

To the attention of Mr. Miles White  
CEO  
Abbott  
miles.white@abbott.com

Dear Sir,

We are writing you to state our support for Act Up-Paris, which is currently facing a lawsuit filed by Abbott. The lawsuit seeks damages from Act-Up Paris resulting from their call to temporarily shut down your website. We are astonished that, not content with filing a civil suit, you also decided to initiate criminal proceedings against this small NGO. The legal actions initiated by Abbott could mean the death of the organization due to potential fines and legal costs exceeding tens of thousands of euros. Your actions are clearly an attempt to silence Act Up-Paris as well as intimidate organizations which may publicly object to Abbott's actions in Thailand.

Despite the fact that the compulsory licenses were issued by the Thai government in accordance with the flexibilities afforded to national governments under the TRIPS Agreement, Abbott decided to deprive HIV patients in Thailand of your treatments. While this unilateral decision cannot be legally challenged, the WHO, numerous doctors, and a multitude of NGOs have called upon you to reexamine your position. The French government has publicly supported the Thai government's decision to issue compulsory drug licenses. People living with HIV in Thailand have asked you to reverse your decision and called upon the international community to show their solidarity. Act Up-Paris responded to their call with the action that you seek to punish.

Despite pleas from the international community, you have not deigned to review your position while people living with HIV in Thailand are dying because of it. Your company refuses any compromise, seeking to silence the people who are trying to uphold the public health interest and the value of human life in the face of Abbott's narrow financial interests.

Because we believe that the pharmaceutical industry should not be allowed to impose its policies on national governments and the lives of its most vulnerable citizens, and because we believe that monitoring and criticism of your policies—especially when they risk the lives of millions of people living with HIV—are indispensable, we ask you to drop your legal action against Act Up-Paris.

Regardless of your decision about the charges against Act Up-Paris, we will not be intimidated and will continue to do everything in our power to convince Abbott to reverse your decision to deprive the HIV/AIDS patients of Thailand of life-saving medication.

Sincerely,

Xxxxxxxx  
Your organization