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

In 2013 the United Nations General Assembly adopted and proclaimed 2 November as the “International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists”. This landmark resolution condemns all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers and urges Member States to implement definite measures countering the present culture of impunity. It also requires the Parties to do their utmost to prevent violence against journalists and media workers, to ensure accountability, bring the perpetrators of crimes against journalists and media workers to justice, and ensure that victims have access to appropriate remedies. It further calls upon States to promote a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference.

Since 1994, at least 15 journalists have been murdered in Cambodia while undertaking their work. At the time of their deaths, 12 of them were engaged in activities that posed a direct threat to powerful individuals within the Cambodian elite. 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 the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists 2023, CCHR will launch an online campaign from 28 October to 22 November 2023. Through the campaign’s various activities, CCHR aims to raise awareness of the important role that journalists play in a democratic society and of the rampant impunity plaguing Cambodia, including the crimes committed against journalists. CCHR hopes to publicize this campaign in an effort to prosecute the perpetrators of such crimes and call for an end to the impunity their cases enjoy.

Please join CCHR in the following events this month:

- From 28 to 29 October, CCHR will release a series of posters for the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists and role of journalists.
- From 30 October to 13 November, CCHR will re-share a read-aloud video of 15 murdered journalists.
- On 1 November, CCHR will re-share a video animation titled “The Successor“ and live the radio talk under the topic of international day to end impunity for crime against journalists.
- On 2 November, CCHR will release a joint statement on the international day to end impunity for crime against journalists.
- On 3 November, CCHR will release an infographic on cases of harassment against journalists from 2021 to 2023.
For more information, please contact Mr. Houn Phorn, CCHR’s Sustaining Independent Media and Freedom of Expression in Cambodia Project Coordinator via telephone at +855 (0)70 757 884 or via email at phorn@cchrcambodia.org or Mr. Ruos Sarat, CCHR’s Advancing Rights in Cambodia Project Coordinator via telephone at +855 (0)17 886 695 or via email at rossarath@cchrcambodia.org.

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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.