



Quarterly Human Rights Update

April - June 2026



From April to June 2026, CCHR monitored 41 incidents of human rights violations and restrictions. These included violations of the rights to freedom of expression and liberty, as well as land rights and the right to non-discrimination. During this period, CCHR observed that freedom of expression continues to be significantly restricted, especially in relation to online expression. Social media users also continued to face legal harassment for sharing their personal views, particularly regarding the Thailand-Cambodia border conflict.

The following is an overview of the violations documented by CCHR



Freedom of expression:



CCHR recorded 23 incidents involving restrictions on the right to freedom of expression. Of these, 7 involved social media users who expressed their views online – four resulted in legal charges and three in convictions.



Two of these incidents concerned social media users who expressed their views online about the Royal Government of Cambodia's (RGC) handling of the Cambodia-Thailand conflict. One was convicted, while the other was denied bail. The Supreme Court also upheld the "treason" convictions and 14-year sentences of two journalists.



LGBTIQ rights:



There was one incident related to the rights of LGBTIQ people.



A trans woman was arrested and remanded in pre-trial detention in response to social media posts she made after being breathalyzed by police. In addition to charges of incitement to cause serious social disorder and insulting public officials, she was also charged with using forged public documents in relation to her national identity card, which lists the sex assigned to her at birth, while her driver's license lists her as female. This discrepancy arises because Cambodia currently lacks a legal framework for gender recognition, preventing trans people from officially changing their gender markers on legal documents.



Land rights & forced evictions:



There were 16 incidents related to housing and land rights and the exploitation of natural resources, particularly land grabbing. Of these incidents, seven involved private companies carrying out land grabbing, forest clearing, or mineral exploration. In many cases, these activities were facilitated by the RGC, which either failed to intervene to assist the victims or granted the companies Economic Land Concession (ELC). In five of the documented incidents, Indigenous communities were the victims of these activities.



Right to liberty:



There were two incidents recorded involving the right to liberty, in which individuals were denied bail and remained in detention in relation to the exercise of their fundamental rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly. Notably, detaining an individual for exercising these rights renders the detention arbitrary under international law.

In one incident, the Phnom Penh Appeal Court denied bail to a monk and citizen journalist, who had been arrested in April for sharing his views online about the border conflict. The Supreme Court also denied bail to a human rights defender and Vice President of the Khmer Student Intelligence League Association.