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Cambodian Center for Human Rights

**CCHR Fundamental Freedoms Alert – Phnom Penh, 03 June 2020**

**Koh Kong authorities ban an environmental cycling group from their cycling campaign to save Koh Kong Krao Island**

**Date of the incident:** 3 June 2020  
**Category of HRD:** Environmental activists  
**Location:** Koh Kong Province  
**Nature of threat:** Freedom of Assembly

Today, on 3 June 2020, a group of 18 youth environmental activists were banned from cycling from Koh Kong to Phnom Penh by Koh Kong district authorities. The activists were taking part in a campaign to “Save Koh Kong Krao Island” where they were attempting to cycle to the capital to submit a petition to Prime Minister Hun Sen. Their petition requests the government to classify Koh Kong Krao island as a protected national sea park to enable it to preserve its natural resources.

When authorities interfered with the procession, each activist was required to undergo a temperature check. Activists refused the authorities request to present their identity cards, however agreed to write and submit a list of their names. The authorities also wanted to review their petition and asked them to thumbprint a letter declaring that they would not submit the petition to the local authority – but the activists refused both requests. At around 11:30am 10 of their bicycles were taken by Koh Kong district police. At around 2:00pm Koh Kong district police invited all the activists to have a discussion over the confiscation of their bicycles, requesting to meet with one activist at a time, but they refused the police’s request because they had already informed the authorities of the purpose of their campaign.

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