



Southeast Asian Human Rights Network (SEAHRN) Human Rights and Peace in Southeast Asia Series:

□ In a span of five years, the Southeast Asian Human Rights Studies Network (SEAHRN) has produced three academic journals that highlight articles written mainly by scholars from Southeast Asia. The Human Rights and Peace in Southeast Asia Series is an achievement of SEAHRN's objective of developing a deeper understanding and enhancement of human rights and peace knowledge through collaborative research.

Series 1: Breaking the Silence (2011)

In 2011, the Southeast Asian Human Rights Studies Network (SEAHRN), a consortium of 14 academic institutions in Southeast Asia, organized the First International Conference on Human Rights in Southeast Asia in Bangkok, Thailand. The papers and the discussions in each panel were geared towards ensuring a dynamic and vigorous debate on contemporary human rights in Southeast Asia. The two-day conference attracted nearly 400 participants from the academia, local, regional and international organizations and governments.

Since the conference, SEAHRN has proudly launched Human Rights in Southeast Asia Series 1: *Breaking the Silence*, a compilation of twelve excellent papers presented during the conference. As the title suggests, the book is a show of resistance against the culture of silence and inaction towards all forms of human rights violations in Southeast Asia.

Breaking the Silence is edited by three of the most prominent and vocal human rights academics in Southeast Asia: Chief Editor Dr. Azmi Sharom is from the Faculty of Law, University of Malaya and Dr. Sriprapha Petcharamesree and Dr. Yanuar Sumarlan from the Institute for Human Rights and Peace Studies of Mahidol University. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, the conference keynote speaker, wrote the foreword.

The book, divided into four chapters, highlights a diverse array of human rights, peace and conflict issues in the region. In the first chapter, *Universality and Particularity of Human Rights*, Vo Van Ai, a Vietnamese democracy advocate who was not allowed entry into Thailand to present his paper, discusses human rights issues in Vietnam as seen through a Buddhist lens. The second chapter, *Human Rights, Freedoms and People Power*, includes discourses on civil society and justice in Timor Leste, people power movements in Southeast Asia, freedom of religion in Malaysia and freedom of the press in Indonesia.

Chapter three, entitled *The Nexus of Human Rights and Peace*, showcases compelling issues on the systemic practice of torture of political prisoners in Burma, efforts to realize the right to self determination of the Bangsamoro in Mindanao, and the effectiveness of the Agreement on respect for human rights and international humanitarian law in the Philippines. Chapter four, *Human Rights in Different Aspects*, features papers on the right to housing in a depressed urban community in the

Philippines, LGBT rights in the Philippines, difficult experiences of transsexual sex workers from Thailand, and Mechanisms to protect stateless persons in the Region.

Breaking the Silence was formally launched in Puri Artha in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 28 October 2011.

Series 2: Defying the Impasse (2013)

□ Papers selected in this second series were presented at the Second International Conference on Human Rights and Peace & Conflict in Southeast Asia (Jakarta, 2012). This book highlights studies and the work of people who, in one way or another, are defying the powers that abuse, marginalize, and violate freedoms and rights. It reflects the reality of contrasts and diversities in the region. The book focuses on pursuing democracy, human rights and peace in light of an ASEAN community in 2015, realizing human rights in ASEAN and building peace in post-conflict States.

To order a copy of the book, please contact the secretariat at seahrn@gmail.com

□ **Series 3: Amplifying the Voices (2013)**

□ Papers selected in this third series were presented at the Second International Conference on Human Rights and Peace & Conflict in Southeast Asia (Jakarta, 2012). The book attempts to capture relevant issues that mirror certain aspects in the lives of Southeast Asians. This book includes discussion on expanding boundaries: human rights beyond Southeast Asia, negotiating in pursuit of human rights and peace and reconstructing labor & business through the human rights lens and embracing rights of women and children.

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