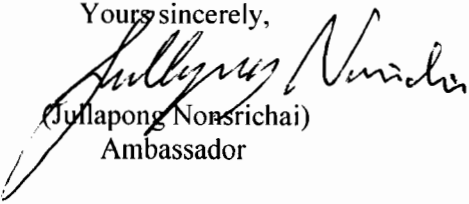
Most importantly I wish to bring to your attention that Thailand is well-known because of a host of splendid things that she has to offer to the world. Its exotic culture, breathtaking beaches, luscious cuisine, enchanting nature and friendly people are among the chief reasons why many Norwegians continue to consider it as one of the best holiday destinations. Evidence will show that for seven consecutive years now Thailand has been bestowed the "Grand Travel Award for World's Best Tourist Country" by the Norwegian travel industry in the annual travel award presentation ceremony organized by Fagbladet Travel News.

Annually we enjoy receiving more than 120,000 Norwegians the majority of whom are decent people whose visit are highly valued and warmly appreciated. It has never been our wish to see foreigners come to visit and engage in prostitution activities in our country. In fact we do not even welcome those who come for this ill purpose. It would be most helpful if you could give advice to those with ill motives that they are not welcome and their behaviour could even lead to possible criminal charges.

In this regard, we received numerous contacts from the Thai people living in Norway as well as Norwegians who love Thailand expressing outrage for the unbalanced presentation of your documentary that resulted only in demoralizing many and tarnishing the image of Thai women.

As for specific case mentioned in the documentary, we would appreciate receiving a copy of the film which could be useful as information and evidence for possible further investigation.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Jullapong Nonsrichai)  
Ambassador

Mr. Nils Ketil Andresen,  
Program Director TV 2,  
OSLO.