

# Media Censorship in Thailand

*The Suppression of Democracy and People's Freedom  
of Expression*

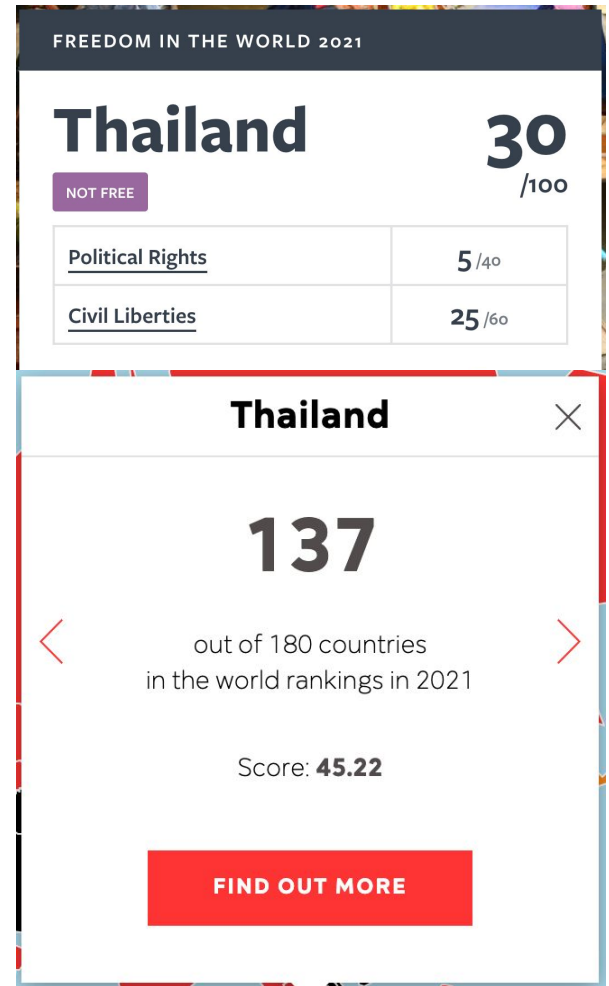


# “What has been happening in Thailand?”

- Over the past couple of decades, the country has been experiencing political instability
  - 2014 - Coup d'état by military junta, National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO)
- Constitutional monarchy with semi-elected representatives
  - 2019 - Held the first election in years, but nothing really changed due to the NCPO's Prime Minister, Prayut Chan-ocha, being re-elected
- The government remains military-dominated and against democracy
  - 2020 - Government approved textbook quoted saying, “Democracy leads to inequality”

# “Why is this an issue?”

- Strict lèse-majesté laws prevent people from speaking against the government
  - Individuals, news outlets, political parties, etc...
  - Punishment includes imprisonment, between 3-15 years for each count
- The Constitutional Court dissolved the Future Forward Party (FFP), the leading opposition political party that was critical of government





“How have people been responding?”

[Photo of Pro-Democracy Protesters at the Democracy Monument in Bangkok, Thailand]. (2020).

<https://globalvoices.org/2020/09/08/whats-happening-in-thailand-youth-activists-rally-to-protect-democracy-freedom-of-speech/>.

# Links for Sources & Additional Information

- Global Voices
  - Article discussing the events over the past few years
  - <https://globalvoices.org/2020/09/08/whats-happening-in-thailand-youth-activists-rally-to-protect-democracy-freedom-of-speech/>
- Reporters Without Borders
  - Rankings for the World Press Freedom Index and explanations behind the scores
  - <https://rsf.org/en/thailand>
- Human Rights Watch
  - In-depth overview about the protests and why they have been occurring
  - <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/thailand>
- British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
  - News articles explaining lèse-majesté laws and how Thailand's government is using them
  - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29628191>