



FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY IN CAMBODIA: **DECEMBER 2005 TO SEPTEMBER 2006**

BRIEFING PAPER
November 2006



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CAMBODIAN LEAGUE FOR THE
PROMOTION AND DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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LICADHO

CAMBODIAN LEAGUE FOR THE PROMOTION
AND DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO)

LICADHO is a national Cambodian human rights organization. Since its establishment in 1992, LICADHO has been at the forefront of efforts to protect the rights in Cambodia and to promote respect for civil and political rights by the Cambodian government and institutions. Building on its past achievements, LICADHO continues to be an advocate for the people and a monitor of the government through wide ranging human rights programs from its main office in Phnom Penh and 12 provincial offices.

LICADHO pursues its activities through its seven program offices:

- The Documentation and Resources Office compiles case files into a central electronic database, so that accurate information can be easily accessed and analyzed.
- The Human Rights Education Office provides training courses to target groups such as government officials, students, monks and provides dissemination sessions to the general public.
- The Monitoring Office investigates human rights violations and assists victims in the legal process. Specially trained staff also monitors 18 prisons to assess prison conditions and ensure that pre-trial detainees have access to legal representation.
- The Medical Office provides medical assistance to prisoners and prison officials in 12 prisons and provides medical care and referrals to hospitals for victims of human rights violations.
- Project Against Torture provides comprehensive rehabilitation services to victims of torture and conducts advocacy against torture.
- The Children's Rights Office educates the public on children's rights, creates child protection networks at the grassroots level, and investigates children's rights violations.
- The Women's Rights Office educates the public about women's rights, investigates women's rights violations and advocates for social and legal changes.

For More Information Contact:

Dr. Kek Galabru, President
LICADHO
#16, Street 99
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Tel: (855) 23 360 965/364 901
Fax: (855) 23 360 965/217 626
E-mail: contact@licadho.org
Web: <http://www.licadho.org/>

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Executive Summary

In 2006, Cambodian authorities continued to restrict freedom of assembly. The ongoing clampdown is being conducted by arbitrarily objecting to demonstrations, violently dispersing many peaceful protests and arresting participants in legitimate assemblies. In denying the basic human right of freedom of assembly – enshrined in international treaties and Cambodian law – the State is trying to silence voices of protest and stop people organizing themselves to stand up for their rights.

This briefing paper is the third in a series of reports, published in 2004 and 2005, on restrictions of the right to freedom of assembly in Cambodia. It records some of the instances between 1 December, 2005, and 30 September, 2006, when peaceful assemblies were subjected to intimidation or violence by state forces or state authorities, as well as occasions where the Phnom Penh municipality objected to peaceful gatherings that were being planned.

During the period covered by this report, LICADHO documented 39 cases of restrictions of the right to peaceful assembly. These included gatherings that were called off when the authorities objected, the use of arrests to intimidate peaceful assemblies and, demonstrations that ended in violence and serious injuries. It should be noted that this briefing paper is not a comprehensive review of all restrictions to freedom of assembly, but rather a look at general trends observed in 2006 and a selection of representative case studies. Of the 39 cases documented here, five were called off when the authorities objected, while 34 assemblies were subjected to suppression. LICADHO has noted that police continue to intervene using excessive violence against peaceful protests, with an increasing use of electric stun batons.

A notable trend throughout 2006 was the use of the public park in front of Wat Botum by the hundreds of dispossessed villagers who traveled to Phnom Penh to appeal to lawmakers at the National Assembly. While some protesters left with promises from senior officials, many fled when the Phnom Penh municipality threatened to have them removed by force. The use of arrests and legal action against union leaders was a popular tactic employed to discourage strikes at garment factories, often in conjunction with violence. In contrast to previous years, attacks on political assemblies did not feature, possibly due to shifting political alliances.

Cambodia is facing a dangerous situation with respect to freedom of assembly. The various social and economic woes effecting Cambodian citizens continue to give rise to peaceful protests and appeals for justice. These gatherings are being met with unjustified restrictions and violent crackdowns from the State. This situation desperately needs to be addressed through improved legislation (a new law on demonstrations is currently being drafted), improved policy on the part of authorities regarding both attitudes towards allowing peaceful protests and responsible policing, as well as addressing the social and economic issues that underlie some of the most troublesome repressions of freedom of assembly in 2006.

Overview

LICADHO defines freedom of assembly to be the right for people to peacefully demonstrate, protest or meet to address an issue of common concern. This assembly may take the form of a demonstration, rally, march, strike, picket, vigil, sit-in, or other form of non-violent assembly. Cambodian authorities are legally bound to not interfere with this basic right, except where assemblies pose a threat to security or public order. The prohibition of an assembly should be a last resort. In reality, Cambodia's law is willfully misinterpreted and used as a justification of abusing the right to freedom of assembly.

The case studies in this report reveal a continuing disregard for the right to freedom of assembly. Applications for permission to hold demonstrations were rejected on grounds of public order or security; however, these denials were inadmissible restrictions on the freedom of assembly, given the lack of a genuine threat posed by these gatherings. The clearest indication of this attitude was the refusal to allow the celebration of International Labor Day on 1 May. While workers around the world took part in similar celebrations, thousands of Cambodian workers – mostly young women employed in garment factories – faced road blocks with riot police, electric shock batons and water cannons stopping them from entering Phnom Penh.

On many occasions, peaceful demonstrations were suppressed with excessive force. Time and time again unarmed protesters faced heavily-armed police, military police and soldiers. Firearms were brandished by armed forces as a form of intimidation, and shots were fired into the air or even at protesters. The use of wooden clubs to beat unarmed demonstrators was commonplace and the use of electric shock batons is increasing as more police are armed with these weapons. Police also used tear gas against unarmed protesters. In one case in Kandal province, police even used a stun baton against a pregnant woman – a cause for serious concern which reflects a callous disregard for the sanctity of life by some police officers.

Authorities routinely made use of criminal charges to detain, arrest and imprison demonstration leaders, often coercing them to thumbprint agreements not to lead or be involved with protests in the future. Judicial authorities played an important role in restricting freedom of assembly by convicting protesters, even when the cases against them were weak or non-existent. The use of arrests and convictions not only attempts to silence that particular individual, but also serves as a strategy to intimidate other protesters and instill a climate of fear.

If we look at the reasons for protest, two issues stand out: workers' rights in garment factories and land disputes. The corruption of the courts and impunity of well-connected land-grabbers mean that demonstrations are often the last avenue of justice for the poor and vulnerable. Similarly, workers who are paid a base salary of just \$45 a month face arrests and violent crackdowns for attempting to improve their working conditions and remuneration.

One notable trend in 2006 was the tendency of numerous groups to travel from around Cambodia to appeal to lawmakers in front of the National Assembly. These groups represented thousands of villagers nationwide who had their land taken by government and military officials, powerful individuals or companies. In many cases, villagers had their land taken through forced evictions that involved threats and violence. With limited resources and

no immediate response from government officials, hundreds of protesters camped in the public park between the National Assembly and Wat Botum. The National Assembly has long been a rallying point for the dispossessed and the desperate, and this year saw an alarming number of communities gathering near Wat Botum in a final plea for justice. For the most part, these protesters were ignored - except when their presence might cause embarrassment, such as during the government-donor meeting on 2-3 March. Two weeks before the CG meeting (at which foreign donors pledged \$601 million in aid money to Cambodia) the protesters were moved on by police who threatened them and loaded their belongings into trucks. In this emerging trend we see citizens driven to desperate measures to seek justice and a Government reluctant to engage in meaningful dialogue with its citizens.

Labor disputes continue to be a major cause for protest and subsequent restrictions to freedom of assembly. An example of this is the case of the violent attack on striking workers from the Park View garment factory. When negotiations between the factory management and unions failed to reach an agreement, workers decided to continue striking. In response, approximately 200 riot police attacked the workers as they peacefully picketed the factory. The workers, mostly young women, were kicked and at least two women were shocked with electric stun batons, causing them to fall to the ground. After the attack, police detained four workers and forced them to sign contracts agreeing not to strike - an intimidation tactic that breached the most basic Constitutional rights of Cambodian citizens.

Legal Issues

The right to freedom of assembly is guaranteed under Cambodian law, as well as under various international instruments that impose formal legal obligations on Cambodia as a State Party to the treaties. However, these protections are routinely ignored or misinterpreted in order to restrict freedom of assembly.

The 1993 **Cambodian Constitution** guarantees the right to freedom of assembly under Article 41:

*Khmer citizens shall have freedom of expression, press, publication and assembly. No one shall exercise this right to infringe upon the rights of others, to affect the good traditions of the society, to violate public law and order and national security.*¹

The fact that Article 41 covers freedom of assembly, as well as other rights, has led to some confusion. Laws that define how a citizen may exercise one basic right (e.g. defamation laws restricting freedom of expression) should not be used to restrict other rights, such as freedom of assembly.

Article 35 of the Constitution guarantees the right of Cambodian citizens “to participate actively” in the political life of the nation. Article 37 stipulates that “the right to strike and to non-violent demonstration shall be implemented in the framework of a law.”

In 1991, the Cambodian Government passed a **Law on Demonstrations** which says demonstrations are “acceptable” provided they are not “detrimental to public tranquility, order or security”.²

It is important to note that the 1991 Law on Demonstrations states that “authorities in each commune or ward through which a group of demonstrators will march shall be informed at least three days beforehand in writing”³. The authorities are obliged to issue a receipt for the gathering *unless* they believe it has “characteristics conducive to causing turmoil”, in which case they can ban the assembly within 48 hours. If the assembly organizers disagree, a final decision should be made by “higher authorities” within 24 hours. This law clearly sets out a process of *notification* and yet it was been willfully misinterpreted to mean assembly organizers must apply for *permission* to gather. In doing so, the authorities turn a ‘positive’ law protecting a basic right into a ‘negative’ law restricting freedom of assembly.

In both the Constitution and the 1991 Law of Demonstrations, the vague descriptions of what can be used as justification for restricting the right to freedom of assembly have been widely misinterpreted. The result is that an article which is meant to guarantee the basic right to assemble and peacefully protest is often used to legitimize restrictions which go against the spirit of freedom of assembly. Since early 2003, permission has been routinely denied to peaceful protests on whimsical security grounds.

¹ http://www.cambodian-parliament.org/english/Constitution_files/Constitution.htm

² A Selection of Laws Currently in Force in the Kingdom of Cambodia, United Nations Cambodia Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, January 2002, pg 313.

³ A Selection of Laws Currently in Force in the Kingdom of Cambodia, United Nations Cambodia Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, January 2002, pg 313.

The Constitution (Article 31) also pledges to “recognize and respect human rights as stipulated in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the covenants and conventions related to human rights, women’s and children’s rights.” Several of these apply to freedom of assembly. The two clearest expressions of this right are set out in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (Article 20) and the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** (Article 21), to which Cambodia acceded to in May 1992.

The government, with the assistance of civil society, is also drafting a new **Law on Public Assembly for a Peaceful Demonstration**. This is a good opportunity to strengthen the right of Cambodians to freedom of assembly. However, there are some causes for concern in the current draft (October 2006)⁴. The draft law does not apply to political gatherings or strikes, which make up a large number of protests in Cambodia. Like the previous law, some of the wording is vague and may be willfully misinterpreted by the authorities. In particular, restrictions to the right to assemble made on the basis of defamation or violating “social tradition” could leave demonstrators open to prosecution for many peaceful protests. LICADHO hopes the new law can guarantee the basic right to freedom of assembly. It is essential that the new law more clearly defines the boundaries within which the State could limit this fundamental right. It must also ensure that if the authorities impose restrictions, these infringements on freedom of assembly are necessary in a democratic society to promote democracy and human rights rather than serve the narrow interests of a government.

⁴ Draft law as of 9 October 2006, received by LICADHO at drafting workshop.

Methodology / Scope of the Report

The material used in this briefing paper was sourced from LICADHO's monitors (working in Phnom Penh and 12 provinces), a compilation of cases from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights and a review of newspaper reports from *The Cambodia Daily*, *Cambodge Soir* and *Phnom Penh Post*. Cases involving clear restrictions to freedom of assembly were selected as representative case studies.

It should be noted that many cases initially reviewed had elements of restriction to freedom of assembly, but were not included because this briefing paper uses a more strict definition of 'restriction to freedom of assembly' than previous reports. Some of these cases will be covered in future LICADHO briefing papers dealing with threats to human rights defenders and land issues.

This report is not intended to be a comprehensive reflection of the situation of freedom of assembly in Cambodia during this period - limited resources and the many cases with overlapping human rights violations make this impossible. Rather, it is an attempt to document some of the clearest cases of restriction to freedom of assembly in Cambodia.

Case Studies

**TABLE A: PROTESTS PREVENTED
FROM DECEMBER 2005 TO SEPTEMBER 2006**

<p>7 January 2006</p> <p><i>Phnom Penh municipality</i></p>	<p>Authorities shut down Khmer Front Party protestⁱ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Phnom Penh municipality denied the Khmer Front Party (KFP) permission to march to the National Assembly to protest against Victory Day celebrations, an event they view as marking the Vietnamese invasion and occupation of Cambodia. The municipality cited security concerns as the reason for refusing to allow the march. ▪ KFP leaders claimed that the members of the municipality threatened them with arrest if they demonstrated. ▪ On 7 January, about 30 KFP members gathered in Chrouy Russei village, Vihea Loung commune, Ponhea Leu district, Phnom Penh, to march to the National Assembly. They dispersed when they saw a roadblock set up by district police. Approximately 100 civilian and military police officers were deployed at the National Assembly, however no protesters arrived.
<p>23 January 2006</p> <p><i>Phnom Penh municipality</i></p>	<p>Permission refused for march to present King with amnesty petitionⁱⁱ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Phnom Penh municipality denied a request from a coalition of NGOs who had organized a procession to the Royal Palace involving approximately 200 people on 23 January. ▪ The procession was intended to honor an AFEC's submission of a petition with over 100,000 signatures to King Norodom Sihamoni, asking His Majesty to intervene and dismiss defamation charges against people who had allegedly criticized the Government. ▪ The municipality refused permission to hold the march on the grounds that authorities would be too busy because the results of the Senate elections would be announced on the same day.
<p>10 March 2006</p> <p><i>Phnom Penh municipality</i></p>	<p>Municipality refuses union's request to hold a peaceful demonstrationⁱⁱⁱ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Phnom Penh municipality refused a request from the Cambodian Apparel Workers Democratic Union for permission to conduct a peaceful demonstration on 12 March in front of the National Assembly. The municipality cited security and public order concerns as reasons for the refusal. ▪ The union was expecting 5,000 workers from 25 factories to participate in the protest to call on factory owners to adhere to the Labor Code and to ask the Ministry of Labor to issue a clear labor contract.
<p>30 June 2006</p> <p><i>Phnom Penh municipality</i></p>	<p>Authorities plan crack-down on strike and bribe union members^{iv}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A general strike was called off by unions due to fears of a violent crackdown by authorities. ▪ On the day of the proposed strike, the Phnom Penh deputy governor

	<p>ordered police to be on guard for a protest and to patrol the area around the National Assembly and Wat Phnom. Police were also ordered to monitor bus depots and businesses where trucks or loudspeakers could be rented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ According to a media report, the deputy governor, Pa Socheatvong, made a public promise to pay USD\$728 to 300 union members to warn their workers not to strike. He also reportedly promised USD\$728 to each of three district police chiefs in return for looking for protesters.
<p>7 September 2006</p> <p><i>Phnom Penh municipality</i></p>	<p>Municipality refuses new royalist party permission to hold public assembly^v</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Phnom Penh municipality refused to authorize a public assembly planned for 8 September by the Sangkum Cheat Niyum Front, a new royalist political party founded by Prince Thomico Sisowath. ▪ The municipality said one of the locations requested for the assembly was reserved for royal birthdays and also that the political party was not yet registered with the Ministry of Interior.

**TABLE B: PROTESTS SUPPRESSED OR PUNISHED
FROM DECEMBER 2005 TO SEPTEMBER 2006**

<p>December 2005 – September 2006</p>	<p>Hundreds of land grab protesters dispersed from public park near National Assembly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beginning in December 2005 and continuing throughout 2006, at least 15 separate groups of land protesters arrived in Phnom Penh to appeal to lawmakers and to the Prime Minister to intervene in land disputes. They camped in the public park between Wat Botum (temple) and the National Assembly. The groups included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Meley district, Banteay Meanchey province ▫ Preah Netpreah district, Banteay Meanchey province ▫ Bavel district, Battambang province ▫ Kean Svay district, Kandal province ▫ Srey Ambel district, Koh Kong province ▫ Memoth district, Kompong Cham province ▫ Prey Nub district, Kompong Som province ▫ Phnom Srouch district, Kompong Speu province ▫ Samrong Tong district, Kompong Speu province ▫ Treng Troyeong district, Kompong Speu province ▫ Baray district, Kompong Tom province ▫ Kampong Svay district, Kompong Tom province ▫ Stung district, Kompong Tom province ▫ Sen Monorom district, Mondolkiri province ▫ Anglong Veng district, Oddur Meanchey province ▪ Most of these groups had been evicted from disputed land – often with excessive force – and had few other options left except for appealing to the Prime Minister for help. ▪ On 15 February, the Phnom Penh governor announced that all protestors camped in Wat Botum must leave within two days or be forcibly removed. After ignoring the appeals of these protesters for
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two months, the deadline for their removal came just two weeks before the annual donor-government meeting.

- Between 17 February and 19 February, police threatened protesters, dismantled their temporary camps and loaded their belongings into trucks.
- Some groups (including Kompong Speu protesters) fled to the headquarters of the Sam Rainsy Party and asked for assistance. Others returned home.
- In many cases the land disputes remain unresolved and Wat Botum was a rallying point for different groups of land protesters in May, August and September.
- The many incidents of police intimidation, threats and removal of property make these cases an issue of freedom of assembly, as well as land rights. In some cases, specific acts of restrictions to the right to freedom of assembly have been documented below.

4 December 2005

*Anlong Thnot
commune,
Krakor district,
Pursat province*

Pursat villagers detained, allegedly attacked and investigated for holding assembly^{vi}

- Police detained a villager for organizing a meeting attended by approximately 20 villagers in Anlong Thnot commune to discuss taking action against the Ratanak Visal company for filling in a local stream. The stream is used by seven villages to irrigate their crops.
- The detained villager was accused of holding a meeting without the permission of local authorities and of 'inciting villagers to protest'. He was released without charge after two hours, but was warned not to protest against the company.
- Another villager claims he was accosted by two commune police officials on his way home from the meeting.
- The company later filed a criminal complaint against three village leaders for incitement at the 4 December meeting. The three men were summoned before the Pursat provincial court for questioning on 13 December.

10 December 2005

*Phnom Penh
municipality*

International Human Rights Day rally allowed under strict conditions, leads to three arrests^{vii}

- The Phnom Penh municipality rejected an application to hold a parade for the 57th International Human Rights Day, but authorized a rally under strict conditions. It was to be held in closed quarters, participants and their materials were to be screened, and no anti-government positions were allowed to be taken.^{viii}
- More than 10,000 people assembled in the Olympic Stadium to celebrate the event, organized by 63 civil society organizations. During the rally, armed forces patrolled inside and outside the stadium. At one point, authorities demanded the removal of a Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR) banner with comments they deemed defamatory of the Prime Minister Hun Sen. They questioned the chairman of the organizing committee about the banner and, when the event was over, police searched CCHR's truck.
- The PM later filed a criminal defamation lawsuit against the chairman

	<p>of the organizing committee, Yeng Virak, the president of CCHR, Kem Sokha, and director of CCHR's Voice of Democracy radio program, Pa Nguon Teang. All three were subsequently arrested and imprisoned on pre-trial detention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ After significant international and domestic pressure, the men were released on bail in January 2006 upon the request of the PM but charges remain pending.
<p>20 December 2005</p> <p><i>Kompong Speu province</i></p>	<p>Sihanoukville land protesters assaulted en route to capital^{ix}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protesters involved in a land dispute allege that while traveling to Phnom Penh on 20 December to demonstrate, they were stopped by authorities in Kompong Speu province and 12 people were shocked with electric batons.^x ▪ The group of 67 land protesters represented 131 families from Poy Tamoung village, Sangkat 3 commune, Mittapheap district, Sihanoukville province. They were on their way to Wat Botum, to protest their second eviction, which contravened a court order allowing them to return to the disputed land.
<p>20 December 2005</p> <p><i>Phnom Penh municipality</i></p>	<p>Police stop Banteay Meanchey land protesters from protesting in the public park opposite the PM's house^{xi}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 20 December, a group of 200 protesters tried to march from their temporary camp at Wat Botum to the public park in front of the Prime Minister's house, to request his intervention. Police officers promptly stopped them and forced them to return to Wat Botum. ▪ The 200 villagers represented 218 families from Kbal Spean village, Poipet commune, O'Chrov district, Banteay Meanchey province. They had camped at Wat Botum Park since 15 December, continuing their protest against the shooting deaths of five villagers during a land dispute. Criminal charges against the soldiers were later dismissed by the court for lack of evidence; however, the families of the deceased are appealing the dismissal. ▪ On 21 May 2006, the PM ordered that the disputed land be given back to the villagers, less one hectare of land which was allocated to the village chief. The PM also gave each family 100 kg of rice and 300,000 riel (approximately USD\$75).^{xii}
<p>17 January 2006</p> <p><i>Kampot province</i></p>	<p>Gendarmes detain protester during electricity price demonstration in Kampot^{xiii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Military police detained one protester and confiscated his loudspeaker during a demonstration in Kampot over electricity rates. He was later released upon the intervention of human rights organizations and journalists. ▪ The protest attracted 500-700 Kampot residents, who gathered in front of the provincial governor's office to demand a reduction to electricity rates. The provincial governor refused to meet with them. ▪ The following day, the provincial governor met with demonstrators who had gathered again. He offered to arrange a meeting between

	Kampot resident representatives and the electricity company in the provincial hall. The residents refused, preferring to negotiate publicly and in a public area. A new protest was planned for Jan 26th (see below).
22 January 2006 <i>Phnom Penh municipality</i>	March in memory of Chea Vichea despite refusal of permission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Phnom Penh municipal authorities refused to authorize a march planned by the Free Trade Union of Workers of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The event was organized to mark the two year anniversary of the assassination of FTUWKC president Chea Vichea. ▪ The media reported that the president of the Cambodian Independent Teachers' Association was required to sign an agreement ensuring that the march would be peaceful.^{xiv} ▪ Despite the refusal, about 100 people marched from FTUWKC's main office to location in front of Wat Langka where Vichea was assassinated. During the peaceful procession, uniformed officers patrolled alongside the march while undercover police and military intelligence officers mingled with the crowd. ▪ On 24 January, the acting president of the FTU was called to City Hall for questioning about why the procession was held without permission.^{xv}
26 January 2006 <i>Banteay Meas, Touk Mea district, Kampot province</i>	Police block Kampot residents' protest against electricity prices^{xvi} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approximately 200 Kampot residents tried to reach a cement factory being inaugurated by the Prime Minister in Banteay Meas in order to give him a petition against the high price of electricity in Kampot. ▪ Three police blockades stopped the protesters, but the petition was delivered to the PM by a representative of the protesters.
11 February 2006 <i>Pateh commune, O'Yadaw district, Ratanakiri province</i>	Authorities threaten and detain villagers protesting over land dispute in Ratanakiri^{xvii} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 11 February, 250 villagers from Gong Yu and Gong Thom villages, Pateh commune, O'Yadaw district, Ratanakiri province, peacefully protested to request that local authorities resolve a dispute over 500 hectares of land. ▪ During the demonstration, the deputy commune chief publicly threatened to have a protester killed. ▪ On 14 February, seven villagers were detained for questioning by a military police officer. Two days later, in what was perceived as an intimidation tactic, a military police officer invited several villagers to his house and asked them to stop protesting. ▪ The disputed land was claimed by an unnamed buyer in 2004, and since then coercive measures have been used to force villagers to thumbprint documents they did not understand.

13 February 2006

*Oudong Pagoda,
Oudong district,
Kompong Speu
province*

Three-day march for freedom of expression authorized under onerous conditions and partially blocked by armed forces^{xviii}

- On the final day of a freedom of expression march, police officers armed with assault rifles prevented demonstrators from participating in the official Buddhist Meak Bochea ceremony at the Oudong Pagoda, as the organizers had originally intended. Protesters were diverted and only allowed into the pagoda once high-ranking government officials had completed their worship and the official ceremony was over.
- About 200 citizens, monks and civil society activists wearing yellow ribbons symbolizing freedom of expression participated in the three-day march calling for freedom of expression and non-violence.
- The demonstration was the first authorized by the Phnom Penh Municipality in months. However, the organizers had to accept responsibility beforehand for any problems that might be caused by demonstrators.
- The procession was led by five civil society representatives recently freed from detention at Prey Sar, where they were held for defamation of the government. The event was organized by AFEC, a coalition of 28 NGOs.

16 February 2006

*Phnom Penh
municipality
- & -
Siem Reap province*

Authorities mislead handicapped land protesters into leaving demonstration^{xix}

- One example of way the authorities treated protesters camped at Wat Botum is the case of 105 families of handicapped persons who were evicted from Romchek village, Anlong Veng commune, Anlong Veng district, Oddur Meanchey province. They arrived in Phnom Penh on 27 December 2005 to protest.
- The protest was in response to a violent forced eviction on 21 December 2005. On the orders of the district chief, 50 soldiers beat villagers and forced them from their homes. They destroyed the houses and two schools which were built and given to handicapped people and their families by the NGO, Smile of Disabled People. The district chief and Forestry Administration accused the NGO of illegal development and deforestation, even though the project had been approved by the village and commune chiefs.
- On 15 February 2006, the municipal governor of Phnom Penh announced that protesters had to return home by 17 February, or risk being removed by the authorities.
- On 16 February, the protesters voluntarily embarked on trucks provided by the provincial authorities, who promised the families they could return to the disputed land and would each be issued official land titles for a 20m x 100m plot of land.
- However, the villagers were left in the middle of the forest in Banteay Srey district, Siem Reap province. They were told they must wait for the Forestry Administration to give them permission to return to Anlong Veng.^{xx} As of June 2006, permission had not been granted and the governor of Oddur Meanchey said that the villagers must be separated and resettled in surrounding villages.^{xxi}

27 February 2006

*Stung Meanchey
commune,
Meanchey district,
Phnom Penh*

Armed forces prevent Flying Dragon garment factory workers' demonstration^{xxiii}

- After four days of strike action, more than 1,000 garment workers from two factories, Flying Dragon 2 (FD2) and Flying Dragon 3 (FD3),^{xxiii} protested in front of FD2 in Stung Meanchey. The demonstration was organized by two unions, Free Trade Union of Workers of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Cambodian Apparel Workers Democratic Union, and was observed by 30 police officers.
- Protesters demanded, among other things, that Flying Dragon Ltd. respect a decision by the Arbitration Council concerning the duration of contracts and the reinstatement of seven employees fired for union activities.
- After ineffective negotiations with factory and government representatives, the demonstrators set out to peacefully march to the National Assembly. Demonstrators were prevented from entering the capital by a blockade of about 30 police officers and anti-riot personnel armed with tear gas, gas masks, shields, batons, hand guns and assault rifles. Most protesters left, intimidated by the display of force.
- Approximately 200-300 demonstrators reconvened to protest in front of FD2, where speeches were made in front of the media.
- Afterwards, the workers tried again to march to the city center. This time they were blocked by about 70 heavily armed authorities. Authorities confiscated loudspeakers, microphone systems and banners, and dispersed the crowd. Protesters reassembled into three smaller groups and lingered. The number of police and anti-riot personnel gradually increased to about 100.
- Ten union leaders were summoned to a meeting where municipal authorities told them that demonstrators would not be allowed into the city center because the president of Indonesia was visiting. The authorities also threatened that if union leaders did not call off the march, they might be charged with disrupting public order or 'inciting a protest'.
- The next day, the workers returned to striking in front of their factories until 13 March, when an agreement was negotiated with management. They returned to work the following day.^{xxiv}

1 March 2006

*Chhuk district,
Kampot province*

Detention of three forum organizers in Kampot^{xxv}

- The Cambodian Center for Human Rights claimed that the Kampot provincial governor detained two CCHR staff for several hours because they were discussing venues for a public forum. Two days later, a monk involved in the discussion was warned by authorities not to participate in the public meeting.
- The planned forum was to discuss a land concession granted to World Christa for a 70 year period for a sugar cane plantation. Locals said the concession would encroach upon 5,100 hectares of land belonging to five villages and would displace 1,020 families. Villagers vowed to keep protesting against the concession.
- The governor denied they were detained, and added that CCHR's mission letter, allowing them to work in Kampot, had expired. The

owner of World Christa, Chan Sothea, was quoted in the media saying, "Only bad people urge villagers to protest."

6 March 2006

Armed forces to confine protesters to stop KKKC procession ^{xxvi}

Village 3, Teukthla commune, Russei Keo district, Kandal province

- The Phnom Penh municipality refused permission to Khmer Kampuchea Krom Community (KKKC) to hold a peaceful demonstration during the visit of the Prime Minister of Vietnam to Cambodia, citing national dignity and public order and security. They were told to hold the demonstration in their office in Russei Keo.
- KKKC had requested to hold a march from the Phnom Penh airport to the Vietnamese embassy, with over 1,000 participants, to present the Prime Minister of Vietnam with a petition calling on the Vietnamese government to cease violating the human rights of ethnic Khmer in southern Vietnam.
- On 6 March, about 40 police and military officers armed with batons, shields, rifles and handguns surrounded the KKKC office in Russei Keo to prevent 60 demonstrators from leaving the building.
- The petition was submitted to the ambassador of Vietnam to Cambodia to deliver to the Prime Minister of Vietnam.
- The media reported that police went into the offices of the KKKC to remove banners being displayed and that the ambassador of Vietnam refused to receive KKKC's petition. ^{xxvii}

1 May 2006

Labor Day rally suppressed by authorities and armed forces^{xxviii}

Phnom Penh municipality

- Three unions - Cambodian Independent Teachers' Association, Free Trade Union of Workers of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Cambodian Apparel Workers Democratic Union - requested permission to hold a rally in front of the National Assembly to celebrate International Labor Day and to draw attention to their demands, including higher minimum wages and a reduction in work hours.
- The Phnom Penh municipality refused to authorize the rally, on the grounds that it might clash with events organized by other groups. The authorities said the unions could only assemble inside their respective offices. The organizers informed the municipality they would hold the rally with or without authorization.
- At 4am on 1 May, hundreds of police and military police armed with assault rifles, batons, electric batons, pistols, tear gas, riot shields and fire trucks with water cannons barricaded all major roads into Phnom Penh.
- Authorities stopped vehicles transporting thousands of factory workers, mostly young women, to the rally in Phnom Penh. Some workers walked into the city center but most were prevented from passing the blockades.
- There were minor clashes at different roadblocks, but no serious injuries were recorded.
- Police detained the president of FTUWKC, Chea Mony, and two other unionists, in front of workers in what was seen as an intimidation tactic. All three were release approximately two hours later. In a

	<p>separate incident, two other unionists were detained and released later in the day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the city center, civilian and military police sealed off the area around the National Assembly and surrounded FTUWKC offices, where demonstrators within the city had gathered, to prevent protesters from marching outside. ▪ At 11 am, the roadblocks were lifted and all detainees were released on orders from the Minister of Interior Sar Kheng, who responded to a request made by opposition leader Sam Rainsy. ▪ At around midday, 2,000 demonstrators rallied at the Independence Monument and then marched to the National Assembly for speeches.
<p>3 May 2006</p> <p><i>Wat Bo village, Sala Kamroeuk commune, Siem Reap province</i></p>	<p>One arrest, threats and a religious directive to suppress Siem Reap villagers protesting against a temple's land claim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Villagers protested outside Wat Reachbo against the pagoda's attempts to evict without compensation 40 families from eight hectares of land the residents claim to have inhabited since 1979. The pagoda claims ownership of the land. One of Cambodia's most senior monks, Tep Vong, Supreme Patriarch of the Mohanikaya sect, released a directive telling the villagers to move on and prohibited them from protesting against the pagoda's land claim.^{xxix} ▪ On 3 May, a confrontation occurred between the villagers and 30 district police and military police outside the temple. A woman was arrested and detained, charged with inciting violence during the protest. She was released on bail the following day. A CPP lawmaker later offered the families plots of land as compensation for leaving the site.^{xxx} ▪ Before the protest, villagers say that local and provincial authorities threatened to arrest and imprison them if they protested. ▪ By July, the media reported that 27 families had accepted the compensation, but one villager claims they did so out of intimidation.^{xxxi}
<p>23 May 2006</p> <p><i>Kantouk village, Kantouk commune, Ang Snoul district, Kandal province</i></p>	<p>Police disperse striking workers from garment factory JUSCA, arresting two</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 18 May, 600 workers at JUSCA garment factory went on strike to demand that the owner agree to their 22-point proposal on work conditions. Negotiations resolved 18 of the 22 issues and workers decided to continue striking. ▪ At around 6:30pm on 23 May, approximately 100 Ang Snoul district police armed with wooden batons, stun batons, riot shields and assault rifles began dispersing the striking workers. No serious injuries were reported. ▪ The police detained two workers and sent them to the Ang Snoul police station where they were charged with damaging property. ▪ The following day, workers rallied at the police station to demand the release of the arrested workers. The men were released and later that day an agreement was reached between representatives of the workers and the factory management.

<p>23 May 2006</p> <p>Prey Tea village, Sangkat Chaom Chaom, Khan Russei Keo, Phnom Penh municipality</p>	<p>Excessive force and detentions used to break up strike at Park View garment factory^{xxxii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 18 May, workers from Park View garment factory went on strike after leaders of the Khmer Youth Union Federation reported the factory had been sold. A man identifying himself as the new owner asked strikers to go back to work but approximately 400 staff continued their strike, both inside and outside the factory. ▪ At 7am on 23 May, more than 200 Phnom Penh municipal intervention police and Dangkao district police armed with shields, electric batons, tear gas grenades and rifles dispersed strikers and demanded representatives come into the factory to join negotiations. Whilst the workers were waiting for representatives of Khmer Youth Union Federation, police attacked protestors. Two female workers were shocked with electric batons, causing them to fall down. Other workers were kicked. ▪ At around 8am, police sent four workers to Dangkao district police station, accusing them of preventing workers from working and forcing them to sign contracts agreeing not to strike. The workers were released after LICADHO intervened to H.E Touch Naroth, Phnom Penh municipal police chief. ▪ By 10am, the workers had agreed to return to work with the same conditions under the new ownership. ▪ On 24 May, Dangkao district deputy police chief Choub Sok Heng summoned five workers to the police office and accused them of attempting to commit violence during the strike. They were later released after signing a contract.
<p>24 May 2006</p> <p><i>Phnom Penh municipality</i></p>	<p>Police disperse protest of railway station villagers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A group of approximately 250 families were stopped and dispersed by local police when they tried to march to the National Assembly to protest. ▪ The protesters were from a community living behind the railway station, in Village 10, Group 33, Street 132, Phsar Depot 3 commune, Tuol Kork district, Phnom Penh. They were protesting to demand the municipality honor a decision by the Council of Ministers in 2003 to grant the villagers 2.5 hectares of land.
<p>2 June 2006</p> <p><i>Phnom Penh municipality</i></p>	<p>Riot police use force to stop garment factory strikers from protesting in public park opposite PM's house^{xxxiii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 1 June, about 5,000 workers from Cambodia Sportswear factory went on strike to demand an increase in salary and incentives. ▪ On 2 June, workers marched from the factory to stage a protest in the public park opposite the Prime Minister's residence in Phnom Penh. They were stopped by about 100 riot police armed with electrical batons, shields, clubs and guns. Police used stun batons to shock workers and disperse the crowd. No serious injuries were reported. ▪ The workers separated into smaller groups and traveled into the city to regroup in front of the PM's house. Riot police again blocked them

	and drove them into the park in front of Wat Botum. No violence was reported.
17 July 2006 – 31 July 2006 <i>Brek Eng commune, Kean Svay district, Kandal province</i>	<p>Campaign of intimidation against peaceful resistance of Kean Svay villagers</p> <p>8 June 2006^{xxxiv}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A group of 200 villagers rallied in front of Brek Eng pagoda to demand the return of 200 hectares of land seized by armed forces on behalf of Phanimex company in 2005 and to submit a petition asking the Prime Minister to intervene. ▪ Phanimex claims to have bought land in Kean Svay from 300 families in 1995 and says that the current residents are squatters who moved onto the land only recently.^{xxxv} However, Kean Svay villagers claim they have occupied the land since 1979.^{xxxvi} They claim that only some families sold their land and that the rest are having their lands illegally seized by Phanimex.^{xxxvii} <p>17 July 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thirty police officers and a representative of Phanimex arrived on site to measure land claimed by the company.^{xxxviii} ▪ Villagers protested, demanding they stop measuring and that Phanimex provide appropriate compensation for their lands. Phanimex's representative offered each family USD\$250 and threatened to kill them if they did not accept.^{xxxix} <p>21-23 July 2006^{xl}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 21 July, 10 police officers cleared a parcel of land and tried to evict villagers. They arrested two men who refused to have their houses removed. After the intervention of LICADHO, the men were released on 23 July. ADHOC reported that they had been badly beaten. ▪ 23 On July, one woman received minor injuries. <p>25 July 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ About 30 people, representing 68 families from Boh Angkanh village, protested outside the National Assembly against Phanimex's land-grab, appealing to the PM to intervene and allow them to stay on their land.^{xli} ▪ The director of Phanimex said the villagers had until 27 July to move or she would ask the authorities to take action.^{xlii} <p>31 July 2006^{xliii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A standoff ensued when 100 families prevented a representative from the inter-ministerial committee from measuring land claimed by Phanimex. ▪ A representative of the Minister of the Interior came to negotiate an agreement, but was criticized for favoring the company. The families eventually agreed to allow the man to conduct his work.
11 June 2006 <i>Samrong commune, Ponhea Leu district, Kandal province</i>	<p>Police violently suppress Kandal villagers protesting construction on land they claim belongs to a temple^{xliv}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 10 June, about 200 people from four communes in Ponhea Leu district gathered at Peam Sotharam Pagoda to demand land back from seven families. The protesters claimed the land belongs to the pagoda

and that locals wanted to construct a school and improve an existing cemetery on the disputed land. However, the seven families refused and were supported by a letter from Hun Neang, the father of Prime Minister Hun Sen, telling the temple committee to allocate the land to the seven families.

- On 11 June, 300 villagers held a peaceful protest in the compound of the pagoda asking that authorities intervene to seek a solution. No officials arrived to discuss the problem, so the protesters then gathered on National Route 5 in front of the pagoda and blocked the highway for three hours.
- At noon, about 30 district and provincial police armed with electric batons, clubs, riot shields and tear gas came to disperse the protesters. Police shocked seven protesters with electric batons, used tear gas, and fired shots into the air. Villagers became enraged when police shocked a pregnant woman. They threw rocks and sticks at the police and set fire to two police motorbikes. Some policemen were forced to jump into a nearby river to avoid stones.
- Although the protesters were causing a disruption to public order by blocking the road, the police used excessive force to disperse them.

15 June 2006

*Phnom Penh
municipality*

Police intervened in protest against alleged union-busting at Grand Diamond Casino^{xlv}

- On 15 July, ten union workers belonging to the Cambodian Tourism and Service Workers Federation assembled in front of the Senate in Phnom Penh. They demanded that the owner of Grand Diamond Casino in Poipet, a CPP senator, respect the ruling of the Arbitration Council to reinstate 21 workers fired for organizing a union. They announced that casino employees would strike if Grand Diamond did not respect the Council's ruling.
- Police intervened to prevent the protesters from displaying their banners.
- Management refused to reinstate the employees and prepared to fire 17 more. By August 14th, the casino had fired 46 unionized employees, which it claims were fired for theft of company property.^{xlvi}

20 June 2006

*Stung Meanchey
commune,
Meanchey district,
Phnom Penh
municipality*

Police violently disperse march of workers from South Bay and Golden Crown garment factories^{xlvii}

- On 12 June, approximately 1,200 workers from two garment factories - South Bay and Golden Crown - located in Trapeang Thleung village, Chaom Chao commune, Dangkor district, Kandal province, went on strike. The workers had a list of demands relating to working conditions and the reinstatement of fired union members.
- On 20 June, 800 workers tried to march from the factory to the National Assembly to protest. They were blocked at the Stung Meanchey bridge by approximately 400 police armed with electric batons and riot police in full riot gear. The police violently dispersed the crowd, with LICADHO recording three injuries to female workers caused by batons or stun batons. The armed forces prevented the

	<p>media from taking pictures and confiscated cameras.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cambodian Apparel Workers Democratic Union, the union that organized the march, said four protesters were seriously injured and more than 15 sustained minor injuries.
<p>13 July 2006</p> <p><i>Phnom Penh municipality</i></p>	<p>Police disperse residents of Block 78 as they try to delivering a written complaint about eviction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 13 July, a group of 48 families went to the Ministry of Justice and City Hall to deliver a written complaint about living conditions at a relocation site they had been sent to after being evicted from their homes. The group was trying to request basic infrastructure and utilities at the site, but was dispersed at both offices by police who tried to confiscate their documents.^{xlviii} ▪ The case related to the eviction of 150 families living for 20 years in Block 78, Village 14, Tonle Bassac commune, Chamkarmon district, Phnom Penh municipality. The Phnom Penh municipality wanted to use the site to build a new bridge to Koh Pich. The municipality initially offered each family as compensation a \$500 and a 5x12m plot of land in Anh Chanh village, Trapang Krasang commune, Dangkor district. The relocation site is far from work opportunities, schools and healthcare services, and has no basic utilities.^{xlix} ▪ By the time workers were sent to clear the site on 5 August, most families had signed compensation agreements because the company had increased the compensation to \$1,000, offered each family a brick house on the relocation site, equipped the site with running water and electricity, and promised to build schools.¹
<p>13 July 2006</p> <p><i>Phnom Penh municipality</i></p>	<p>Police disperse Bavel land protesters gathered in public park opposite PM's house</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approximately 50 land protesters from Bavel district, Battambang province, were dispersed by police less than 10 minutes after they started to protest in the public park opposite the Prime Minister's residence. They complained that local authorities were not implementing an order from the PM to resolve their land dispute. This was their third visit to Phnom Penh to protest the dispute.^{li}
<p>1 August 2006</p> <p><i>Phnom Penh municipality</i></p>	<p>Police block and threaten demonstrators demanding the release of two men convicted of Chea Vichea's murder^{liii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ About 100 protesters gathered to release birds in front of the Police Judicial Prison (PJ) and call for the release of the two men convicted of the murder of Chea Vichea, the former union president of FTUWKC. The conviction is widely condemned by local and international human rights groups. ▪ Shortly after demonstrators had gathered in the street outside PJ, 20 police armed with assault rifles, electric batons, tear gas and riot shields ordered the demonstrators to leave. They moved the protesters away from the prison, threatening them with violence and preventing photographs from being taken.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrators reassembled at Wat Koh pagoda where the families of the convicted men received a blessing from monks and released the birds under banners displayed by protesters. ▪ The 1 August gathering marked the one year anniversary of the men's conviction for the political assassination. They were sentenced to 20 years imprisonment despite having alibis and no credible evidence against them.
<p>1 August 2006</p> <p><i>Bavel, commune, Bavel district, Battambang province</i></p>	<p>Police block a protest march demanding the release of detained Bavel land rights representatives^{liii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2005, 3,170 families settled on 10,000 hectares of unused land in three communes: Bavel, Ampil Pram Doeum and Prek Khpuos. The Government had allocated the land to RCAF Brigade 53 soldiers, but a military commander sold it to private investors. On 4 July, Battambang provincial authorities announced that they would evict all 3,170 families.^{liv} ▪ On 1 August, 50 soldiers, police and military police arrested three representatives of villagers from Boeung 5 village, Bavel commune, who were resisting the clearing of their land. The armed forces clashed with villagers during the execution of the arrests. Shots were fired into the ground, two people were beaten, and 22 people were injured, including two serious injuries. ▪ That evening, 120 villagers gathered at Kam Pheng pagoda to march to the courthouse and provincial hall to demand the release of their representatives. Provincial police prevented them from marching. ▪ On 2 August, the provincial court released two of the villagers. ▪ On 4 September, three men were arrested and accused of establishing a secessionist movement and of distributing the 10,000 hectares of disputed land to the 3,170 families.^{lv}
<p>19 September 2006</p> <p><i>Phnom Penh municipality - & - Chhouk village, Chikhor Leu commune, Sre Ambel district, Koh Kong province</i></p>	<p>Authorities open fire to disperse peaceful protest against Sre Ambel sugar cane company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The government granted a CPP senator a sugar cane concession of 15,000 hectares, which impinges on 3,000 hectares of land farmed since 1979 by 600 families from three villages: Chhouk, Chikhor Leu and Trapeang Kandol, located in Chikhor Leu commune, Sre Ambel district, Koh Kong province.^{lvi} The concession holder offered them compensation of \$25-35/hectare to leave the land, which they refused. The concessionaire started clearing the land and evicting families on 19 May.^{lvii} ▪ On 1 August, 155 protesters representing the 600 families rallied in the park opposite the National assembly against the evictions.^{lviii} ▪ In late September, two men from Chhouk village were arrested when they refused to leave the premises in Sre Ambel where trees were being cleared by a bulldozer.^{lix} ▪ On 19 September, military police opened fire to disperse 200 Chhouk villagers who were peacefully obstructing the activities of the company's employees. CCHR and ADHOC say that one inhabitant was deliberately shot in the foot when she tried to enter the

	<p>concession.^{lx}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 20 September, Chhouk village representatives protested in front of the National Assembly in Phnom Penh against the violent attack and against threats made by the military police to imprison those who resist.^{lxi}
<p>12 August 2006</p> <p><i>Tampom village, Chamkar Leu district, Kompong Cham province</i></p>	<p>Police blast music to disrupt meeting between union leader and non-unionized rubber plantation workers^{lxii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The president of the Cambodia Confederation of Unions went to speak to more than 100 rubber plantation workers in Tampom village about unionizing and their rights under the labor code. ▪ Armed police officers tried to sabotage the meeting by installing speakers and blasting music at full volume to muffle discussion. ▪ The district governor claimed the police were hired by the plantation company and said the company's authorization was needed to hold this meeting.
<p>15 August 2006</p> <p><i>Phnom Penh municipality</i></p>	<p>Prime Minister attempts to suppress FUNCINPEC assembly with threats of dismissal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 15 August, Prime Minister Hun Sen threatened to dismiss provincial FUNCINPEC officials who were planning on attending a welcoming ceremony for FUNCINPEC's then-President on 19 August. Similar threats were made against senior FUNCINPEC officials who invited their rural colleagues to the ceremony. The PM also criticized FUNCINPEC for organizing the ceremony without seeking permission from the Minister of Interior.^{lxiii} ▪ FUNCINPEC officials said they would hold the ceremony despite the PM's threats and that officials were entitled to attend because it was not being held on a workday.^{lxiv} ▪ On 19 August, approximately 1,000 FUNCINPEC supporters and officials attended the ceremony. Afterwards, the Information Minister, speaking on the PM's behalf, said that the PM had been referring only to officials who missed working hours.^{lxv}
<p>4 September 2006</p> <p><i>Tuol Kork district, Phnom Penh - & - Battambang province</i></p>	<p>Police stop the public launching of CCHR's 'black box' anti-corruption campaign in Phnom Penh^{lxvi}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CCHR launched a 'black box' anti-corruption campaign, in which large black boxes would be placed in Phnom Penh and eight provinces to anonymously receive reports from the public on corruption among Cambodian officials. Trucks with loudspeakers and a large black box were sent out in Phnom Penh and the provinces to make the public aware of the campaign. ▪ On 4 September, 100 policemen blocked the truck headed for Phnom Penh as it left the CCHR office in Tuol Kork district. The truck, loudspeakers and black box were confiscated and the driver was detained until the end of the day. ▪ The Phnom Penh municipality refused the CCHR permission to hold a procession to launch this campaign on the grounds that it would

	<p>disrupt the public order. Despite this and despite the confiscation of the truck, CCHR continued to hold its march across Phnom Penh to inform the public of the campaign. Demonstrators distributed information on the campaign until prevented from doing so by authorities.</p>
<p>4 September 2006</p> <p><i>Siem Reap province</i></p>	<p>Armed forces block tuk-tuk & motodop drivers marching to Siem Reap^{lxvii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 4 September, almost 1,000 tuk-tuk and motodop drivers protested in front of the Siem Reap provincial tourism department, then marched to Angkor Wat and blocked the entrance. When they tried to march into Siem Reap town, they were stopped by a blockade of police officers and military police. ▪ They were protesting against parking fees, new travel restrictions preventing them from entering into Angkor Archaeological Park, and the granting of exclusive rights to a private company with electric cars to take tourists around the park. ▪ On 6 September, 200 tuk-tuks forced their way into the archaeological park. ▪ Authorities later granted all of their demands.
<p>19 September 2006</p> <p><i>Phnom Penh municipality</i></p>	<p>Police disperse Sihanoukville land protesters trying to appeal to the PM for intervention^{lxviii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 19 September, a group of 45 villagers, representing 57 families evicted from Smach Daeng village, Ream commune, Prey Nop district, Sihanoukville province, rallied in the public park opposite the Prime Minister's residence to demand new land. They were dispersed by military and civilian police. ▪ The protest related to a land dispute. Six months earlier, the villagers took up residence on an empty 16 hectare plot of land owned by someone else. On 18 September, local authorities demolished their houses and confiscated the land. ▪ After being denied the opportunity to protest in the public park outside the PM's house, the protesters camped at Wat Botum park. On 6 October, 30 police and 10 military police confiscated their belongings and tried to force them to go back home. Public security, public order and the beauty of the city were the reasons cited for the expulsion. The villagers dispersed and went to camp at the offices of the SRP.

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ⁱⁱ *Cambodge Soir*, Jan. 23, 2006, "Droits de l'Homme: Le roi sollicité pour intervenir en faveur d'un abandon des poursuites judiciaires", pp. 1, 6.

ⁱⁱⁱ UNCOHCHR Monitoring Report (unpublished), Mar. 10, 2006, from "Compilation of Freedom of Association Related Cases 2006"

^{iv} *Cambodia Daily*, Jul. 1-2, 2006, "Police on Alert for Strike Despite Union Pledge", p. 3

^v *Cambodge Soir*, Sep. 8-10, 2006, "POLITIQUE: La municipalité de Phnom Penh a refusé de donner son accord à l'organisation vendredi", p. 8

^{vi} *Cambodia Daily*, Dec. 6, 2005, "Villager Detained, Accused of Inciting Others", p. 17; *Cambodia Daily*, Dec. 19, 2005, "Pursat Villagers Decry Firm for Filling in Stream", p. 20

^{vii} LICADHO monitoring report (unpublished), 'Yeng Virak', 10 December 2005; LICADHO monitoring report (unpublished), 'Three human rights activists', 1 January 2006

- viii International Federation for Human Rights, "Report: Threats to Freedom of Expression and Assembly in Cambodia", Feb. 2006, p. 17
- ix LICADHO monitoring report (unpublished), "Land Protestors from Sihanoukville"; *Cambodge Soir*, Dec. 22, 2005, "Foncier: Le juge donne raison aux villageois de Poy Tamoung, la police les expulse", p. 6
- x *Cambodia Daily*, Dec. 21, 2005, "Displaced S'ville Residents Protest Eviction", p. 13
- xi *Cambodia Daily*, Dec. 21, 2005, "Police Stop Protest from Reaching PM's House", p. 12. Number of protesters quoted from *Cambodia Daily*, Dec. 22, 2005, "350 Villagers Gather in Capital, Seek Gov't Help", p. 16
- xii *Cambodge Soir*, May 23, 2006, "Banteay Meanchey: Les 218 familles de Kbal Spean obtiennent satisfaction", pp. 1, 7
- xiii LICADHO monitoring report (unpublished), "Demonstration in Kampot", 17 January 2006.
- xiv *Cambodia Daily*, Jan. 23, 2006, "Over 100 March in Memory of Chea Vichea", p. 12
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- xvii UNCOHCHR Monitoring Report (unpublished), Feb. 14, 2006, from "Compilation of Freedom of Association Related Cases 2006"; *Cambodia Daily*, Feb. 17, 2006, "R'kiri Protester Threatened, Villagers Claim", p. 16
- xviii LICADHO Monitoring Report (unpublished), "March of the Alliance for Freedom of Expression in Cambodia", Feb. 14, 2006
- xix LICADHO monitoring report (unpublished), "Land Protestors from Oddur Meanchey", 23 April 2006; *Cambodge Soir*, Dec. 29, 2005, "ANLONG VENG: Plus de 200 villageois parmi lesquels des dizaines de handicapés sont arrivés mardi soir devant le wat Botum", p. 7; *Cambodge Soir*, Dec. 28, 2005, "Anlong Veng: L'ONG Smiling of disabled people porte plainte", p. 8; *Cambodia Daily*, Dec. 22, 2005, "NGO: Police Destroyed Houses in Anlong Veng", p. 15
- xx *Cambodge Soir*, Mar. 1, 2006, "Foncier: Une centaine de familles ballottées entre Phnom Penh et Siem Reap attendent de pouvoir revenir sur leur terrain, à Anlong Veng", pp. 1, 9
- xxi *Cambodge Soir*, June 15, 2006, "Anlong Veng: Les familles veulent vivre dans la forêt, les autorités s'y opposent", p. 6.
- xxii LICADHO Monitoring Report (unpublished), "Garment Worker's Demonstration", Feb. 28, 2006
- xxiii These factories are also known as also known as Neak Hos 2 (NH2) and Neak Hos 3 (NH3).
- xxiv *Cambodge Soir*, March 14, 2006, "SOCIAL : Les ouvriers de l'usine de confection textile Flying Dragon 3 ont mis fin hier au mouvement de grève", p. 9
- xxv *Cambodia Daily*, Mar. 3, 2006, "CCHR Asks Official To Apologize for Detentions", p. 16
- xxvi LICADHO Monitoring Report (unpublished), "KKKC Protest Against Visiting Vietnam Prime Minister", Mar. 6, 2006
- xxvii *Cambodge Soir*, Mar. 7, 2006, "Visite du Première ministre Vietnamien: Le Viêt-nam fabriquera les bornes-frontières", p. 6
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- xxix *Cambodia Daily*, Apr. 4, 2006, "Monks Claim Land Where Villagers Live", p. 16
- xxx *Cambodia Daily*, May 8, 2006, "Woman Arrested for Inciting Violence at Pagoda", p. 17
- xxxi *Cambodia Daily*, Jul. 3, 2006, "Many Families Cut Deals with Pagoda in Land Dispute", p. 21
- xxxii UNCOHCHR Monitoring Report (unpublished), Jun. 2, 2006, from "Compilation of Freedom of Association Related Cases 2006"
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- xxxvi LICADHO Monitoring Report (unpublished), "Phanimex Company at Brek Eng", 25 July 2006.
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- xxxix LICADHO Monitoring Report (unpublished), 25 July 2006
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