



**CCHR PRESS RELEASE - Phnom Penh, 29 April 2024**

**The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) marks World Press Freedom Day**

3 May 2024 will mark World Press Freedom Day, a day to honor the crucial role that journalists play in delivering accurate and reliable information to the public, sometimes at the risk of their lives, and to recall the vital importance of press freedom in promoting human rights, good governance and democracy. This day also serves as a reminder that governments around the world need to foster an environment in which press freedom is empowered and protected, enabling independent media and journalists to carry out their crucial role freely, without harassment or fear of retaliation.

Unfortunately, CCHR observes that independent media outlets and journalists in Cambodia continue to encounter numerous barriers to conducting their legitimate reporting work freely and without self-censorship. The ongoing targeting of independent media outlets and journalists for exercising their fundamental right to freedom of expression continues to afflict Cambodian society.

Between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, more than 16 journalists faced judicial harassment for their reporting work, and five media licenses were revoked. In the 2023 World Press Freedom Index, [Cambodia ranked 147 out of 180 countries assessed](#), showing a drop compared to previous years' data. Cambodian authorities have also failed to conduct effective, independent, and transparent investigations into the deaths of the 15 journalists who were murdered in the last two decades. As a result, perpetrators have yet to be prosecuted in accordance with international human rights standards.

In the context of the continued deterioration of the media environment in Cambodia, it is all the more crucial to recall that democracy cannot thrive without free and independent media.

To mark this year's World Press Freedom Day, CCHR will conduct a series of office and online campaign activities to inform the public about this day, and to raise awareness about the importance of freedom of expression and the roles of journalists and media in a democratic society. Please join CCHR in the following events:

- On 30 April, CCHR will release online quizzes on press freedom, access to information, and freedom of expression.
- From 1 to 10 May, CCHR will re-publish 10 journalists' profiles on its Facebook page.
- On 3 May, CCHR will host an award ceremony for youth initiative projects, hold a panel discussion on *“Youth's Perspectives on the State of Freedom of Expression,”* and host a Radio Dialogue under the topic *“Climate of Press Freedom”* at its office in Phnom Penh.
- On 6 May, CCHR will release a snapshot on the state of press freedom in Cambodia.
- On 7 and 8 May, CCHR will re-share its animated video on Press Freedom (*“Courage”*) and awareness hip hop song on Access to Information (*“Free Press”*) on its Facebook page.
- On 9 and 13 May, CCHR will release two segment videos from the Radio Dialogue.

**For more information, please contact CCHR's Sustaining Independent Media and Fundamental Freedoms Project Coordinator, Mr. Houn Phorn, at [phorn@cchrcambodia.org](mailto:phorn@cchrcambodia.org) or 070757884.**

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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’s SOS-Torture Network and OECD Watch.

The Cambodian Human Rights Portal ([www.sithi.org](http://www.sithi.org)), managed by CCHR, 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.