

Sulak Sivaraksa



Sulak Sivaraksa of Bangkok of Bangkok is an eminent international exponent of socially engaged Buddhism and arguably Thailand's most prominent social critic and activist. He has founded rural development projects as well as many non-governmental organizations dedicated to exploring alternative models of sustainable, traditionally-rooted, and ethically and spiritually-based development. Sivaraksa is the founder of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists. Periodically, he has been persecuted for his social activism. In 1976, following a coup and the deaths of hundreds of students, he was forced to stay in exile for two years, during which time he was visiting Professor at Berkeley, Cornell and Toronto. In 1984, he was again forced to go into exile and not exonerated until his successful trial in 1993. Sivaraksa was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in both 1993 and 1994. He received the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize, in 1995. He taught at Swarthmore College in Autumn 2002 and Harvard University in the Spring of 2003.