STATEDMENT

by the Spokesperson on military takeover in Thailand

"We are following developments in Thailand with extreme concern. The military must accept and respect the constitutional authority of the civilian power as a basic principle of democratic governance. International human rights standards, including media freedom, must be upheld. It is of the utmost importance that Thailand returns rapidly to the legitimate democratic process. In this respect, we stress the importance of holding credible and inclusive elections as soon as feasible.

We call upon all parties to exercise restraint and work together in the interest of the country."

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