PRESS RELEASE
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MU SOCHUA’S UNFAIR TRIAL REFLECTIVE OF A BROKEN CAMBODIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM

CCHR releases a legal analysis of the fairness of the judicial process resulting in the conviction of Mu Sochua and calls for a campaign for justice in Cambodia

The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) today releases a legal analysis of the fairness of the judicial process that culminated in the Supreme Court of Cambodia rejecting the appeal by opposition parliamentarian and Nobel Peace Prize nominee H.E. Mu Sochua against her conviction for criminal defamation of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The analysis finds that the judicial process was unfair, marked by inequality before the law, seeing the intimidation of Mu Sochua’s lawyer that left her without legal representation, and taking place in courts effectively controlled by a party to the case, the Prime Minister and his Cambodian People’s Party. The analysis places the trial of Mu Sochua in the wider context of a non-independent judiciary often used as a tool to intimidate opposition voices, mistrusted by the Cambodian people, and regularly failing in its constitutional duty to protect their fundamental human rights.

Much of the Cambodian judicial system is broken. Without the implementation of true reform to fix it - that addresses the deep problems of political interference, widespread corruption and limited capacity to understand and apply human rights standards - a structural obstacle remains in place that will forever prevent Cambodians from enjoying their constitutional and human rights. CCHR calls for a campaign for judicial reform including using available domestic, regional and international mechanisms to demand a functioning and fair judiciary that protects the fundamental freedoms, land rights and livelihoods of the people of Cambodia.

The legal analysis will be made available in Khmer and English on the Cambodian Human Rights portal www.sithi.org and on the CCHR website www.cchrcambodia.org.

For more information, please contact:

Ou Virak, President, Cambodian Center for Human Rights
Tel: +855 12 40 40 51.
Email: ouvirak@cchrcambodia.org