

# Violations and Restrictions of Fundamental Freedoms by Third Parties in Cambodia, 2021

Third party = a non-state actor

The Fundamental Freedoms Monitoring Project (FFMP) monitors the space for civil society in Cambodia, including the degree to which the freedoms of association, expression, and assembly can be exercised.

## Third parties are increasingly violating and restricting fundamental freedoms.

In 2021 the FFMP recorded:

**54** incidents that involved third parties.

Including:

**42** violations and **12** restrictions.<sup>1</sup>

## Specific groups were targeted by third parties:

**15** Human Rights Defenders

**14** Community Groups/Representatives

**12** former Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) members

**10** Trade Unions or Federations

Most incidents involving third parties are perpetrated by unknown individuals.

**21** were perpetrated by individual's unknown to the victims

**11** incidents were perpetrated by **employers**

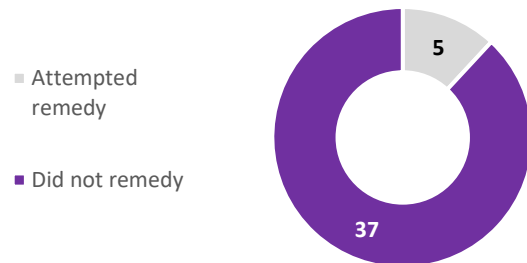
**20%** of incidents involved **physical attacks** perpetrated by unknown individuals against individuals exercising fundamental freedoms.

**8** involved people associated with the **CNRP**.

## Redress of violations of fundamental freedoms perpetrated by third parties.

As a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the **Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) is obligated to respect and protect fundamental freedoms**. Protecting these rights requires governments to provide redress to individuals who have suffered violations of their fundamental freedoms perpetrated by third parties. Redress can be provided through a **prompt and impartial investigation** of the purported violations, **taking judicial action** against those responsible for the violation, or **providing effective remedies** to victims through ensuring access to justice and adequate, prompt reparations for any harms suffered. A failure by the RGC to provide redress is a failure to uphold the RGC's obligations under the ICCPR.

**The RGC rarely took remedial action** against violations of fundamental freedoms by third parties.



## Case Study: Sin Khon

On 21 November 2021, former CNRP activist, Sin Khon, was attacked and murdered by a group of unknown assailants in Phnom Penh. A suspect, Seang Chhorath, was arrested the next day and confessed to the murder in retaliation for Khon allegedly insulting Shhorath's brother. Civil society and Khon's family have doubts about the confession and believe Khon's killing is politically motivated. A United Nations Human Rights Office Spokesperson also expressed concern at inconsistencies between the official version of events and information their office received and called for an independent and impartial investigation into the crime. The RGC has released no further information regarding Chhorath's arrest or any subsequent criminal charges.

<sup>1</sup> A restriction can be legally permissible under certain circumstances, while a violation prima facie contravenes international legal standards.



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Cambodian Center for Human Rights



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