

The Washington Post

Letter to the Editor

Crying wolf on the Thai monarchy

March 15, 2016

Regarding the March 10 op-ed by Pavin Chachavalpongpun, “[How the Thai monarchy is trying to silence me](#)”:

This headline is sensational and misleading. The Thai monarchy is above politics. His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and members of the royal family have always strictly conducted themselves within the constitutional framework.

The Thai people deeply respect and revere the monarchy for the contributions that the institution has made to the country and the people’s well-being. An attempt to portray otherwise or politicize the monarchy is disingenuous. By repeatedly crying wolf and perpetuating distortions, the writer revealed his slanted agenda.

The royal succession is governed by relevant laws. They are clear and transparent and can be read and studied by anyone.

Lastly, the lèse-majesté law is aimed at protecting the rights and reputations of the king, the queen, the heir apparent and the regent in a similar manner to how libel law protects commoners. This law, in various forms, exists in many countries around the world, not just in Thailand.

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The writer is Thailand’s ambassador to the United States.