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Cambodian Center for Human Rights

Quarterly Human Rights Update

January – March 2026

From January to March 2026, Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR) monitored 25 incidents of human rights violations and restrictions. These included violations of the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association, land rights, and the right to liberty.

During this period, CCHR observed that freedom of expression continues to be significantly restricted. Journalists face particular risk when exercising their profession, with legal harassment being frequently brought against them for doing so. It is not only journalists who face considerable risk for exercising this right, but also social media users, for expressing their views on news and current affairs.

Here is an overview the violations documented by CCHR

Freedom of expression:

There were 14 incidents of legal harassment



These incidents impacted 13 journalists and three social media users



In one incident, a journalist received a phone call from a security official, telling him to report positively on provincial issues or face legal action. In another, a factory workers user was convicted of incitement and defamation for posts related to the border conflict. She was sentenced to two years.

Freedom of association:

There were three incidents of legal harassment against three individuals in connection with exercising their right to exercise their freedom of association



In one incident, a prominent member of the political opposition party, Nation Power Party, had his political rights to vote and run for election stripped, following a court ruling. A labour rights defender and trade union leader was denied bail and remained in pre-trial detention on charges of “incitement” and “public insult”.

Land rights & forced evictions:

There were seven incidents related to land rights and housing rights, specifically forced evictions



Some members of Boeung Trabek community in Phnom Penh received a letter ordering residents to accept compensation, prompting fears of forced evictions



Nearly 400 families in Preah Vihear were also threatened with forced eviction, reportedly to allow for Chinese companied to invest

Right to liberty:

There were 3 incidents of the right to liberty being violated



In two separate incidents, three journalists were detained by police in Takeo and Oddar Meanchey, in response to their reporting on the presence of online scam compounds in these provinces. As the journalists were legitimately exercising their right to freedom of expression to report on public interest issues, their detention may be considered arbitrary.

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