



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

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Release Date: December 2008

Programme: No. 1161

Length: 4'34"

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian

## TRAFFICKED AND EXPLOITED MIGRANT LABOURERS IN THAILAND

### VIDEO

STREET PROTESTS

PROTESTER CARRYING BLUE  
SIGN

WORKERS SITTING ON STOOP  
IN FRONT OF HOUSE  
BACK ALLEY OF HOMES

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

A labour protest in Thailand's capital Bangkok...  
Among the workers rallying for their rights is this  
group from neighbouring Myanmar, also known as  
Burma, where average incomes are only 3  
percent of what they are in Thailand. (13.84")

There are as many as one and half million  
Burmese workers here. (3.25")

Most have left Myanmar illegally and cannot return  
home. Many have been trafficked. (6.83")

These workers, and tens of thousands of their  
children, often live in the shadows of mainstream  
society...making them easy targets for violations  
of human rights. (10.18")

BROKER LIGHTING CIGARETTE Helping to smuggle them in are people like this man who has asked not to be identified. He is a Thai-speaking Burmese who was formerly a 'broker' of workers from Myanmar, bringing in as many as 50 people a month for 10 years. (14.22")

MCU OF BROKER ON CAMERA BROKER (Thai) M  
*"I would tell people they could earn 400 or 500 baht a day – as much as 15 US dollars – in a fish trimming factory but I would never tell them how many hours they would have to work to earn that much."* (10.18")

WS OF FISHING BOAT NARRATION  
And this is where many Burmese migrants would end up – in Samut Sakhon province, the centre of Thailand's fishing industry. (7.90")  
It is also home to one of the largest concentrations of exploited workers from Myanmar. (4.70")

WORKERS SPEAKING THROUGH FENCE  
Few of these workers are willing to risk speaking out on camera. (3.10")

SHOT OF MONG CHO WALKING  
But 23-year old Mong Cho has little left to lose. (3.12")

WS PAN OF BODY OF WATER  
Five years ago, he left his wife and daughter back in Myanmar, thinking he could better provide for

them if only he got a job in Thailand. (7.63“)

CU OF MONG CHO'S FACE  
WS OF BOAT

He knew that he would have to work several months just to pay back the smuggler who brought him here. What he didn't know was that he would end up being sold – to a ship owner. He would spend the next two years at sea. (12.84“)

MCU OF MONG CHO  
MAN ON SHIP  
MCU OF MONG CHO

MONG CHO (In Burmese) M  
*“The ship's supervisor treated us really badly, especially those who were not experienced. He would beat us when we did something wrong, like taking the net out of the water -- he would hit us with sharp objects. Even if we were sick, he would still make us work.” (18.25“)*

MCU OF SURAPONG  
KONGCHANTUK

SURAPONG KONGCHANTUK (Thai) M  
*“In the fisheries there is a serious problem ... (2.40“)*

SET-UP SHOTS OF SURAPONG  
AT WORK

NARRATION  
Surapong Kongchantuk is a top human right lawyer in Thailand. (3.53“)

MCU OF SURAPONG  
KONGCHANTUK

SURAPONG KONGCHANTUK (Thai)  
*The owners of these companies are usually mafias or powerful people that the government tries not to touch.” (6.34“)*

NARRATION

SNAPSHOTS OF TRAFFICKERS  
SNAPSHOTS OF FISHING  
BOATS  
SNAPSHOTS OF INJURIES

Going after traffickers is rare, but one case of exploitation that is being pursued involved these fishing boats. The sailors left Thai shores in 2003, and returned three years later. Underfed, and beaten by their supervisors, many got sick, and died. ( 18.28“)

SILHOUETTE OF POON

Most were from Myanmar. A Thai sailor, “Poon” (Poa-wn) – saw what happened. (4.41“)

POON (Thai) M

SILHOUETTE OF POON (face hidden)

“There were over 100 workers on the boat. Thirty of them died. I myself dropped 17 bodies into the sea. “ (8.13“)

NARRATION

PAN MCU OF BOAT

Even with witnesses like “Poon” testifying, it’s not clear if the boats’ owner will ever be punished. (5.40“)

INTERIOR OF FREEZER TRUCK  
MS OF TRUCK  
PHOTOGRAPH OF FEMALE  
LABOURER  
TV NEWS STORY ON CASE

Many people hope that’s about to change: In April 2008, 54 illegal workers from Myanmar crammed into the back of a freezer-truck used for carrying seafood – suffocated while being smuggled to a Thai resort. Their shocking deaths highlighted the vulnerability of foreign migrant labourers. (19.65“)

TV NEWS REPORT  
MS OF JAIL GUARDS

Authorities are now beginning to recognize the scale of the problem, and a new law was passed this year to try to go after those responsible for

WS OF BOAT IN WATER  
SHOT OF FORMER BROKER  
WALKING

exploiting workers. (9.56“)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Michele Zaccheo for  
the United Nations. (4)