PUBLIC FORUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT IN BANTEAY MEANCHERY PROVINCE

Government granted land concessions since 2006 totaling around 3000 hectares have directly affected more than 200 families from nine villages; including Snoul Tret, Yeang Dankum and Thnal Bat, 4 communes in Banteay Meanchey Province. Complaints have been filed against the High Sour Company owned by Ms. Sour Chanthou, and Sampan Narrith a private business owner. Villagers have farmed the contested land since 1995; land they were given ownership of by the Government through social concessions, and in one instance Royal Degree. A peaceful resolution to the conflict has yet to be reached.

The Cambodian Centre for Human Rights will be facilitating a Public Forum on Human Rights and Development in Ou Bei Chorn Commune, O’Chrov district, Banteay Meanchey where villagers will have an opportunity to voice their concerns, ask questions and express their opinions to parliamentarians, local authorities, national and international organisations; as well other stakeholders who are concerned about the conflict and who desire a peaceful resolution. To date Mr. Kong Sam Onn, Program Director of Cambodian Center for Human Rights, H.E Mr. Nhek Bun Chhay, Funcinpec Party, H. E Mr. Yon Tharo, Sam Rainsy Party, H.E Souv Rany, Nationalist Party, H.E Ou Chan Rith, Human Rights Party, a Representative from the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Tang Svan, Deputy Chief Governor, and Mr. Som ChanKear, Adhoc, have confirmed their attendance at the public forum.

The Public Forum will take place on July 22, 2010, from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Pagoda Samaki Wan Snoul Tret, Snoul Tret Village, Ou Bei Chorn Commune, O’ Chrov District, Banteay Meanchey Province.

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