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The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) launches a three-week campaign to mark the

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists

The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists is observed annually on 2 November since 2013. However, this special day was first established by the International Freedom of Speech Exchange (“IFEX”) on 23 November 2011 to commemorate the massacre of 32 journalists and media employers in the Philippines in 2009 (“Amputuan massacre”). Following extensive advocacy led by IFEX and partners, the United Nations General Assembly officially designated 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists in 2013.

This day is an opportunity to encourage discussions on unresolved crimes committed against journalists and media workers and honor journalists who regularly risk or have lost their lives for conducting their legitimate reporting work. Journalists play a critical role in providing reliable and accurate information to the public. Impunity for attacks against journalists, therefore, has a particularly damaging impact, limiting public awareness and constructive debates on topics and issues of public interest. This day also serves as a reminder that governments around the world need to fulfill their obligation to promote and respect press freedom and end impunity for crimes against journalists.

Since 1994, at least 15 journalists have been murdered in Cambodia for undertaking their work. At the time of their deaths, 12 of them were engaged in activities that posed a direct threat to powerful individuals within the Cambodian elite. To date, no effective, independent, and transparent investigations have been conducted in order to bring the perpetrators of these egregious crimes to justice, leaving these cases unresolved and the victims denied the justice they long deserve while their perpetrators continue to enjoy impunity.

To mark the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists 2022, CCHR will conduct a three-week online campaign running from 2 November to 23 November 2022 in observance of the two dates. Through the campaign’s various activities, CCHR aims to raise awareness of the important role that journalists play in a democratic society and of the rampant impunity plaguing Cambodia, including for crimes committed against journalists. CCHR hopes to publicize the impunity afforded to perpetrators of such crimes and call for an end to the impunity they enjoy.

Please join CCHR for the following events this month:

- On 2 November, CCHR will re-share its online quiz on media freedom and hold a radio talk show on the topic “Impunity in Cambodia”.
- On 3 November, CCHR will release an updated map of killed journalists and re-share an animated video titled “The Successor,” which relates the story of a murdered journalist’s son trying to find justice for his father.
- From 4 to 21 November, CCHR will release key messages from the public answering the question “What would you do to protect journalists?” and re-share the profiles of 12 journalists and media workers victims of crimes and whose cases have so far been met with impunity.
• On 16 November, CCHR will release an infographic on the state of freedom of expression in Cambodia between January and September 2022, with a focus on journalists and human rights defenders.
• On 22 November, CCHR will announce the results of its online quiz on media freedom.
• On 23 November, CCHR will release an online map of media violations in Cambodia and an annual report on the state of freedom of expression, press freedom, and access to information in Cambodia between September 2021 and August 2022.

For more information, please contact Mr. Houn Phorn, CCHR’s Promoting Independent Media and Freedom of Expression in Cambodia Project Coordinator via telephone at +855 (0)70 757 884 or via email at phorn@cchrcambodia.org or Mr. Ruos Sarat, CCHR’s Advancing Rights in Cambodia Project Coordinator via telephone at +855 (0)17 886 695 or via email at rossarath@cchrcambodia.org.

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Notes to the Editor:

Founded in November 2002, CCHR is a non-aligned, independent, non-governmental organization that works to promote and protect democracy and respect for human rights – primarily civil and political rights in Cambodia.

CCHR is a member of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), the global network for freedom of expression, and CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. CCHR is also a member of the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) SOS-Torture Network and OECD Watch.

The Cambodian Human Rights Portal www.sithi.org is the 2011 winner of the Information Society Innovation Fund Award in the category of Rights and Freedoms and the 2013 winner of the Communication for Social Change Award awarded by the Centre for Communication and Social Change at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia.