



INTERVIEWS

# The Monk and the Military

Why a Thai monk and conscientious objector will defy his country's demand for compulsory military service

Interview with Netiwit Chotiphatphaisal by Tricycle | APR 13, 2023





# War Resisters' International

*a global network of grassroots antimilitarist and pacifist groups,  
working together for a world without war*

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## My Declaration on My 18th Birthday: I am a conscientious objector

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[en](#)

My Declaration on My 18th Birthday

**I am a conscientious objector; this means I will not take part in conscription or government required military service in Thailand.**

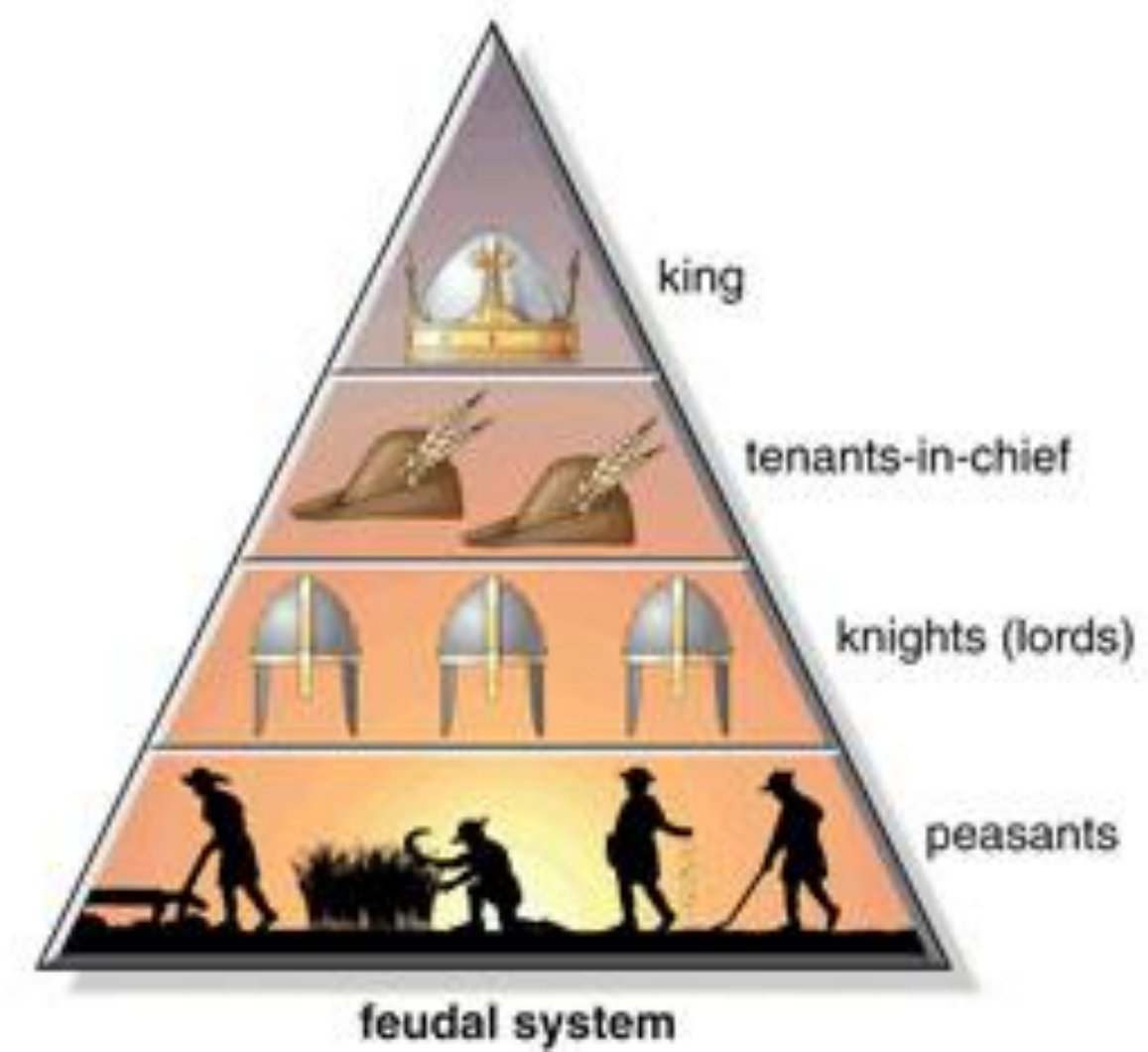
Military rule has dominated Thai society, not only now but also for a long time, and its power increases every year. However the Thai army is a joke for people around the world.

I think it is very important for us, to know that in this time the Thai army have tried to increase their power and brainwash civilians. For example, they banned criticism on TV as reported in the media. They defamed the Thai academics and interrogate the student activists. They controlled the text books to promote nationalism and respect to the army. We know they want to make Thailand a military state. They have tried before and are trying again now.

Do we want to manage this situation or do we want to bury our heads in the sand like the ostrich?

If you choose the first one then we should join together! This is the time for change.









กุลีจีนลากรถ แรงงานสำคัญในยุคต้นรัตนโกสินทร์





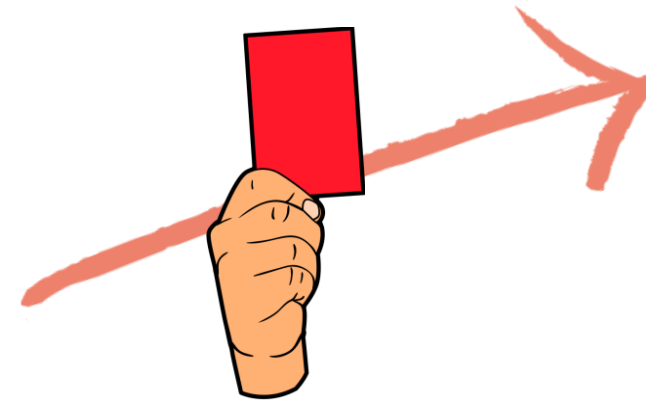


# CHOICES FOR THAI MALES

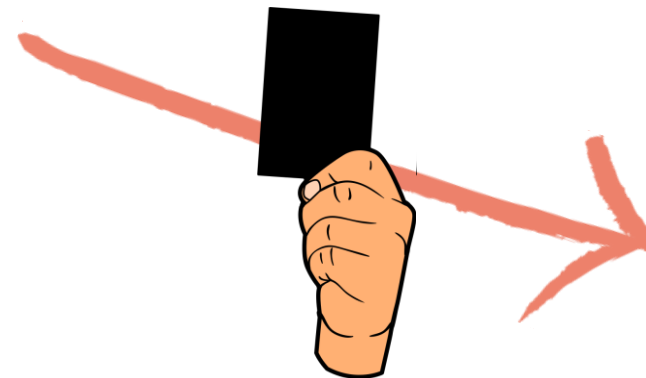
Form Thai Military Service Act, B.E. 2497, there are two choices



take part in the conscription  
lottery for military service.  
(since 21 year olds)



enter military service  
for two years



exemption



# CHOICES FOR THAI MALES

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Form Thai Military Service Act, B.E. 2497, there are two choices



take military reserve training course (หลักสูตร  
รักษาดินแดน หรือ ร.ด.) for 3 years.

Each year take 20 days for training  
(since 16 year olds)



exemption from  
military service.







ENGLISH

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March 23, 2020, Index Number: ASA 39/1995/2020

## Thailand: “We were just toys to them”: Physical, mental and sexual abuse of conscripts in Thailand’s military

Each year, around a third of Thailand’s young men are made to serve in the armed forces, under the country’s compulsory military service laws. Amnesty International has found that the Thai military routinely subjects these new conscripts to a barrage of physical violence, humiliation and sexual abuse that often amounts to torture. “We were just toys to them” documents a widespread and long-standing pattern of abuse. Conscripts described being made to perform physical exercises far beyond their endurance as a form of punishment, including being forced to stand in positions which often led to fainting or injury.



THE  
NATION

“  
I guarantee  
I will be  
elected [PM]  
”



**Pita Limjaroenrat**  
Move Forward Party leader





# Activist monk Netiwit tails to appear for compulsory conscription

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THAI  
ENQUIRER



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## Netiwit said he will quit monkhood to face the justice system for missing conscription

By Erich Parpart | April 10, 2023

