



CCHR’s Annual Report for 2014

Organization	Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”)
Project Goal	CCHR’s vision is of a non-violent Cambodia in which people can enjoy the fundamental human rights to which they are entitled, are treated equally, are empowered to participate in democracy, and all can share in the benefits of Cambodia’s ongoing economic development.
Duration	From January- December 2014

During this reporting period from January-December 2014, Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”) has worked progressively toward its plan as the following:

I. Progress

During the reporting period, CCHR issued 126 publications including Press Releases/Media Comments/Open Letters, Joint Statements, Human Rights Defenders and/or Freedom of Expression Alerts, Briefing Notes, Research Reports, Factsheets, Legal Analysis, leaflet and other types of documents. These documents covered a wide variety of human rights issues, varying from land rights, business and human rights, women’s political representative, political/electoral/governance reform, freedom of expression, sexual orientation and gender identity, judicial reform, human rights defenders, minority rights and more.

In addition, CCHR conducted at least 167 live radio talk shows, each focusing on one or more of the topics above, including eight related to land rights, business and human rights, fair trial rights and human rights defenders. CCHR organized two workshops on freedom of expression, one on youth and electoral reform, one on the development of human rights sensitive terminology with regards to LGBT issues and one joint workshop related to human rights defenders. CCHR held 44 trainings on topics ranging from information technology, social media, LGBT rights, land rights, fair trial rights, business and human rights and security measures for human rights defenders.

Of particular note, CCHR conducted three campaigns. To mark International Right to Truth Day on 24 March 2014, CCHR launched the “[Where is My Justice?](#)” campaign, calling on all partners and supporters to join CCHR in demanding truth and justice for victims of violence by the security forces. In November, CCHR conducted a [campaign](#) in the lead up the International Day to End Impunity on 23 November, by creating a photo petition requesting that the government end impunity. CCHR received [about 280 photos](#). A giant banner with all the photos was delivered to the Ministry of Justice [on 2 December 2014](#). Moreover, CCHR also organized a “[Where is my justice?](#)” [photo exhibition](#) on 9 December 2014, one day ahead of International Human Rights Day. The objective of the exhibition

was to raise awareness amongst a broad and diverse audience about the issue of impunity in Cambodia and to share the stories of victims of impunity including journalists, victims of land disputes, protestors, members of labor unions and LGTBI people, among others. The exhibition was open until 14 December 2014.

II. What went well and what didn't

CCHR's HRD Alert of 26 May 2014 regarding the charging and detention of eight union leaders and members brought the case to the attention of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders of the World Organization against Torture ("OMCT") and the International Federation for Human Rights ("FIDH"). As a result, the two INGOs released a [joint urgent appeal](#) asking the Cambodian authorities to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of all arrested people in all circumstances, to put an end to all acts of harassment, to conform to the UN Declaration of Human Rights and to ensure the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cambodia. Another HRDs alert was released on 8 April 2014 on the threat to close the Cambodian CSO Ponlork Khmer.

More than 35 HRDs and other protected individuals were assisted by the Project and experienced a reduction in threats against them and risks after the project provided support. Additionally, CCHR's support in case of threats or violation of rights has nourished HRDs' confidence in undertaking human rights activities.

Under the Trial Monitoring Project ("TMP"), CCHR has been awarded a small grant by the 2014 World Justice Challenge to produce a series of video clips on fair trial rights in Cambodia. This is a great opportunity for the TMP to reach out to more people. The award was announced by the [World Justice Challenge's](#) webpage on 31 March 2014. Following the award announcement, the [Phnom Penh Post](#) reported this on 4 April 2014.

In addition, there are several international organizations working on trial monitoring and fair trial rights who have contacted the TMP to explore cooperation in this particular field, namely [Open Trials](#) and [Fair Trials International](#).

Due to the upheaval that resulted from mass demonstrations of garment and other workers and the political opposition early in the year, there were delays in conducting certain activities. As key partners were pre-occupied with responding to the political crisis and the resulting crackdown on freedom of expression and association, it was challenging to mobilize people to attend such events.

III. Lessons learned

In some cases, CCHR did not have the opportunity to provide legal support to HRDs – even though such support was warranted – after they dropped legal challenges against their detention after being ordered by the police to sign agreements stating that they would not engage in future demonstrations or illegal activities in order to be released.

The few high-profile HRD cases that garnered international attention should not mask the visible increase in intimidation tactics used at the local, grassroots level, where there is no international scrutiny. The Project learned the importance of highlighting the case of every HRD who is subject to intimidation. The HRD Alerts were issued to international and national NGOs, donors, embassies, freedom of expression groups, other HRDs and the UN offices in Cambodia in order to raise awareness of violations and to put pressure on the Cambodian authorities to halt these abuses.

IV. Gender and the Rights Based Approach

CCHR strives to achieve gender equality throughout all of its programs and projects. During the project implementation, CCHR sought to overcome barriers to women's engagement, such as running some women only events, ensuring equal representation of male and female speakers at other events (providing role models for both genders); and at all opportunities restating the fact of men and women's equal legal status with regards to human rights. Nevertheless, in some events organized by CCHR, the number of men was less than the number of women who participated. For instance in the two 'Women Talks' organized by CCHR, women made up 69.74% of the total participants (380). Although the project encouraged both men and women to participate, it appears that most people in Cambodia still view discussions of issues regarding women's as relevant only to women, and consequently men were reluctant to attend. CCHR always encourages men to attend such events due to its belief that the support of men will help promote women's participation in politics.

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