Mr. Lors Liblib
Journalist of Voice of America

Mr. Lors Liblib, 30 years old, was born in Takhmao City, Kandal Province, and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture. He commenced working in the field of journalism in May 2021 after receiving training from the Newsroom Cambodia program, offered through the Cambodian Center for Independent Media. He is currently a journalist at Voice of America (“VOA”) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Mr. Liblib started his career in agriculture intending to help boost the livelihood of Cambodian farmers, however, his expectations went unmet: "Previously, I worked for a company and received a salary, but what I expected from my agriculture field, to help farmers, was not met." With a desire to help people, Mr. Liblib transitioned into journalism hoping that issues relating to land, human rights and social justice would be brought to the attention of relevant leaders and stakeholders. He believes that press freedom is a form of "fearless" information dissemination, and prioritizes thoroughly examining information to ensure accuracy and impartiality towards individuals, the ruling party, opposition party, civil society, and others involved.

Since commencing his career in journalism, Mr. Liblib has been threatened by the Meanchey district authorities, has had his phone confiscated, and been forced to delete photos of a land dispute in the Boeung Tumpun commune. The authorities ordered journalists to leave the scene of the land dispute and threatened to take legal action if they did not comply. Mr. Liblib stated that the actions carried out by the authorities “is a form of intimidation against journalists.” He believes that authorities should give space for press freedom to promote the right of access to information and freedom of expression in Cambodia. Despite the intimidation received and limitations of press freedom in Cambodia, Mr. Liblib is ready to embrace challenges that may arise in the future: “Journalists who dare to speak the truth about society always face their own challenges.” However, as a professional journalist he acknowledges that he must remain cautious when reporting on events.

Mr. Liblib sees the revoking of the media license of Voice of Democracy (“VOD”) as a restriction on press freedom, but hopes the government will allow greater press freedom and freedom of expression. He believes that “when citizens receive real information about their society, they will be able to fully participate in the development of the nation.”

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