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CCHR welcomes the announcement that it will not be closed

The Cambodian Center for Human Rights ("CCHR") welcomes the announcement made by Prime Minister Hun Sen yesterday, on 2 December 2017, and as reported in the news, that CCHR will not be shut down. The announcement follows an earlier order for the Ministry of Interior to investigate and possibly close CCHR, made on 26 November 2017.

Although this has been a challenging time for CCHR’s staff, the organization remained fully confident that any impartial investigation would affirm CCHR’s genuine independence, and the absence of any wrongdoing on its part, as highlighted in the statement it released on 26 November 2017.

CCHR looks forward to moving on from this investigation, and continuing the pursuit of its core mission: the urgent and vital work of protecting and promoting respect for human rights in Cambodia.

CCHR Executive Director Chak Sopheap comments:

“On behalf of all the staff at CCHR, I thank everyone who expressed their support and solidarity with us during this difficult period. The messages received from former staff, interns, beneficiaries, and communities, as well as supporters across the world, have been a great source of support and encouragement to us all. Although we warmly welcome this positive news, it is imperative that we now continue to focus on our core work, as the reality of Cambodia’s shrinking civic space poses many challenges for civil society.”

For more information, please contact CCHR Executive Director Chak Sopheap via telephone at +855 (0) 11 943 213 or e-mail at chaksopheap@cchrcambodia.org.

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Notes to the Editor:

CCHR, founded in November 2002, is a non-aligned, independent, non-governmental organization that works to promote and protect democracy and respect for human rights throughout Cambodia.

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

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 of Communication and Social Change at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia.