Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha

Pitsanulok Road

Bangkok 10300

Thailand

Dear Prime Minister,

I write to urge your government to oppose the legal actions taken by Thammakaset Co. Ltd against their former employees, human rights activists, and journalists in relation to their reporting and comments on labor conditions at the company’s chicken farm, and act to ensure that they do not proceed.

In 2016, 14 employees at Thammakaset Co. Ltd reported abusive work conditions to Thai authorities. In response, their former employer has subjected former employees, activists, and journalists to apparently retributive criminal and civil proceedings, including criminal defamation and computer crimes.

Amnesty International is concerned that these criminal proceedings threaten the protection of labor rights in Thailand, with a chilling effect on individuals reporting on labor and other human rights violations for fear of prosecution and imprisonment.

We request that your government act to support human rights defenders’ work to highlight and prevent violations in the workplace, and protect human rights defenders from reprisal, including prosecution for peacefully exercising their rights to publicize violations, including by decriminalizing defamation.

 Yours sincerely,