

To Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha:

We are writing to request your assistance in ending the abusive use of Thailand's criminal defamation law and Computer Crimes Act to silence migrant labor rights defender Andy Hall. The Royal Government of Thailand should respect freedom of speech and make sure that human rights defenders can continue their work free from judicial harassment.

The charges Natural Fruit brought against Mr. Hall are a clear effort to silence workers and their advocates rather than address the disturbing treatment of workers. In the case of Natural Fruit, that treatment included: high costs for labor recruitment, illegal salary deductions, child labor, payment below the legal minimum wage, confiscation of migrant workers' passports and work permits, and physical violence.

The conditions documented by Mr. Hall and reported in *Cheap Has A High Price* were based on well-documented worker interviews, and the report was released to benefit workers at the factory by drawing attention to issues so that they could be fixed. At Mr. Hall's trial, Natural Fruit workers confirmed that the information reported was accurate. Additionally, Mr. Hall was just one of many contributors for the report, and a Finnish NGO called Finnwatch was solely responsible for the final report and its publication. Mr. Hall and FinnWatch, reached out to Natural Fruit multiple times to give comments to the research and resolve the issue, but rather than fix the problems in its factories, Natural Fruit began its legal harassment of Mr. Hall.

Mr. Hall's case has made news around the globe, been referred to as, "[an international and national disgrace](#)." Hundreds of thousands of people from around the world have sent messages to Natural Fruit and others urging for the charges to be dismissed. Mr. Hall's case was also referenced in the 2014 U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons report, and its continuation only reinforces global concerns about the treatment of migrant workers and their advocates in your country.

The best way to bring an end to this negative publicity is to ensure that Andy Hall is released from all charges stemming from his human rights work and to work with labor rights activists to address the underlying issues that leave migrant workers vulnerable to unscrupulous employers. We urge you to take all possible steps to ensure that:

1. Freedom of speech is protected for human rights defenders and they are able to continue their work free from judicial harassment;
2. A full investigation by competent and independent labor investigators of unfair and/or illegal labor practices documented at Natural Fruit Company Ltd. and the NatGroup is conducted;
3. Fair remediation of all violations identified by investigations is provided; and
4. In consultation with workers and their advocates, effective measures to prevent future violations of workers in the pineapple industry are rapidly introduced.

We hope that the government of the Kingdom of Thailand will protect the right to freedom of speech and not curtail legitimate research that documents when companies mistreat workers and violate labor laws.

Moreover, we wish to see Thailand promote workers' rights by ensuring that companies are well-regulated to provide safe and healthy working conditions for their workers in both factories and fields.

As one of the prime leaders and founding states of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), we call on your leadership, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, to uphold basic principles of human rights.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

International Organizations

1.



Aaron Ceradoy
Programme Coordinator
Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM)

2.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PBL'.

Phil Bloomer
Executive Director
Business and Human Rights Resource Centre

3.



Von Hernandez
Executive Director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia

4.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ramon Bultron'.

Ramon Bultron
Coordinator
Interfaith Network for the Rights of Migrants (INFORM)

5.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Cotton'.

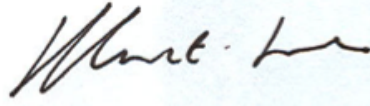
Stephen Cotton
General Secretary
International Transportation Federation

6.



SumOfUs

7.



Joanna Ewart-James
Director
Walk Free

Asia/Pacific

8.



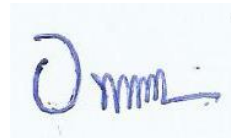
Ged Kearney
President
Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)

9.



Craig Tuck's
Director
Slave Free Seas, New Zealand

10.



Ampol Thongrat
Acting General Secretary
State Enterprises Workers' Relations Confederation (SERC),
Thailand

11.



Thai Labour Solidarity Committee (TLSC)

12.



Dr. Pongthiti Pongsilamane
President
TOT Public Company Workers' Union (TOTWU), Thailand

13.



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Mark Zirnsak
Director, Justice & International Mission
Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

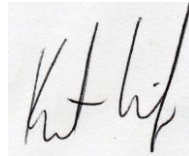
North America

14.



Cathy Feingold
Director of International Affairs
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial
Organizations (AFL-CIO), United States

15.



Kerstin Lindgren
Campaign Coordinator
Fair World Project, United States

16.



Joann Lo
Executive Director
Food Chain Workers Alliance, United States

17.



Alisa Gravitz
President and CEO
Green America, United States

18.



Judy Gearhart
Executive Director
International Labor Rights Forum, United States

19.



Sally Greenburg
Executive Director
National Consumers League, United States

Europe

20.



Mark Farmaner
Director
Burma Campaign, United Kingdom

21.



Eettisen Kaupan Puolesta (Eetti), Finland

22.



Päivi Mattila
Secretary-General
Ihmisoikeusliitto (Finnish League for Human Rights)

23.



Anselm Iwundu
Executive Director
Fairfood International, Netherlands

24.



Finn Church Aid FCA, Finland

25.



Sonja Vartiala
Executive Director
Finnwatch, Finland

26.



Timo Lappalainen
Executive Director
Keva, Finland

27.



Service Union United (PAM), Finland

28.



Kristiina Rintakoski
Director for Advocacy
Suomen Lähetysseura

29.



Frances O'Grady
General Secretary
Trade Union Congress (TUC), United Kingdom

30.



Jorma Malinen
President
Trade Union Pro, Finland

31.



Jarkko Eloranta
President
Trade Union for the Public and Welfare Sectors, Finland

32.



Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland (SASK)

33.



Rauno Vesivalo
President
Union of Health and Social Care Professionals (Tehy), Finland