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**Cambodian Center for Human Rights**

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**CCHR Human Rights Defender Alert – Phnom Penh, 22 January 2018**

**Trial date set for Mother Nature Cambodia activists**

*Date:* 25 January 2018  
*Names:* Hun Vannak and Doem Kundy  
*Category of Activist:* Environmental activists  
*Location:* Koh Kong province  
*Nature of threat:* Judicial

Two Mother Nature Cambodia activists, Hun Vannak and Doem Kundy, have received a date for their trial after spending over four months in pre-trial detention on charges of ‘violation of privacy’ and ‘incitement to commit a felony’ under Articles 302 and 495 of the Cambodian Criminal Code.

Hun Vannak and Doem Kundy were arrested off the coast of Prek Khsach in Koh Kong province on 11 September 2017, while filming two large vessels they suspected of illegally carrying sand for export. The pair’s arrest followed a complaint by the LYP Group, a company owned by Senator Ly Yong Phat, and came just one day after Mother Nature Cambodia released a video highlighting alleged discrepancies in official sand export data.<sup>1</sup>

They were denied bail on 3 October 2017, and they have been held in pre-trial detention in Koh Kong prison for the past 133 days, in reportedly deplorable conditions.<sup>2</sup>

The hearing is scheduled for 8AM on 25 January 2018 at the Koh Kong Provincial Court. If convicted, the pair face up to two years in prison and a four million Riel fine each.

**For more information, please contact CCHR’s Protecting Fundamental Freedoms Coordinator Ms. Ramana Sorn via telephone at +855 (0) 17 655 591 or email at [ramanasorn@cchrcambodia.org](mailto:ramanasorn@cchrcambodia.org).**

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<sup>1</sup> Sen David, ‘Mother Nature activists detained’, *Khmer Times*, (13 September 2017), <http://bit.ly/2mDjhZv>; See also: Sen David, ‘Nature activists charged’, *Khmer Times*, (14 September 2017), <http://bit.ly/2yVWYEd>.

<sup>2</sup> For more information, see: Joint Press Release, ‘CSO’s Call for Immediate Release of Mother Nature Cambodia Activists Hun Vannak and Doem Kundy’, (14 November 2017) available at: [http://www.cchrcambodia.org/index\\_old.php?title=Joint-Press-Release---CSOs-Call-for-Immediate-Release-of-Mother-Nature-Cambodia-Activists-Hun-Vannak-and-Doem-Kundy&url=media/media.php&p=press\\_detail.php&prid=676&id=5](http://www.cchrcambodia.org/index_old.php?title=Joint-Press-Release---CSOs-Call-for-Immediate-Release-of-Mother-Nature-Cambodia-Activists-Hun-Vannak-and-Doem-Kundy&url=media/media.php&p=press_detail.php&prid=676&id=5)