

Witness examination in libelous case against Voice TV reporter

Regrading a tweet of the reporter about the case against 14 workers employed by poultry farm

During 5,6,7 and 8 November 2019, at 09.00, the Lopburi Provincial Court is set to hear witness examination in the Black Case no. O1 18/2562 between Thammakaset by Mr. Charnchai Permphon, an attorney authorized by the plaintiff v. Ms. Suchanee Rungmuanporn or Ms. Suchanee Kruatho. The Human Rights Lawyers Association (HRLA) cordially invites media and interested members of the public to attend the hearings at the Lopburi Provincial Court per the time and date aforementioned.

The schedule for witness examination is as follows;

Prosecution	Date	Witnesses	
witness examination	5 November 2019	Mr. Charnchai Permphon	Plaintiff's attorney
Defense witness examination	5 November 2019	Ms. Suchanee Rungmuanporn or Ms. Suchanee Kruatho	Defendant
	6 November 2019	Mr. NAN TOE Mr. NAN WIN Mr. MOE Ms. WAI WAI Ms. KA THWAL SOE	Former employees of Thammakaset
		Ms. Suthasinee Kaewleklai	Staff at Migrant Workers Rights Network (MWRN)
	7 November 2019	Miss Archana Kotecha	Head of Legal Department at Liberty Asia
		Dr. Phansa Kulab	Vice Dean of Academic Affairs, Faculty of Communication Arts, Chulalongkorn University
		Mr. Pratheep Kongsib	Former news editor of Voice TV 21
	8 November 2019	Mr. Papob Siamhan	Lawyer specialized in anti-trafficking

Background

In this case, Ms. Suchanee Rungmuanporn or Ms. Suchanee Kruatho, a reporter is sued for libel by Thammakaset represented by Mr. Charnchai Permphon, an authorized attorney in the Black Case no. O118/2562 with the Lopburi Provincial Court, a violation of the Penal Code's Section 326 and 328. It stems from that while Ms. Suchanee was still working as a reported of Voice TV, she was covering the labor rights violation case against migrant workers in agricultural sector. She later retweeted a post by Andy Hall, former advisor of Migrant Workers Rights Network (MWRN) on 14 September 2017 which says that "The Supreme Court ordered owners of the poultry farm in Lopburi, a supplier of Botargo to provide compensation worth 1.7 million baht to 14 workers from Myanmar". The post appeared together with a copy of the verdict by Appeals Court in the specialized case no. 597/2560. As of now, the 14 workers from Myanmar have already received the compensation from Thammakaset in a labour rights violation case per the verdict of the Supreme Court.

Prior to filing the case with the Lopburi Provincial Court, Thammakaset had reported the case with the police at the Khok Toom Police Station asking them to charge Ms. Suchanee for libel and for inputting false information into a computer system. The police and the public prosecutor both agreed not to prosecute the case citing that it was simply a reportage about facts based on a court verdict and it was an expression of opinion or the making of a statement in good faith by fairly reporting about the public order made by the Court per the Penal Code's Section 329(4). In addition, it did not appear that she had intent to commit a corruption or a fraud by inputting false information into a computer system which may cause an impairment to the public. The non-prosecution order no. OS0042(LB)/3727 was therefore issued.

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Waraporn Utairangsee, attorney 092-472-5511

M. Sanya Eadchongdee, attorney 087-589-4884