មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា
Cambodian Center for Human Rights

FAIR TRIAL RIGHTS REPORT 2025 – KEY FINDINGS

In 2025, CCHR's Fair Trial Rights Project monitored 422 criminal trials involving 573 defendants at Cambodia's four Appeal Courts: Phnom Penh, Battambang, Tboung Khmum and Preah Sihanouk.

CCHR assessed the extent to which Appeal Courts adhered to the right to a fair trial, which is guaranteed under both Cambodian and international human rights law.

CCHR assessed 14 components of the right to a fair trial in each monitored trial:

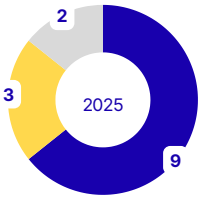
01 Right to legal representation
02 Right to the presumption of innocence
03 Right to liberty
04 Professionalism of judges, prosecutors and lawyers
05 Right to a public hearing
06 Right to be tried without undue delay
07 Evidentiary rights
08 Adequate time & facilities to prepare a defense
09 Right to a public judgement
10 Rights of children in conflict with the law
11 Right to understand the nature and cause of the charge(s)
12 Right to be present at trial
13 Right to not be compelled to confess guilt or to testify against oneself
14 Right to a reasoned judgement

Overall performance of each of the Appeal Courts:

Tboung Khmum ↑ o Improvement

No. of FTR upheld
No. of FTR not full...
No. of not enough...

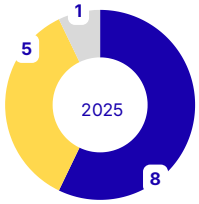
FTRs upheld in 2025: 9
FTRs upheld in 2024: 7



Phnom Penh ↑ o Improvement

No. of FTR upheld
No. of FTR not full...
No. of not enough...

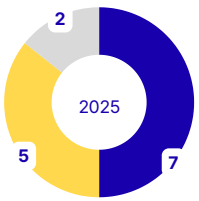
FTRs upheld in 2025: 8
FTRs upheld in 2024: 7



Preah Sihanouk ↑ o Improvement

No. of FTR upheld
No. of FTR not full...
No. of not enough...

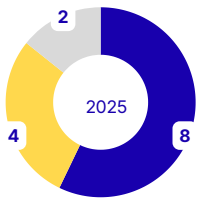
FTRs upheld in 2025: 7
FTRs upheld in 2024: 6



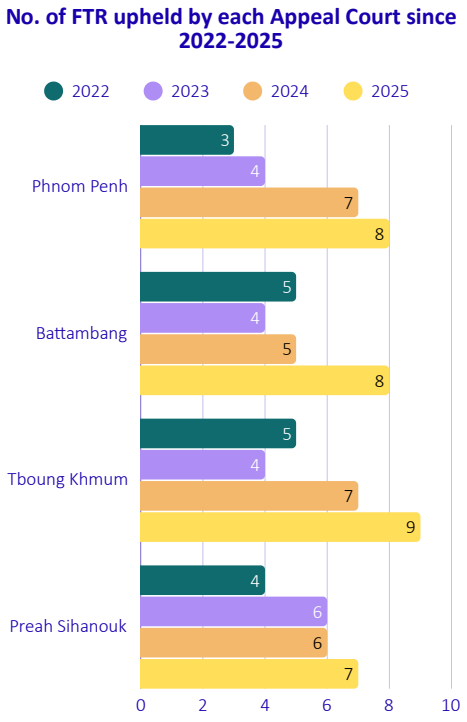
Battambang ↑ o Improvement

No. of FTR upheld
No. of FTR not full...
No. of not enough...

FTRs upheld in 2025: 8
FTRs upheld in 2024: 5



Record of each Appeal Court in upholding FTRs, 2022 – 2025



FTRs upheld by Appeal Courts in 2025

Right to a public judgement	Upheld by 4 Courts	Right to a public hearing	Upheld by 3 Courts
Right to adequate time to prepare a defense	Upheld by 4 Courts	Right not to be compelled to confess guilt or testify against oneself	Upheld by 2 Courts
Right to understand the nature & cause of the charge	Upheld by 4 Courts	Right to a reasoned judgement	Not Upheld by 1 Court and 3 courts have not enough data to assess
Right to be present at trial	Upheld by 4 Courts	Right to liberty	Upheld by 0 Court
Right to be tried without undue delay	Upheld by 4 Courts	Evidentiary rights	Upheld by 0 Court
Professionalism of judges, prosecutors and lawyers	Upheld by 4 Courts	Right to legal representation	Upheld by 0 Court
Right to presumption of innocence	Upheld by 3 Courts	Rights of children in conflict with the law	4 courts have not enough data to assess

Improvements from 2024

2024
Two Appeal Courts upheld the right on professionalism of judges, prosecutors and lawyers

2024
Three FTRs upheld by all four Courts

2024
Four FTRs not upheld by any of the Courts

2025
Four of the Appeal Courts upheld this right

2025
Six FTRs upheld by all four Courts

2025
Three FTRs not upheld by any of the Courts

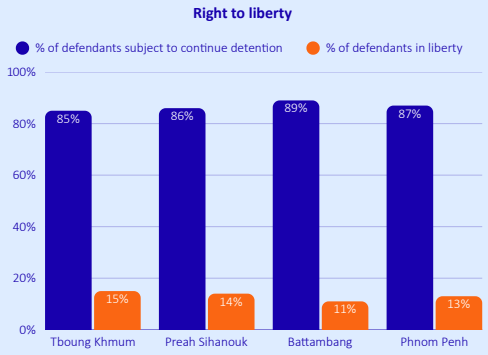
The right not to be compelled to confess guilt or to testify against oneself:

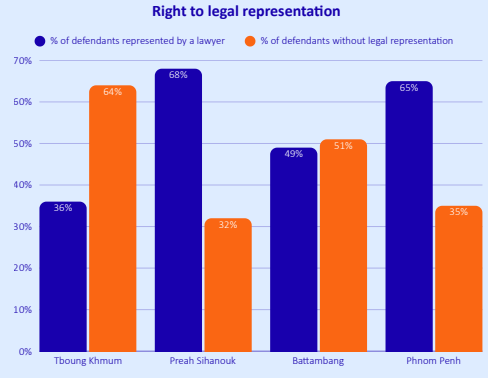
In 2025, four defendants before the Phnom Penh and Preah Sihanouk Courts of Appeal reported having been subjected to violence or torture during judicial police investigations for the purpose of obtaining a confession. This represents a decrease compared to 2024, when 15 defendants across three Courts of Appeal (Phnom Penh, Preah Sihanouk, and Battambang) reported similar allegations.

On the right to the presumption of innocence:

In 2025, 12% of detained defendants across the four Appeal Courts wore blue uniforms designated for convicted prisoners. This represents an improvement compared to 2024, when 29% of detained defendants wore blue uniforms.
Tboung Khmum Court of Appeal showed the most notable improvement, with 93% of defendants appearing in dark orange uniforms, compared to 45% in 2024.
Preah Sihanouk Court of Appeal also showed an improvement, with 100% of defendants appearing in dark orange uniforms, compared to 90% in 2024.

Rights not upheld by any of the Courts of Appeal in 2025:





Legal representation of defendants in monitored cases across all four Courts by year:

- 2025: 56% of defendants had legal representation
- 2024: 55.8% of defendants had legal representation
- 2023: 58.7% of defendants had legal representation
- 2022: 66.7% of defendants had legal representation

For four consecutive years, serious shortcomings have persisted in ensuring defendants' right to legal representation, falling short of international human rights standards. This creates significant barriers to access to justice, particularly as domestic law does not permit defendants to access their case files.

This Report and the previous "Fair Trial Rights in Cambodia" reports can be found on CCHR's website www.cchrcambodia.org and Sithi Portal.

Should you have any questions or require any further information about this Report, please email CCHR at info@cchrcambodia.org.

Alternatively, please contact CCHR at: #798, Street 99, Sangkat Boeng Trabek, Khan Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. (Tel: +855 (0) 23 72 69 01).

Full Report QR here

October 2026

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