

## Free Somyot Pruksakasemsuk

On 30 April 2011 Somyot Pruksakasemsuk, a journalist and leading labour activist, was arrested. He is facing up to 20 years in prison under the Lèse Majesté law.

A person can be charged under Lèse Majesté if accused of defaming, insulting or threatening the Thai royal family.

Lèse Majesté laws and other similar legislation have been used by the previous Thai government, headed by Abhisit Vejjajiva, to crack down on dissent and protest activities. The current Thai government, headed by Yingluck Shinawatra of the Pheu Thai party, has maintained these laws and has not used its powers to release detained activists. The Pheu Thai party was supported by the Red Shirts movement. Many of the activists detained are Red Shirts members, and yet they languish in prison forgotten by their party and prime minister who they helped to

bring to government. The Red Shirt movement endured violent military repression, which included hundreds of protesters killed in the streets in April and May 2010. There hundreds of Thai activists, many prominent in the labour movement still detained under Lèse Majesté laws. Many more are in exile overseas.

The last few years has seen the re-awakening of a popular movement in Thailand. The movement is fighting against inequality, injustice and corruption in Thailand. Workers and their communities are the driving force of this movement. The Lèse Majesté laws are used as an instrument to stop the Thai workers from organising.

Help to free Somyot. Support workers' rights and democratic rights in Thailand.



# Free Somyot

- ★ Release Somyot and all other political prisoners
- ★ Drop the charges on imprisoned & exiled activists
- ★ Revoke Lèse Majesté law and other repressive laws

 **Come to the facebook flashmob rally for Somyot**  
**12:45pm Friday 6 April - Melbourne University**