Land in Conflict

This is the summary of the CCHR report entitled "CAMBODIA: LAND IN CONFLICT An Overview of the Land Situation in Cambodia, December 2013." Kindly visit CCHR's website to download the full report.

Land conflicts are intensified by a politically dependent judiciary, which undermines the protection against forced evictions. Evicted communities often lose much more than their homes. Evictions have the rights to own land.

Persistent violations of land rights are one of the most prominent human rights issues faced by Cambodians throughout the country. Insecurity of Tenure is a widespread problem, especially those more vulnerable to land grabbing and in need of secure tenure. A Protective Legal Framework is needed.

In Cambodia's economic development, the protection it offers. The Royal Government of Cambodia's (“RGC”) land registration programs are costly and the State discretionally excludes many communities when development projects are going to take place; communities when development projects are going to take place.


Cambodia's economic development needs to be balanced, because the protection it offers. The Royal Government of Cambodia’s (“RGC”) land registration programs are costly and the State discretionally excludes many communities when development projects are going to take place.

The Konung, or king, of Cambodia has the power to allocate land to the public or private sector. Land is central to indigenous communities; if grabbed they lose their main food source, burial sites and places of spiritual meaning.

Land conflicts have led to landless communities and social stigmatization, and disruption of community cohesiveness.

Evictions often lead to an increase in poverty and debts; land conflicts have led to landless communities; if grabbed they lose their main food source, burial sites and places of spiritual meaning.

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Key Recommendations to the RGC: 1) Put an end to all political and judicial harassment and violence against peaceful protesters; 2) Put in place a moratorium on evictions; 3) Conduct social and environmental impact assessment before the development project; 4) Accelerate the registration process for indigenous communities to receive collective land titles; 5) Make all information on land concessions, classification of State land accessible; and 6) Produce detailed and concrete propositions for land reform, developed in consultation with civil society organizations.

Impact of the Land Conflict

Land conflict in Cambodia has had disastrous social and economic impacts. For example:

- In Prek Chik village, Chi Khor Kroum commune, Sre Ambel district, Koh Kong province, the average yearly income of victims of forced evictions was $144.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia’s (“RGC”) land registration programs are costly and the State discretionally excludes many communities when development projects are going to take place.

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The Law on the Protection of Indigenous Communities was adopted in 2005, giving indigenous communities the right to own and manage their land. However, the implementation of this law is hindered by a lack of political will and an ineffective and dependent judiciary, which is primarily served by the RGC.

The RGC has established a number of social and environmental impact assessment procedures, but these are not always carried out in a transparent, participatory, and inclusive manner. For example, in the case of the RGC’s land registration programs, the consultations do take place, they can be poorly organized, hurried and intimidating, with authorities putting pressure upon communities to accept the RGC’s proposals.


The prevalence of forced evictions has led to a widespread increase in conflicts between Cambodians and their neighbors. Evictions have the rights to own land.

