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CCHR releases Briefing Note on Business and Human Rights: Corporate Accountability in Land Rights Violations

The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) is proud to announce the release of its Briefing Note on Business and Human Rights entitled Corporate Accountability in Land Rights Violations. This Briefing Note aims to provide an overview of the challenges of seeking corporate accountability in Cambodia, examining the various mechanisms available to those facing land rights violations in the country, and the methods employed by the communities to achieve a resolution. The Briefing Note is available for download now in [Khmer](#) and [English](#). CCHR's previous Business and Human Rights Briefing Notes are also available in [Khmer](#) and [English](#).

The systematic violation of land rights is one of the most prevalent human rights issues in modern Cambodia. A core part of this problem is that it is difficult to hold companies accountable for their human rights impacts. Businesses across the globe have an impact, directly or indirectly, on virtually all human rights. This is particularly evident in land disputes, as companies are frequently accused of land grabbing, forced evictions and disrespecting indigenous land rights. While on paper Cambodian communities should be able to seek a remedy for land rights violations through a range of methods, including through companies themselves, relevant Government bodies and the courts, in practice seeking corporate accountability is difficult.

In this report, CCHR looks at the challenges of seeking corporate accountability for communities in four land disputes which, taken together, affected more than 1,800 households: the land dispute involving indigenous communities and rubber company Socfin-KCD in Mondulkiri Province; the dispute involving villagers and Mitr Phol Sugar Company in Oddar Meanchey Province; the dispute involving villagers and the MDS Company in the MDS Thmor Da Special Economic Zone in Pursat Province; and finally, the dispute between villagers and Koh Kong Sugar Industry Co. Ltd And Koh Kong Plantation Co. Ltd in Koh Kong Province.

As a result of desk and field research, CCHR identified 9 areas of concern which hinder achieving corporate accountability in Cambodia. The Briefing Note ends with 26 recommendations to the Royal Government of Cambodia, companies operating in Cambodia and civil society organizations to effectively prevent, mitigate and remedy these concerns, and to promote a more fair, transparent and effective land dispute resolution process across the country.

For further details, please find attached an **Executive Summary** of the Briefing Note.

For more information please contact CCHR's Business and Human Rights Project Coordinator, Mr. Vann Sophath, by phone at (+855) (0)12 941 206 or email at vann.sophath@cchrcambodia.org.

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Notes to 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 – primarily civil and political rights – throughout Cambodia.

CCHR is a member of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), the global network for freedom of expression. CCHR is also a member of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) SOS-Torture Network.

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.