

Covid-19 in ASEAN: a Human Rights Crisis and How to End It

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ASEAN and COVID-19: Trend on Human Rights Violation

- **Securitization and civic space**

- Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines → Emergency Decree
- The rest → tighten security measures with excessive power from military and police

- **Violation of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association**

- Singapore, Laos and Vietnam all recorded arrests of individuals for allegedly spreading 'fake news' related to the pandemic
- In Indonesia, one activist who were quite vocal to criticise the government's measures, was detained for allegedly spreading inciting riots

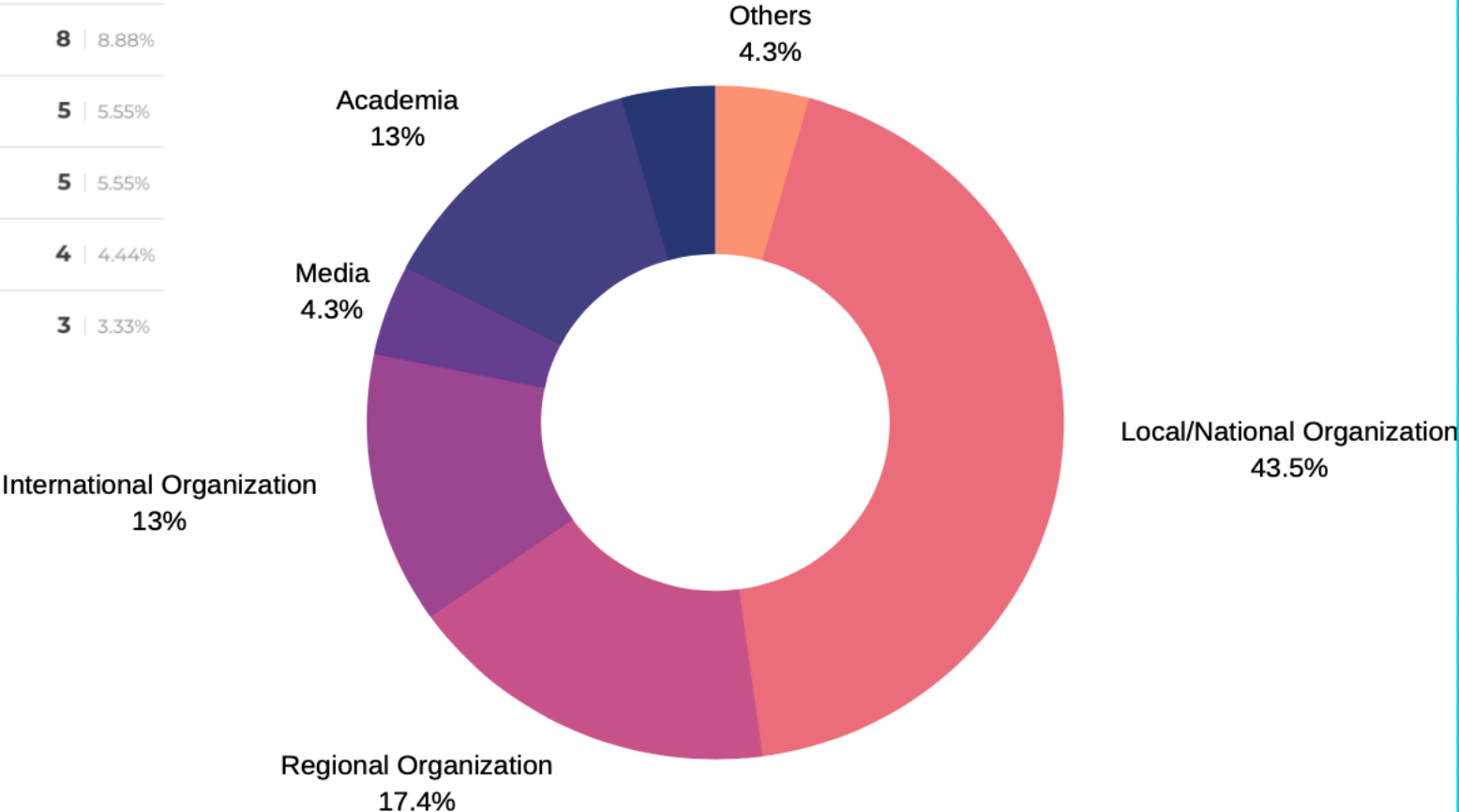
ASEAN and COVID-19: Trend on Human Rights Violation

- **Surveillance and violation of the rights to privacy**
 - Using state surveillance to intimidate the public
 - No indication to what extent this surveillance can be implemented

Rapid Assessment on the Effectiveness of ASEAN

(12 – 24 June 2020)

Countries	Views
Philippines	21 23.3%
Myanmar	16 17.7%
Indonesia	13 14.4%
Malaysia	8 8.88%
Singapore	5 5.55%
Timor-Leste	5 5.55%
Viet Nam	4 4.44%
Thailand	3 3.33%



Rapid Assessment on the Effectiveness of ASEAN

- Based on our rapid assessment to CSO about the effectiveness of ASEAN:
 - 80% respondents stated that ASEAN has not been successful to protect the rights of people during the pandemic
 - 80% of respondents also saying that ASEAN have yet to facilitate meaningful participation and dialogue with civil society and vulnerable groups, who are impacted the most by the pandemic.
 - 75% of our respondents said that the ASEAN human rights mechanism as a body has yet to fulfil its commitment to ensure the adoption of human rights-based approach in the ASEAN responses on the pandemic

ASEAN & AHRM: No Visibility



Number of
Joint State-
ment related
to COVID-19
(from February
– June)

25

16

13

1

Recommendation for AHRM

- Establish an ad-hoc mechanism to monitor, identify and address human rights violations under the pretext of COVID-19 in all ASEAN member states;
- practices and cooperate with other regional human rights mechanisms;
- Review the TORs of the AICHR and ACWC to enhance their independence and expertise; enable the creation of meaningful complaint mechanisms and other forms of human rights protection; and enable majority decisions where a consensus cannot be reached;
- Proactively provide member states with advice on holistic measures in law, policy and practice, to protect, respect and fulfil vulnerable groups' rights, welfare, safety, and security, regardless of legal status;
- Expedite collaboration with other ASEAN mechanisms to create a holistic COVID-19 response where the safety, rights and dignity of women, girls and the LGBTIQ community are protected.

Thank You

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