Freedom of Expression is guaranteed under: Article 41 of the Constitution and Article 19 of the ICCPR

Online Expression
In Cambodia
AUGUST 2018 - JULY 2019

310* Restrictions of freedom of expression

48% the public feel “somewhat unfree” or “very unfree” to speak on social media

73% of CSO and Trade Union leaders feel unsafe to impart information through social media

The offenses most used to limit online expression are Lèse-majesté, defamation and incitement.

80% Most of these arrests were for Facebook posts.

244 Violations of freedom of expression

96 (39%) of these violations were related to online speech (39% of violations of freedom of expression occur online)

49% of individuals arrested in relation to freedom of expression were arrested for speech made online

* This number is elevated as this was the year of the general election when political freedom of expression was stifled

All data collected from 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019. Source: Cambodia Fundamental Freedoms Monitor: Third Annual Report: https://chrcambodia.org ffm/report3

The difference between a restriction and a violation of a right is that a restriction can be legally permissible under certain circumstances, while a violation contravenes international legal standards.

Online Expression
In Cambodia
AUGUST 2019 - JULY 2020

246 Restrictions of freedom of expression

104 Violations of freedom of expression

11 individuals were made to thumbprint agreements promising not to release ‘fake news’

37 individuals were accused of “fake news” for expression through Facebook. An additional 3 individuals were accused of fake news for expression through YouTube and TikTok.

104 (42%) of restrictions were related to online speech

50 (48%) of these violations were related to online speech

48 Individuals arrested for online speech

43 (90%) of these individuals were arrested for speech on Facebook

Most of these arrests were under the following Criminal Code charges:
Plotting (Article 453)
Incitement to commit a crime (Articles 494 and 495)
Defamation (Article 305)
Falsifying information (Article 425)

All data collected from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020.
Source: CCHR Media Monitoring and Incident Reporting

May 2020