

The State of Freedom of Expression, Press Freedom, and Access to Information in Cambodia

1 September 2022 – 31 August 2023

CCHR monitored relevant developments pertaining to the rights to **freedom of expression, press freedom, and access to information** in Cambodia from September 2022 to August 2023.

Its research showed that these rights were **under attack**, with a **sustained targeting of journalists and HRDs** for legitimately exercising them in their crucial reporting and advocacy work.

The government also continued its worrying trend of **over-policing free speech and silencing critical voices**, a repression that was **exacerbated** ahead of the July 2023 general election.



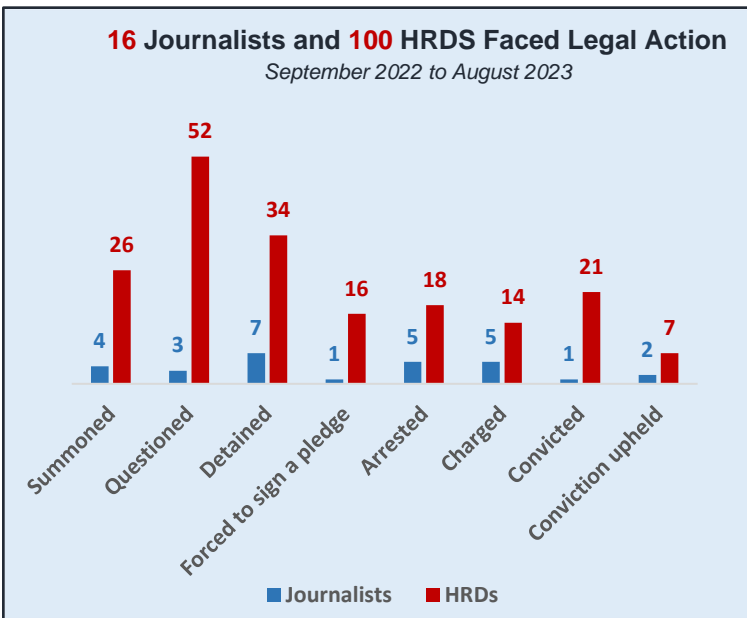
2023 Freedom in the World
24/100
Not free

2023 Freedom on the Net
44/100
Partly free

2023 World Press Freedom Index
42.02/100
Difficult situation

2022 Democracy Index
3.18/10
Authoritarian

AT A GLANCE: JOURNALISTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS UNDER ATTACK



Five Media Licenses Revoked

- 16 January 2023**
- Khmer Cover TV
- 13 February 2023**
- Voice of Democracy
- 16 March 2023**
- Federation of Cambodia-ASEAN Journalists
- Raksmeay Kampong Cham
- Dumnong Knong Srok

News Websites Blocked

- Kamnotra
- Radio Free Asia
- Cambodia Daily

HIGH-PROFILE CASES OF JUDICIAL HARASSMENT

LABOUR RIGHTS SUPPORTED UNION OF KHMER EMPLOYEES OF NAGWORLD MEMBERS

25 May 2023
Sentenced to prison

Chhim Sithar: Two years
Chhim Sokhorn, Hay Sopheap, Kleang Soben, Sun Srey Pich, Touch Sereymas: 1.5 years
Sok Narith, Sok Kongkea, Ry Sovandy: 1 year susp.

KOH KONG LAND ACTIVISTS

Chhan Chheurn, Det Huor, Erb Vy, Erp Teung, Heng Chey, Inn Thou, Kert Nov, Kong Men, Puo Houn, Sok Chey

15 August 2023
Sentenced
One year in prison and 40M Riels compensation

ADHOC FIVE

Ny Sokha, Yi Soksan, Lim Mony, Nay Vanda, Ny Chakrya

18 November 2022
Sentence upheld
Five years in prison

'Fabricated,' 'politically motivated [...] charges'
Human Rights Watch

JOURNALISTS

Sem Diya: 23 Dec 2022
Sentenced
One year in prison

Pen Nuon: 23 Jan 2023
Sentence upheld
85M Riels fine & compensation

Kao Piseth: 1 Feb 2023
Sentence upheld
Two years in prison

