



Ellen Nygren/gp

DATE
2012-07-12

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Prime Minister Yingluck
Bangkok
Thailand

Dear Prime Minister,

The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), representing more than 1.5 million workers in Sweden, is alarmed at reports that the Thai Labour Ministry plans to adopt proposals which would see pregnant migrant women workers deported.

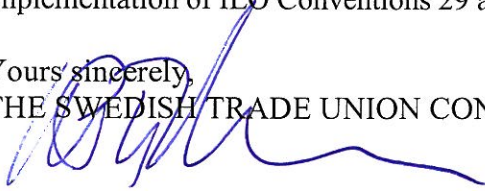
According to news reports, on 26 June 2012 Labour Minister Padermchai Sasomsap announced a plan to deport migrant workers who are known to be three to four months' pregnant. One stated intention is to curb human trafficking and the use of migrant child labour, in response to criticisms over Thailand's failure to address the trafficking of women, men and children for forced labour and sexual exploitation.

The forcible deportation of pregnant migrant women would be highly discriminatory and a clear breach of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), ratified by Thailand in 1985, as well as other international human rights standards aimed at promoting equality of opportunity and non-discrimination.

LO is, of course, highly supportive of effective, non-discriminatory initiatives aimed at combating human trafficking, forced and child labour, including for sexual exploitation. In this respect, LO reminds the Thai government of the guidance and obligations provided in the International Labour Organisation's Core Labour Conventions 29 on Forced Labour and 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour ratified by Thailand in 1969 and 2001 respectively.

LO urges the Thai government to abandon the proposals to deport pregnant migrant women workers, and instead to look for fair and effective means to eliminate human trafficking and child labour in Thailand, including the proper implementation of ILO Conventions 29 and 182.

Yours sincerely,
THE SWEDISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (LO)



Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson
President