



ITP Research Form

ITP: **Thailand/Myanmar 2014**

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Paper Title: Race to the Bottom, Fight to the Top: A Comparative Legal Analysis of Journalism in Thailand and Myanmar

Abstract: Thailand and Myanmar are two countries in the news for the inability of journalists to report news. This paper examines why journalists are the target of legal action in these neighboring countries, as one country reportedly stabilizes and another spirals out of control. Results were strikingly dissimilar. Thailand's legal system is increasingly turning to less obvious means to repress journalists that do not raise as many red flags to the rest of the world. Because Myanmar lacked a free press for many years, journalists lack necessary training in a country where there is already a strong distrust of the press. While legal reform will likely be a long process in Thailand, journalists and stakeholders in Myanmar are more positive about legal reform in the near future.