

Ex-PAD heads: We won't pay damages

Prosecutors to dig for former leaders' assets

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Former yellow-shirt co-leaders say they cannot afford to pay damages worth more than 522 million baht resulting from the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD)'s 10-day closure of Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang airports 10 years ago.

Maj Gen Chamlong Srimuang, one of the former 13 PAD co-leaders who have been ordered to pay the **damages**, said he cannot find the money and had no **assets** which could be seized.

"I insist I did nothing wrong. Why was I ordered to pay such a huge sum of money -- as if we burned buildings. But we never burned a single building," Maj Gen Chamlong said.

He added that he does not **regret** the consequences he now has to face as he did it in the best interests of the country.

Maj Gen Chamlong also said there was no need to set up a fund to **solicit** financial donations from the public to help the ex-PAD leaders.

Sirichai Mai-ngam, former secretary of the State Enterprises Workers' Relations Confederation, is also among the former 13 PAD leaders ordered to pay the **compensation**.

He said on Sunday that the PAD leaders could not afford to pay the **damages**.

"We have no money. We won't run away. We won't pay," he said.

He also said that several PAD supporters wanted to **pitch in** money to help but the former leaders did not want them to **shoulder** any financial **burdens**.





Somchai Wongsawat government.

The 13 co-leaders have been served a legal **execution** notice by prosecutors from the Office of the Attorney-General (OAG), who were authorised by Airports of Thailand Plc (AoT), the operator of the two airports, to seek the payments.

On March 25, 2011, the Civil Court ordered the 13 former PAD figures to pay 522,160,947 million baht in **compensation** to the AoT plus an annual interest rate of 7.5% from Dec 1, 2008, until payment is made in full.

The AoT, as the **plaintiff**, demanded **compensation** after the 13 defendants led protesters in laying siege to the two airports from Nov 24 to Dec 3, 2008, forcing them to **suspend** operations. At the time, the PAD were protesting against the

Ruenwadee Suwanmongkol, director-general of the Legal Execution Department, said Sunday it is the duty of AoT and prosecutors to first check the **assets** of the 13 defendants before the department can issue a notice to **seize** or freeze the **assets**.

The process to enforce the **assets** seizure and payments remains valid for 10 years from the issuance of the court order, Mr Ruenwadee said.

Kosolwat Inthuchanyong, deputy spokesman of the OAG, said the prosecutors will check the defendants' **assets** by seeking information from various agencies such as the Land Department.

If any **assets** are found, AoT will ask the Legal Execution Department to execute the seizure, and auction the seized **assets**.

Vocabulary:

asset	: something owned by a person, company etc., particularly money and property - ทรัพย์สิน
auction	: a usually public sale of goods or property, where people make higher and higher bids (= offers of money) for each thing, until the thing is sold to the person who will pay most - การขายโดยการประมูล, การขายทอดตลาด
burden	: a serious or difficult responsibility that you have to deal with - ภาระ
compensation	: money that someone receives because something bad has happened to them - เงินชดเชย
damages	: money that a court awards to a person who sued another person for causing injury to them -
execution	: the act of doing a piece of work, performing a duty, or putting a plan into action - การปฏิบัติเพื่อให้บังเกิดผล
freeze assets	: (of a court) to order that things owned by someone, especially money and property, cannot be used by the owner until a final court decision has been made - ยึดหรือพิทักษ์ทรัพย์สิน
lay siege to	: to surround a place and prevent people or supplies from getting in or out - ห้อมล้อม ล้อมปิด

pitch in	: helped or give money to some project - ช่วยก่อกำเนิด
plaintiff	: someone who makes a legal complaint against someone else in court - โจทก์
regret	: to feel sadness about something sad or wrong or about a mistake that you have made, and a wish that it could have been different and better - เสียใจ
seize (verb)	: to take control of by force or official power - ยึดครอง
shoulder	: to deal with or accept something difficult - แบกรับภาระ หรือสถานการณ์
solicit	: to ask someone for something like money, information or help - เรียกร้อง
suspend	: to stop for a period of time - ยกเลิกชั่วคราว, ระงับชั่วคราว