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Freedom for Thais in Burma uncertain

Ranong — The skipper of a Thai fishing boat has expressed wariness over a report that Burmese officials will release Thai fishermen detained at Victoria Point tomorrow.

According to Tiamchua sae Ngow, owner of the Prom Samut 9 fishing boat, skipper Chuchart Saeng-in wrote from his jail in Victoria Point expressing uncertainty about his captors' intentions.

Chuchart reportedly said Burmese officials want money in return for his release.

He said the Burmese apparently believe he is an important figure because of several visitors he received.

Chuchart asked his wife to send him clothes and other necessities, Tiamchua said.

Meanwhile a fishery source said there are about 24 Thai fishermen being detained at Victoria Point, and not 13 as earlier reported.