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The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR) marks the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted and proclaimed 2 November as the "International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists". This resolution urged Member States to implement definitive measures to counter the prevailing culture of impunity. It condemns all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers, calling on Member States to do their utmost to prevent violence, ensure accountability, bring perpetrators to justice and ensure that victims have access to appropriate remedies. It further calls upon States to promote a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference.

Since 1994, at least 15 journalists have been killed in Cambodia in connection with their work, most recently in 2024 when an environmental journalist was fatally shot while investigating illegal logging for which the perpetrator was sentenced to 12 years in prison. At the time of their deaths, 12 of them were reporting on sensitive issues involving powerful individuals, officials, or state institutions. To this date, no effective, independent, and transparent investigations have been conducted to bring the perpetrators of these egregious crimes to justice. Many of these cases remain unresolved, and the victims are denied the justice they deserve while their perpetrators continue to enjoy impunity.

Reflecting on the persistent impunity for crimes against journalists and human rights defenders in Cambodia, CCHR's Executive Director, Mr. Seng Sovathana, stated:

"Impunity not only denies justice to victims and their families; it also undermines the rights and freedoms of everyone. When attacks against journalists and human rights defenders go unpunished, they silence critical voices, weaken accountability, and discourage others from speaking out. Every attack must be investigated independently and transparently, and those responsible must be brought to justice".

To mark the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists 2026, CCHR will conduct an online campaign from 02 November to 18 November 2026. Through various activities, the campaign aims to raise awareness of and call for the end of impunity. By highlighting documented cases, CCHR also seeks to advocate for accountability and justice for victims and their families.

Please join CCHR for the following events in November to commemorate this important date:

- **5 November:** Re-release of a short video titled "Explaining Impunity".
- **6 November:** Publication of a poster highlighting public opinion on impunity.
- **7 November:** Re-sharing of the video "The Successor".
- **10 November**: Release of a compilation video commemorating 15 murdered journalists.
- **11 and 12 November**: Release of two video excerpts from the radio dialogue held on 2 November 2026
- **13 November:** Dialogue titled "Together to Eliminate Impunity".

For more information, please contact Mr. Houn Phorn, project coordinator of CCHR:

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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 (OMCT) SOS-Torture Network and OECD Watch.

The Cambodian Human Rights Portal www.sithi.org 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.