The Cambodia Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) marks International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists

2 November 2021 marks International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists. This day is an opportunity to encourage discussions on unresolved crimes committed against journalists and media workers and pay tribute to journalists who regularly risk or have lost their lives for conducting their legitimate reporting work. Journalists play a critical role in providing reliable and accurate information to the public. Impunity for attacks against journalists has, therefore, a particularly damaging impact, limiting public awareness and constructive debates on topics and issues of public interest. This day also serves as a reminder that governments around the world need to fulfill their obligation to promote and respect press freedom and end impunity for crimes against journalists.

Since 1994, at least 13 journalists have been murdered in Cambodia for undertaking their work. At the time of their deaths, 12 of the victims were engaged in activities that posed a direct threat to powerful individuals within the Cambodian elite. Five worked for media outlets critical of the ruling party, while seven were investigating and reporting on allegations of corruption by high-level individuals in the RGC and military. To date, no effective, independent, and transparent investigations have been conducted in order to bring the perpetrators of these egregious crimes to justice, leaving these cases unresolved and the victims denied the justice they long deserve while their perpetrators continue to enjoy impunity.

To mark International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, CCHR will conduct an online campaign with various activities from 1 to 4 November 2021. With this campaign, CCHR aims to raise awareness of the important role that journalists play in a democratic society and of the rampant impunity plaguing Cambodia, including for crimes committed against journalists. CCHR hopes to publicize the impunity afforded to perpetrators of these crimes and call for an end to such impunity.

Please join CCHR for the following events in November:

- On 1 November, CCHR will conduct a radio talk show about International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists.
- On 2 November, CCHR will hold a panel discussion on press freedom and impunity and release a joint statement on impunity against journalists in Cambodia.
- On 3 November, CCHR will release an updated infographic mapping all the cases of murdered journalists in Cambodia, and please visit a link: https://bit.ly/3mdXpUy.
- On 4 November, CCHR will release an animated video about Neak Bontor Vean, which relates the story of the son of a murdered journalist trying to find justice for his father.
For more information, please contact CCHR’s Promoting and Protecting Freedom of Expression and Independent Media Project Coordinator, Mr. Houn Phorn, via email at phorn@cchrcambodia.org or via phone at 070757884.

– END –

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.