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The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) Commemorates the Fifth Anniversary of the Death of Dr. Kem Ley

10 July 2021 marks the fifth anniversary of the death of Dr. Kem Ley, a political analyst and media commentator who was shot and killed while having his morning coffee at a gas station in central Phnom Penh on 10 July 2016. Following a speedy investigation – which lacked both thoroughness and independence – authorities arrested a man named Oeuth Ang, who identified himself as “Chuob Samlab” (meaning “Meet to Kill” in Khmer) and who “confessed” to the killing. Following a half-day trial on 23 March 2017, which was widely criticized for its failure to meet international fair trial standards, the Court found Oeuth Ang guilty of murder and sentenced him to life imprisonment. On 24 May 2019, the Supreme Court upheld his sentence.

To commemorate the fifth anniversary of the death of Dr. Kem Ley, to remember his legacy and honor his contribution to Cambodian society, CCHR is organizing a campaign on social media which will include the following activities:

- From 1 – 31 July, CCHR will change its Facebook page cover to display a picture and a quote from Dr. Kem Ley;
- From 2 – 7 July, CCHR will post a series of quotes from Dr. Kem Ley along with his photo on its Facebook page;
- From 5 – 31 July, CCHR will hold an online event, inviting the public to share their memories of Dr. Kem Ley and their messages for him;
- On 6 July, CCHR will conduct a radio talk show on the topic “Remember Kem Ley”;
- On 8 July, CCHR will release a video titled “Kem Ley’s Life Journey” on its Facebook page;
- On 9 July, CCHR will:
 - conduct a radio talk show on the topic “Fifth anniversary of Kem Ley’s death”; and
 - release a video showcasing messages from people who were close to Dr. Kem Ley;
- On 10 July, CCHR will release an infographic on impunity, highlighting Dr. Kem Ley’s case but also explaining what impunity is, what are the negative consequences of it and how to fight against impunity.

For more information, please contact CCHR’s Protecting Fundamental Freedoms Project Coordinator, Mr. Ruos Sarat, by e-mail at rossarath@cchrcambodia.org or by telephone at +855 (0)17 886 695.

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Notes to the Editor:

Founded in November 2002, CCHR 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 in Cambodia.

CCHR is a member of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), the global network for

freedom of expression, and CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. CCHR is also a member of the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) SOS-Torture Network and OECD Watch.

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.