



General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT)

Central Office, Kathmandu, Nepal



31 May 2010

His Excellency Mr. Maris Sangiampongsa
Royal Thai Embassy
167/4 Ward No. 3, Maharajgunj-Bansbari Road,
P.O Box 3333, Kathmandu

Your Excellency

I write to ask you to make immediate representation to your Government for the immediate release of Somyot Pruksakasemsuk and Associate Professor Suthachai Yimprasert. We understand that both men are currently being held at Adisorn Army Base in Saraburi.

We know both men, in particular Somyot Pruksakasemsuk, through their work for the international trade union movement. We have come to know them as loyal Thai citizens who have a passionate belief in Human Rights. Both men are very well internationally known and respected.

Neither man was part of the core leadership of the "red shirts" and in recent times each has been playing a more independent role as a journalist and academic promoting freedom of speech.

We understand that the Criminal Court agreed with the Centre for Resolution of the Emergency Situation (CRES) on Friday to extend the detention of Suthachai and Somyot for another seven days, despite Suthachai's hunger strike over alleged CRES human rights violations.

Both Suthachai and Somyot had surrendered to the CRES when they heard that warrants were out for their arrest. The warrants were issued in regard to the incident on 21 May 2010 at 13.00, when Somyot and Suthachai, in the



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name of the 24th of June Democracy Group, held a press conference in front of the House No. 111 Foundation. This was a completely peaceful event.

The lawyer for Suthachai, Mr Krisdang has said no charges were pressed against them, and no proper inquiry session had been arranged during their detention.

We understand that Somyot and Suthachai are now to be held until 6 June 2010. We strongly urge their immediate release.

Please urgently respond to this request and inform us of what is happening to these two men.

Sincerely Yours

Bishnu Rimal

President