



Trades Union Congress

Mr Kitt Wasinondh
Royal Thai Embassy
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London
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our ref: euid/ai-ua006/13
date: 17 January 2013
contact: Owen Tudor
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Dear Ambassador

Somyot Prueksakasemsuk

On behalf of the TUC, British workers and the 6.1 million members of our affiliated unions I write to express our outrage over the arrest, charge and trial of Somyot Prueksakasemsuk, labour activist and editor of the magazine, Voice of Taksin.

Somyot Prueksakasemsuk has been in detention since 30 April 2011 and after being tried under Article 112 of the Thai Criminal Code, a charge that carries a sentence of up to 15 years' imprisonment for each offence, is now at risk of receiving an unjust sentence to these charges.

Somyot was arrested shortly after the launch of a campaign to gather support to invoke a parliamentary review of Article 112.

We ask you to:

- convey to the Thai authorities our concerns over the arrest, detention and unjust verdict meted out to Somyot Prueksakasemsuk on account of the exercising his right to freedom of expression under international human rights law;
- call on the authorities to drop all charges against him and release him immediately and unconditionally from detention; and call for the authorities to give Somyot redress for the months he has spent in detention;
- call for the authorities to amend Article 112 so that Thailand complies with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which it is legally bound to uphold the right to the freedom of expression and suspend its use until it has been amended in such a way.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Frances O'Grady'.

FRANCES O'GRADY
General Secretary

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