Chea Vichea was gunned down in broad daylight near a newspaper stand in central Phnom Penh.

Chea Vichea was the leader of the Free Trade Union of Workers of the Kingdom of Cambodia (FTUWKC).

On 28 January 2004, the police arrested two individuals and charged them with murder.

In August 2005, the two suspects were convicted of murder and sentenced to 20 years in prison. However, when the case arrived at the Supreme Court in 2008, the Court released the two on bail and ordered the Appeal Court to reinvestigate the case. In December 2012, the Appeal Court upheld their jail term and they were sent back to prison.

Despite the lack of credible evidence, and the fact that an eye witness testified that the two accused were not those who shot Chea Vichea, the Appeal Court still upheld their conviction.

The case raised serious concerns about the investigation process, and the independence of the judiciary in Cambodia.

On 25 September 2013, the Supreme Court acquitted the two individuals for lack of evidence. The two spent around five years in prison for a crime they did not commit.

On 10 June 2015, a special inter-ministerial committee was established to investigate into the case.

As of January 2020, there is no indication as to whether any further investigations have been undertaken to identify who the killers of Chea Vichea were.

Justice for Chea Vichea remains to be done. His real killers remain at large.

January 2004

Chea Vichea is shot dead

Two suspects arrested

September 2013

Supreme Courts acquittal

January 2004

#CHEAVICHEA

IMPUNITY