

The Labor Link Podcast

Workers Rights and Global Supply Chains



“There will be no way for us to be able to solve every single problem of migrant workers here in Thailand. The only way we can do it, we need to have them to speak up about the problem. We need to have them form their own organization, representing themselves.”

Sawit Kaewwan

Sawit Kaewwan, the secretary general of the [State Enterprises Workers' Relations Confederation \(SERC\)](#) in Thailand, has mobilized the Thai trade union movement to support migrant workers, especially those at risk for human trafficking.

The unions have offered repeatedly to collaborate with industry and government. Instead, the government is pursuing [criminal charges against Sawit and 12 of his colleagues](#) for organizing a national railway safety campaign they launched back in 2009. The charges appear politically motivated because they were filed in 2019 just before the statute of limitations expired. Thailand's National Human Rights Commission has condemned the actions against the trade unionists.

Listen to Sawit's Story

<https://EmpathyMediaLab.podbean.com/e/the-labor-link-sawit-kaewwan-the-secretary-general-of-the-state-enterprises-workers-relations-confederation-serc-in-thailand/>

Learn more about Sawit's work:

- Judy Gearhart's Essay on Thompson Reuters Foundation News - <https://news.trust.org/item/20211105170721-mjdr1>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/sep/21/top-thai-union-leader-targeted-with-jail-for-rail-safety-campaign>
- <https://www.empathymedialab.com/sawit>

About The Labor Link Podcast

[The Labor Link Podcast](#) supports workers' rights in global supply chains by sharing personal stories and perspectives of the men and women organizing the workers who make our stuff. The Labor Link Podcast is hosted by Judy Gearhart of American University's [Accountability Research Center](#) and produced by [Empathy Media Lab](#) of the [Labor Radio Podcast Network](#).

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