



**CCHR PRESS RELEASE - Phnom Penh, 28 April 2025**

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

3 May 2025 is 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 great personal risk, and to recall the vital importance of press freedom in promoting human rights and democracy. This day also serves as a reminder that governments around the world must foster an environment in which press freedom is protected, in turn empowering and enabling independent media and journalists to carry out their crucial role without harassment.

Regrettably, 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 continued harassment of independent media outlets and journalists for exercising their fundamental right to freedom of expression continues to afflict Cambodian society, which is left worse off by the shrinking number of independent media outlets that provide alternative sources of news and information.

Between [1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024](#), 17 journalists faced judicial harassment for their reporting work, and three media licenses were revoked. In the 2024 World Press Freedom Index, [Cambodia ranked 151 out of 180 countries assessed](#), constituting a regression on the previous year. 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.

Given Cambodia's deteriorating media environment, it is more important than ever to emphasize that democracy is underpinned by a free and independent media.

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

- On 29 April, CCHR will re-release online quizzes on press freedom, access to information, and freedom of expression.
- On 2 May, CCHR will host a radio dialogue “State of Press Freedom in Cambodia”.
- On 5 May, CCHR will release a snapshot on the state of press freedom in Cambodia.
- On 6 and 8 May, CCHR will release two segment videos from the Radio Dialogue on 2 May.
- On 12 and 14 May, CCHR will release videos on the topics of (1) the Current Media Space (2) Promotion of Press Freedom in the Current Context.

**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.**

– END –

**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.