

# Challenges of Documenting State Violence in Thailand: the Case of the Oct 6 Massacre



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The massacre at Thammasat University on Oct 6, 1976 was a disturbing history of the Thai nation. It is a traumatic past for the victims but a divisive history for the establishment. Documentation of the atrocity was long overdue but it took 40 years for the work to begin. In late September 2017, a small group of academics and activists, including Puangthong, created an online archive called “Documentation of October 6”. One of the motives, possibly the most perturbed one, of creating the archive was the realization that the basic and important information about the 41 dead victims, as simple as their identities, has been neglected and missing all along. Though the astounding discovery did not change the narrative of the event, it raised several questions, i.e. what is the meaning of such negligence? In this talk, Puangthong will also shed light on the challenges and difficulties for documenting state crime in the society imbued with a culture of impunity and the undervalue of individuality.