



ALERT: Targetted shooting of 5th community-based HRD outside Khlong Sai Pattana community, Mr Supoj Kansong

Protection International has received information from the Southern Peasants' Federation of Thailand (SPFT), that Mr Supoj Kanlasong (nicknamed Kai, aged 39 years) was shot and severely injured outside Khong Sai Pattana community, Moo 2, Saithong Sub-district, Chaiburi district, Suratthani province on Friday 8th April 2016, approximately 14:45. Mr Supoj was shot in his car, see pictures below. Mr Supoj was hit eight times, 6 times in the leg and 2 in the arm. He has been taken to Chaiburi Hospital and his condition is being medically assessed. At the time of alert, District doctor is transferring Mr Supoj to Surat Thani Provincial Hospital.

Mr Supoj is a main community leader under death threat. According to Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) [Urgent Appeal on 1st April 2015](#), the Southern Peasants' Federation of Thailand (SPFT) and AHRC alerted that he is one of the main community leaders under death threat.

Mr Supoj is the 5th community-based Human Rights Defender victim of a targeted shooting in the past 6 years from Khlong Sai Pattana community. This latest targeted shooting of an SPFT member from Khlong Sai Pattana, and the failure of Thai authorities to bring anyone to justice for past six years, needs your urgent action.

Mr Supoj is the nephew-in-law of Mr Chai Bunthonglek who was fatally shot dead on 11th February 2015. Mr Supoj is a main witness in the Black/Red Case 1273/2558 opened on 21st May 2015 by Wiang Sra Public Prosecutor into the murder of Mr Chai. Mr Supoj testified in front of Wiang Sra Provincial Court on 28th January to 29th January 2016 as witness brought forward by Wiang Sra Public Prosecutor Mr Akrom Pangjam. During the court proceedings, a suspect identified at the Police investigation stage but not charged by Wiang Sra Public Prosecutor, Mr Sunthorn came to Wiang Sra Provincial Court. The community believes that Mr Sunthorn is an alleged broker of the murder of Uncle Chai Bunthonglek, who has been allegedly involved and or behind in numerous acts of intimidation and murders of land rights activists in Surat Thani, including against the SPFT.

According to the investigation by the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, and from information received by the NHRCT from the Chaiburi District Police Station, the local Police already has a profile of Mr Supoj Kanlasong.

At the time of this alert, we urge the human rights community to immediately contact and follow-up with the Chaiburi District Police Station in Surat Thani province to ensure that they immediately carry out an effective investigation to apprehend and collect evidence on the gunmen.

We also urge the human rights community to contact the Surat Thani Governor so that he acts immediately in coordination with the police to protect Khlong Sai Pattana community and apprehend the culprits.

The community is very concerned that the gunmen who shot Mr Supoj are still in the area around Khlong Sai Pattana. Thai authorities have completely failed to hold anyone accountable for the killings of the 4 members of the Khlong Sai Pattana community in past six years.

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Background on the Southern Peasants Federation of Thailand

The SPFT was set-up in 2008 to pursue the decades-long peasant movement for the rights and dignity of farmers, in a democratic society and State, and in a fairer economic system than present-day capitalism. The SPFT serves as a consciousness-raising, mobilising, and coordinating organisation for peasants in the South of Thailand to claim their rights to land, especially in the form of communal land titles, from the State on expired corporate concession lands.

Since its creation the SPFT has organised and supported the creation and development of 6 agricultural communities in Surat Thani and Nakhon Sri Thammarat provinces, South Thailand, including Khlong Sai Pattana community. These communities are democratically, communally organised by peasants who have been made destitute and landless as a result of the capitalist system in the South. Furthermore, through the shared use and division of agricultural land, tools and tasks, these agricultural communities are a project of empowerment of peasants as they create a system for agricultural production, care for the land, and political economy, which guarantees a fair distribution of resources and equal respect for rights, dignity and livelihoods for peasants as any other class in society.

Pictures of Mr Supoj Kansong and targeted shooting against him

(Credits to SPFT Khlong Sai Pattana community members)



