The arrest of Rong Chhun in July 2020 spurred a wave of protests across the country, with many youth activists gathering to call for his release from prison. Many protesters were consequently arrested and charged with incitement.

### August 2020

**4 August 2020 - Arrests of former CNRP activists**

After participating in protests calling for Rong Chhun’s release, two former opposition party activists, Chhuor Pheng and Chum Puthy, were arrested in Phnom Penh. The activists attempted to meet monks, who had travelled from Battambang to join the protests in Phnom Penh but were stopped by the authorities on their way there. Both were later charged with incitement.

**7 August 2020 – Arrest of Sar Kanika**

Another former CNRP activist, Sar Kanika, was arrested after participating in protests calling for Rong Chhun’s release. She was later charged with incitement and sent to pre-trial detention.

### September 2020

**3 September 2020 - Denial of bail for Sar Kanika**

The bail request of Sar Kanika was rejected by the Phnom Penh Municipal Court.

**7 September 2020 - Arrests of Tha Lavy and So Metta/Eng Malai**

Khmer Thavrak activists Tha Lavy and So Metta, also known as Eng Malai, were arrested and charged with incitement for demanding Rong Chhun’s release. Tha Lavy was arrested while stepping out of a tuk-tuk at Phnom Penh’s Freedom Park on his way to a peaceful demonstration for Rong Chhun. Eng Malai was arrested by authorities after leaving the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, where she had raised security concerns about authorities following her after she had left the protest at Freedom Park.

**10 September 2020 – Arrest of Moung Sopheak**

Moung Sopheak, a KSILA member, was arrested for his participation in a peaceful protest calling for Rong Chhun’s release several days prior. The next day, he was charged with incitement.

**13 August 2020 – Arrests of Chhoeun Daravy and Hun Vannak**

Two activists of the Khmer Thavrak youth group, Hun Vannak and Chhoeun Daravy, who had gathered in front of the Phnom Penh Municipal Court to demonstrate for Rong Chhun’s release, were arrested. They were put in custody and charged a day later with incitement.

**14 August 2020 – Arrest of Soung Sophorn**

Soung Sophorn, President of the Khmer Win Party, was arrested after visiting the Tboung Khmum province to see the disputed Cambodia-Vietnam border area Rong Chhun had visited and after posting a video on Facebook in which he discussed purported border irregularities. Soung Sophorn had also participated in the widespread protests calling for Rong Chhun’s release. Authorities claim that the information he disseminated about the border was incitement, which he was charged with the next day.

### October 2020

**2 October 2020 – Denial of bail for Sar Kanika upheld by the Appeal Court**

The Appeal Court upheld the Phnom Penh Municipal Court’s decision of 3 September 2020 to deny bail to Sar Kanika.

**2 October 2020 – Denial of bail by the Appeal Court for Hun Vannak and Chhoeun Daravy**

The Appeal Court denied bail to Hun Vannak and Chhoeun Daravy. The Court reasoned that it needed to further investigate their case and prevent the two from committing additional crimes.

**6 September 2020 - Arrests of Koet Saray and Mean Prommony**

Venerable Koet Saray, an ordained Buddhist monk and member of Khmer Thavrak, and Mean Prommony, a Khmer Thavrak member and Khmer Student Intelligent League Association (KSILA) Vice President, were arrested for planning a peaceful assembly to call for Rong Chhun’s release. The next day, both were charged with incitement and sent to pre-trial detention. Venerable Koet Saray was also defrocked.

**10 September 2020 – Arrest of Moung Sopheak**

Moung Sopheak, a KSILA member, was arrested for his participation in a peaceful protest calling for Rong Chhun’s release several days prior. The next day, he was charged with incitement.

### What are incitement charges?

Criminal charges under Articles 494 and 495 of the Cambodian Criminal Code for “incitement to commit a felony or cause social unrest.” These charges carry a prison sentence of six months up to two years.

Incitement charges are frequently used against activists and human rights defenders for exercising their rights.

**20 October 2020 – Denial of bail by the Appeal Court for Hun Vannak and Chhoeun Daravy**

The Appeal Court denied bail to Hun Vannak and Chhoeun Daravy. The Court reasoned that it needed to further investigate their case and prevent the two from committing additional crimes.
December 2020

2 - 6 December 2020 – Prison violence against Eng Malai and Chhoeun Daravy - Eng Malai and Chhoeun Daravy were allegedly beaten by inmates for going on a hunger strike from 2 - 6 December 2020 to request that prison officials respect the rights of political detainees. The Interior Ministry's Department of Prisons rejected the allegations: officials stated that Eng Malai was misbehaving and that other prisoners only tried to get her into the cell and that Chhoeun Daravy was not involved in the incident at all.

17 December 2020 – Rejection of request to stop investigations against Khmer Thavrak members - The Appeal Court rejected a request to close the investigation into the seven Khmer Thavrak activists, citing incorrect filings related to the request.

18 December 2020 – Denial of bail by the Appeal Court for members of Khmer Thavrak and KSILA - Five activists, Eng Malai, Koet Saray and Tha Lavy from Khmer Thavrak, and Mean Prommony and Moung Sophreak from KSILA, were denied bail by the Court of Appeal, which said it wanted to ensure that the accused would attend their future trial hearings.

30 December 2020 – Postponement of trial against youth activists - The trial of youth activists and former CNRP members over their participation in protests calling for Rong Chhun’s release was adjourned to summon police officials to verify the legitimacy of statements presented in the name of former CNRP activist Chhour Pheng. Chhour Pheng claimed that while parts of the statements were true, others were fabricated.

January 2021

12 January 2021 – Bail hearing at the Supreme Court for Sar Kanika - The Supreme Court began hearing the bail appeal of Sar Kanika, who has been awaiting trial on charges of incitement.

February 2021

10 February 2021 – Prison sentence for Soung Sophorn - Soung Sophorn was sentenced to 18 months in jail and fined more than $500,000 by the Phnom Penh Municipal Court. He was found guilty of incitement for purportedly distorting facts about the Cambodia-Vietnam border.

February 2021

17 February 2021 – Continuation of trial against youth activists - The Phnom Penh Municipal Court continued the trial of Khmer Thavrak and KSILA members and CNRP activists. The Court scheduled to continue the trial of this case on 2 March 2021. It was then postponed.

March 2021

March 2021

May 2021

18 May 2021 – Denial of bail for activists from Khmer Thavrak and KSILA - After spending more than eight months in pre-trial detention, the Phnom Penh Municipal Court denied bail to seven activists: five members of Khmer Thavrak, Hun Vannak, Chhoeun Daravy, Tha Lavy, Koet Saray, Eng Malai, and two members of KSILA, Mean Prommony and Moung Sophreak. The Court’s reasoning to deny bail was to ensure that the activists would be present for their trial, which has yet to be scheduled. The activists remain in pre-trial detention.

May 2021

July 2021

27 July 2021 – Resumption of trial against youth activists - After being delayed for five months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Phnom Penh Municipal Court resumed the trial of youth activists from the Khmer Thavrak group. Tha Lavy, Eng Malai, Moung Sophreak and Koet Saray were questioned and denied the incitement charges, claiming that they were only exercising their fundamental freedoms by protesting for Rong Chhun’s release. The next trial hearing was scheduled by for 31 August by the Court.

30 July 2021 – Continuation of trial of Sar Kanika - The Phnom Penh Municipal Court held a new hearing on Sar Kanika’s case. The Court’s verdict is expected to be announced in August 2021.

July 2021