The Freedom of Expression Project
Objective: To instigate legislative, structural and policy changes to improve freedom of expression in Cambodia.
Donors and Support

• The **Freedom of Expression Project** has been generously supported by:
  • Open Society Institute (OSI)
  • Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO)
  • British Embassy in Cambodia
  • The European Union
The human rights and freedom of expression situation continues to deteriorate in Cambodia.

Between 2012 and 2013, CCHR documented 140 cases of violations of the right to freedom of expression.

Citizens are regularly targeted, harassed, charged with criminal offenses and subject to politically motivated persecution for speaking out against oppressive government policies.
Protections in Cambodian Law

• Article 41 of the Constitution: all Khmer citizens have the right to “freedom of expression, press, publication and assembly”

• Article 35: all Khmer citizens have the right to participate actively in the political life of the nation
International Standards

• Article 31 of the Constitution states that Cambodia shall recognize and respect the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (“UDHR”) the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (“ICCPR”) in domestic law.

• Article 19 of the UDHR and ICCPR provide for the universal right to freedom of expression.
Project Overview – Target Groups

- Human Rights Defenders
- Activists
- Journalists
- Bloggers
- Community Based Organizations
- Trade Unions
- The Royal Government of Cambodia
Project Overview – Final beneficiaries

Cambodian People

- HRD
- Journalists
- Activists
- Bloggers
Our Work

• The Project currently focuses on the following:
  • The upcoming Cybercrime Law
  • Decriminalization of defamation
  • Press freedom
  • Freedom of information
Mam Sonando’s Release from Jail, following CCHR’s ‘Justice Calendar’ Campaign 15 March 2013
Project Activities

- **Monitor** – CCHR monitors both positive and negative instances of freedom of expression in Cambodia on a daily basis.
- **Engage** – CCHR seeks to provide a space for a wide range of civil society members to engage with the RGC, provincial governors, National Assembly members, and freedom of expression experts, in constructive dialogue.
- **Advocate** – The Project works on a national, regional and international level, to make legislative, structural and policy changes to protect and promote the right to freedom of expression in Cambodia.
Thank you!