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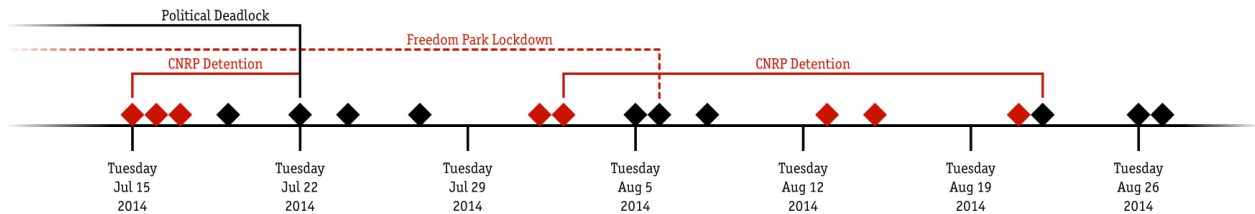
**LICADHO**

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## Freedom Park Violence, CNRP Arrests, and Political Deal: Timeline of Events July 14 – November 28, 2014



*The violence that erupted at Freedom Park on July 15, 2014, led to a series of politically orchestrated events at the hand of the ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP). The arrests of various officials from the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), including elected Members of Parliament (MPs), alongside ongoing political negotiations offers clear evidence that the judiciary is firmly within the hands of the CPP, once again raising serious concerns about the legitimacy and independence of Cambodia’s legal system.*

*Furthermore, the cessation of questioning by Investigating Judge Keo Mony on the morning of July 22, 2014, when negotiations between the CPP and CNRP were taking place, is clear evidence that the detained CNRP officials were used as a bargaining chip, giving CPP an upper hand at the negotiating table.*

*The events following the arrests of various CNRP officials led to an apparent CNRP capitulation on key demands of the past year’s political deadlock. Particularly, the arrests throughout October and November, 2014 took place at a time when CPP and CNRP working groups were drafting the National Election Committee (NEC) law, which has been stuck on a number of issues, including CPP’s demand that the NEC commissioners hold a single Khmer citizenship.*

*In summary, the subsequent timeline offers clear evidence that the absence of concrete processes and guarantees for reforms throughout political negotiations, is a direct result of the politically motivated arrests, detention, and summoning of CNRP officials since July 15.*

### **July 14, 2014: Morning Events**

Opposition leaders of the CNRP call upon CPP Interior Minister Sar Kheng, to lift the ban on public gatherings at Freedom Park in Phnom Penh.

In response to CNRP’s request, Ministry of Interior spokesman Khieu Sopheak states on the record that the CNRP were not “lawmakers yet, [so] police can beat them.”<sup>1</sup>

### **July 15, 2014: Morning Events**

At around 7.45 AM on Dragon Bridge, approximately 60 security guards and dozens of CNRP supporters gather. Meanwhile hundreds of intervention police equipped with anti-riot gear and smoke grenade launchers are inside the barricaded area of Freedom Park.

<sup>1</sup> Meas, S., ‘Freedom Park braces for violence’, Phnom Penh Post, July 15 2014 <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/freedom-park-braces-violence>

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Outside the Ministry of Women's Affairs office, CNRP MP-elect Ho Vann begins speaking to Facebook based citizen journalists. LICADHO monitors spot bamboo batons in bags at the back of a white truck, which is parked about 50m north of Dragon Bridge, in an area where authorities are located.

CNRP MPs-elect Mu Sochua and Long Ry among others, arrive with about 200 supporters, who merge with another 100 other supporters already at Freedom Park. Supporters then move to the southern barricade on Dragon Bridge (corner of 108 St. and Preah Norodom Boulevard) to place a banner stating "Free The Freedom Park."

A group of CNRP supporters then move to the northern barricade on the corner of Dragon Bridge (Preah Mohaksat Treiyani Kossamak and Preah Norodom Boulevard) with another large orange banner. Meanwhile the CNRP MPs-elect remain at the southern end of Dragon Bridge, talking to media and supporters.

Security guards are agitated at northern end of Dragon Bridge testing tasers. They move to take down the orange banner on the northern barricade immediately after it was placed by CNRP supporters.

The supporters move to protect the large orange banner. Security guards begin beating supporters over the head with batons. Some angered supporters retaliate by beating guards with blue plastic tubes (used to hold flags). The security guards start running away, dropping their batons on the floor. Supporters grab the batons and continue beating the guards.

As this happens, the intervention police – contrary to what was observed in all previous Freedom Park events – do not come up to provide protection and reinforcement to the security guards. Most police stand back while the violence unfolds. A few police fire smoke grenades.

As violence recedes, supporters gather back on Dragon Bridge, where the CNRP MPs-elect have set up a loudspeaker over a tuk tuk. The CNRP MPs-elect are delivering speeches in which non-violence is promoted, as well as demanding that basic freedoms be respected.

A second wave of violence occurs as security guards, who were originally standing away from the crowd, begin marching towards the bridge. LICADHO monitors hear CNRP MPs-elect calling for people not to attack the guards and stay on the bridge.

Following the violence, three CNRP MPs-elect, Mu Sochua, Keo Phirum and Men Sothavarin are arrested at the bridge and sent to Wat Phnom commune police station, located inside the barricaded Freedom Park area. The three CNRP MPs-elect are then transported to Phnom Penh Municipal Police Station.

### **July 15, 2014: Afternoon Events**

Ho Vann is summonsed for questioning and shows up at Phnom Penh Municipal Police Station of his own free will and is detained as more than 300 CNRP supporters gather outside.

That evening, the crowd peaks to around 800 people as supporters unite in protest to demand the release of the arrested MPs-elect.

Similar to the trials of the 23 garment workers and human rights activists, Phnom Penh Municipal Court court is heavily barricaded. Some NGOs and journalists are not allowed inside. Police presence is strong, with 300 to 400 military police inside the neighboring Olympic Stadium as well as heavily armored vehicles on the streets with even more officers.



The four CNRP MPs-elect arrested at this point are:

- Mu Sochua                      Battambang
- Men Sothavarin              Kampong Thom
- Keo Phirum                    Kratie
- Ho Vann                        Phnom Penh

**July 16, 2014: Morning Events**

At 2 AM, CNRP MP-elect Real Camerin of Svay Rieng is arrested.

At 9 AM, the CNRP organize a press conference at their headquarters chaired by CNRP Vice-President Kem Sokha in response to the Freedom Park events. Kem Sokha states that the violence at Freedom Park was started by the authorities. This statement is confirmed by accounts from several independent human rights observers and journalists.

As the press conference ends, Sokha requests that all present CNRP MPs-elect go with him to Phnom Penh Municipal Court, where they demand the release of their colleagues.

At 11 AM the government organizes a press conference at the Council of Ministers, where Keo Remy, spokesman for the Council of Ministers Press and Quick Reaction Unit, claims the violence at Freedom Park was ‘a premeditated act of anarchy organized on Facebook by Ms. Sochua.’<sup>2</sup> In an attempt to support his claim, Remy quotes Facebook posts from the CNRP urging people to gather in order to claim back Freedom Park. None of the posts mentioned incited violence.

The case prosecutor Keo Socheat and Investigating Judge Keo Mony begin interviewing the five CNRP MPs-elect. Following the interviews, all five MPs-elect are detained in the prosecutor’s room to see if charges will be announced against them.

Around 11:15 AM, following the CNRP press conference, Ouern Narith, who is responsible for public movement under CNRP Public Affairs Department, is also arrested. A LICADHO car driving Narith to CNRP headquarters is surrounded by police, who forcibly remove Narith from the car. Although LICADHO staff repeatedly request the police to produce an arrest warrant, the police refuse and transport Narith directly to Phnom Penh Municipal Court.<sup>3</sup>

**July 16, 2014: Afternoon Events**

That afternoon it is announced that all CNRP officials will be charged. The charges are under articles: 28 and 218 (instigating aggravated, intentional violence); 495 (inciting others to commit a felony); and 459 (leading an insurrectional movement) of the criminal code. Article 459 carries a potential sentence of 30 years imprisonment. Investigating Judge Keo Mony interviews the accused individually after which all CNRP officials are transferred to Correctional Centre 1 (CC1) and Correctional Centre 2 (CC2) of Prey Sar Prison for pre-trial detention.<sup>4</sup>

That evening, the Minister of the Interior Sar Kheng orders all provisional and municipal governors to actively disperse any demonstration that could lead to incitement of violence. This order effectively shuts down the constitutional right to freedom of assembly across Cambodia.

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<sup>2</sup> Kuch, N., “CNRP Officials Imprisoned on Insurrection Charges,” The Cambodia Daily, July 17 2014, <http://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/cnrp-officials-sent-to-prison-on-charges-of-insurrection-64320/>  
<sup>3</sup> Kuch, N. & Mech, D., “Sixth CNRP Official Arrested Following Protest”, Phnom Penh Post, July 16 2014, <http://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/sixth-cnrp-official-arrested-following-violent-protest-64247/>  
<sup>4</sup> LICADHO, “Livestream: The day after Freedom Park violence: Five MPs at Court”, LICADHO, July 16 2014, [http://stream.licadho-cambodia.org/five\\_elect\\_cnrp\\_court/](http://stream.licadho-cambodia.org/five_elect_cnrp_court/)



Following the day's activities, the Ministry of Justice schedules a meeting with foreign diplomats as well as United Nations representatives to explain its case for arresting CNRP lawmakers. Among the ambassadors that take part in the meeting, several countries question the government for its actions, juxtaposing the CNRP arrests with the absence of any investigation or prosecution into the murder of demonstrators and bystanders by security forces over the last year.

#### **July 17, 2014: Morning Events**

Kem Sokha, receives a summons to be questioned at Phnom Penh Municipal Court at 8 AM on July 25, over the violence that occurred on July 15 at Freedom Park.

#### **July 17, 2014: Afternoon Events**

Two additional CNRP MPs-elect, Long Ry of Banteay Meanchey and Nuth Rumduol of Kampong Speu, along with one other CNRP activist Khin Chamreun are named in court documents as having been formally accused by the case prosecutor.

At around 4 PM, both Long Ry and Nuth Rumduol are arrested at Ry's home while they are waiting for their lawyers to arrive.<sup>5</sup> They are detained at Phnom Penh Municipal Police Station that evening.

By now, a total of seven CNRP MPs-elect and one leading CNRP activist have been arrested in the first 48 hours since July 15.

That evening it is reported that police are searching for CNRP candidate for Banteay Meanchey, Meach Sovannara, who is also the owner of popular online radio station Khmer Post Radio.<sup>6</sup>

#### **July 18, 2014: Morning Events**

Early in the morning of July 18, CNRP MPs-elect Long Ry and Nuth Rumduol are transported to the Phnom Penh Municipal Court where Investigating Judge Keo Mony, questions them.

Following their questioning Keo Mony orders both MPs-elect to pre-trial detention at CC1. Both CNRP MPs-elect are transported to the prison at around 9.30 AM, joining the other CNRP officials detained on July 15, 16, and 17. In total there are now eight CNRP officials being held in pre-trial detention for offences relating to the violence which took place at Freedom Park on July 15.

Following the arrests of Long Ry and Nuth Rumduol, CNRP president Sam Rainsy emails the Phnom Penh Post stating that he will return to Cambodia from Europe 'on July 19 at 9:05 AM.'<sup>7</sup>

#### **July 19, 2014: Morning Events**

At Phnom Penh International Airport, several hundred CNRP supporters gather in anticipation of CNRP Leader Sam Rainsy's arrival at 9 AM. At the same time, small teams of armed intervention police spaced at 100 meter intervals, are present in the southern area of Phnom Penh near CNRP headquarters.

The crowd at the airport numbers over 1000 as people from both Phnom Penh and outside provinces gather. After Rainsy's plane lands he calls for his colleagues to be released immediately and for Freedom Park to be reopened. Following his speech, Rainsy announces he will march towards Freedom Park and Wat Phnom.

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<sup>5</sup> Naren, K., "Police Arrest Two More Opposition Officials", The Cambodia Daily, July 18 2014, <http://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/police-arrest-two-more-opposition-officials-64417/>

<sup>6</sup> Kuch, N. & Blomberg, M., "Parties Offer Conflicting Narratives of Protest Clash", The Cambodia Daily, Jul 18 2014, <http://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/parties-offer-conflicting-narratives-of-protest-clash-64509/>

<sup>7</sup> Post Staff, "Roundup of CNRP Continues", Phnom Penh Post, July 18 2014, <http://www.phnompenhpost.com//national/roundup-cnrp-continues>



The crowd continues to grow as CNRP supporters line Russian Boulevard. By 10:45 AM, the head of the procession passes Tuol Kork roundabout. LICADHO monitors estimate the crowd at its peak numbers around 15,000 people.

At 11:15 AM, Sam Rainsy arrives in front of the Council of Ministers, announcing to the crowd that he will find a political solution for the release of the arrested CNRP MPs-elect. Rainsy decides to march towards the CNRP headquarters rather than Wat Phnom.

The march moves towards the CNRP Headquarters, where Rainsy makes another speech to the crowd along with Kem Sokha and Meach Sovannara who was reportedly being sought by police since July 17.

Addressing the people, Kem Sokha states that the CNRP will only use non-violent methods to ensure the release of its MPs-elect.

### **July 19, 2014: Afternoon Events**

At 12:30 PM, Rainsy announces that the CNRP will call for a meeting with high level officials of the CPP on Monday July 21 [this meeting is eventually set to Tuesday, July 22, at 9 AM] to find an all-encompassing solution regarding electoral reforms, the reopening of Freedom Park, and the release of CNRP officials and activists.

As the day comes to a close, Kandal Provincial Court summons Chan Chang, CNRP MP-elect in Kandal Province, and Choung Choungy, his lawyer, for trial on July 22 regarding charges from an event that occurred in 2011. The court claims that Chan Chang assisted in the alleged escape of opposition activist and then-commune councilor activist Meas Peng, who was detained for allegedly destroying private property.<sup>8</sup> No charges were imposed at the time. The resurfacing of the trial appears to be politically rooted to apply additional pressure on the CNRP on the eaves of negotiations.

### **July 20, 2014: Morning Events**

Families of the CNRP detainees continue to go to Prey Sar Prison but are denied access.

### **July 20, 2014: Afternoon Events**

The CPP and CNRP both issue statements stating that a “top level” meeting will occur to reach a ‘comprehensive settlement of Cambodia’s political crisis.’<sup>9</sup> The summit is scheduled to be held at 9 AM on July 22 at the Senate.

According to Sam Rainsy, the main points of the summit will be the establishment of a new constitutionally mandated national electoral commission, as well as the next commune and legislative elections, of which the CNRP agreed to hold in February 2017 and 2018 respectively.<sup>10</sup>

### **July 21, 2014: Morning Events**

Rumours that the eight CNRP officials will be released on bail reinforces some observer’s fear that they are being be used as bargaining chips for the upcoming summit.

### **July 21, 2014: Afternoon Events**

LICADHO prison monitors continue to be prevented access to Prey Sar Prison. At CC2, two CNRP officials manage to visit Mu Sochua but have still to visit the CNRP MPs-elect in CC1.

<sup>8</sup> May, T., “CNRP Lawmaker Summoned,” Phnom Penh Post, July 21 2014, <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/cnrp-lawmaker-summoned>

<sup>9</sup> Ponnudurai, P., “Cambodian Parties Agree to Hold Talks to End ‘Deepening’ Political Crisis”, Radio Free Asia, July 20 2014, <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/cambodia/talks-07202014220938.html>

<sup>10</sup> Meas, S., & Ponniah, K., “CPP, CNRP ‘Final Talks’ on Tuesday”, Phnom Penh Post, July 21 2014 <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/cpp-cnrp-final-talks-tuesday>



Despite multiple requests, the U.S. embassy is refused visitation rights to Mu Sochua who is an American citizen.<sup>11</sup>

### **July 22, 2014: Morning Events**

A high level summit between CNRP and CPP officials takes place at the Senate. The main topics of the negotiations are electoral reform, election dates and reform of the media and parliamentary institutions.<sup>12</sup> Meanwhile, as negotiations take place the Investigating Judge, Keo Mony, visits the CNRP detainees at Prey Sar Prison to question them further. However, while waiting for additional information from the court regarding what will happen with the detainees, Mony abruptly stops the interviews at about 11 AM after questioning only three out of the eight CNRP detainees.

### **July 22, 2014: Afternoon Events**

In a joint statement, CNRP and CPP officials announce that the two parties have reached an agreement. The key points from the agreement are as follows:

- The CNRP will take up its 55 seats in the National Assembly.
- Two MPs from the CPP will hold the positions of President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President over the National Assembly, while a CNRP MP will hold the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President.
- Both parties claim they will work together to solve unspecified problems based on a principle of democracy and rule of law.
- A new National Election Committee (NEC), which will be elevated to a constitutional body, is to consist of nine members: four from the CPP; four from the CNRP; and one member agreed upon by both parties.
- Both parties agree to set the date of the next elections although this is still unspecified.
- Both parties agree to a better separation of legislative and executive power through unspecified measures.
- The creation of a new tenth committee on anti-corruption.
- Each party will lead five out of the ten committees.
- The head of the Senate will be re-evaluated.
- Various national institutions will be strengthened to ensure their independence and devotion to national interests.<sup>13</sup>

Following the conclusion of negotiations, the eight CNRP officials detained at CC1 and CC2 of Prey Sar Prison are released at 4.45 PM, to a crowd of over 350 supporters. However, the charges against them are not dropped.

### **July 23, 2014: Afternoon Events**

CNRP spokesman Yim Sovann announces that three high ranking officers of the CNRP, Sam Rainsy, Kem Sokha, and Pol Hom, will meet the King of Cambodia at the Royal Palace on July 24, 2014, at 4 PM. Both political parties led by Hun Sen and Sam Rainsy will give the results of the negotiations to King Sihamoni.

### **July 24, 2014: Morning Events**

CNRP announces that Sam Rainsy will become a Member of Parliament for Kampong Cham Province replacing CNRP MP, Kuoy Bunroeun, who will become one of the four CNRP-appointed commissioners on the NEC.

### **July 24, 2014: Afternoon Events**

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<sup>11</sup> Cuddy, A., "Sochua 'Off Limits to Embassy'", Phnom Penh Post, July 22 2014, <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/sochua-%E2%80%98limits-us-embassy%E2%80%99>

<sup>12</sup> Meas, S. & Ponniah, K., "Hopes High for Resolution", The Phnom Penh Post, July 22 2014, <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/hopes-high-resolution>

<sup>13</sup> CNRP, "Agreement on the Political Solution Between the Cambodian Peoples Party and the Cambodia National Rescue Party", CNRP, July 22 2014, <http://www.nationalrescueparty.org/cnrp-cpp-joint-agreement-22-07-2014/>



Hun Sen and Sam Rainsy meet with King Norodom Sihamoni at the Royal Palace and officially inform him of the political agreement reached between CPP and CNRP on July 22, 2014.

#### **July 25, 2014: Morning Events**

Kem Sokha attends his summonsing at Phnom Penh Municipal Court for questioning but leaves after half an hour.

Phnom Penh City Hall grants permission to CNRP to host its first National Council Conference at Botum Vatey Pagoda on July 27, 2014.

#### **July 27, 2014: Afternoon Events**

CNRP holds its National Conference at Botum Vatey Pagoda, attended by 5000 members and supporters. The conference reaches an agreement on seven points:

- To support the non-violence principle for political advocacy.
- To support the political policy on the agreement of political resolution between CNRP and CPP.
- To support the 4+4+1 formula of the NEC and the recruitment of the 9th member of the NEC before joining the National Assembly.
- To support the National Assembly Reform.
- CNRP elected-lawmakers have to build their capacity in demanding National Institution reform.
- Push CPP to implement the seven points of CNRP's principle policy.
- Defend social justice, territory, and the interests of the Cambodian people.

#### **July 28, 2014: Afternoon Events**

CPP MP for Prey Veng, Cheam Yeap, announces that Sam Rainsy will become President of the Anti-Corruption Commission in Parliament. Kem Sokha will take the position of first Vice-President, while CPP MP for Kampong Thom, Mr. Nguon Nhel, will become Second Vice-President.

Dr. Pung Chhiv Kek accepts her nomination as ninth member for the NEC on the condition that the NEC can independently hire its own staff and can operate with full autonomy, receiving funding from international donors.

#### **July 30, 2014: Morning Events**

In a letter to Sar Kheng, Sam Rainsy states that all 55 CNRP MPs will join the National Assembly. However, the letter contains a large number of conditions including immunity of all members on the NEC, in addition to amendments to Article 76 of the constitution and the creation of a new chapter regarding the Law on election.<sup>14</sup>

#### **August 1, 2014: Morning Events**

Sar Kheng responds to Sam Rainsy's letter on July 30, excluding any mention of immunity for the members of the NEC.

It is announced that two teams, one from CNRP and one from CPP, will meet at 3pm to discuss constitutional amendments.

#### **August 1, 2014: Afternoon Events**

Kem Sokha as well as the eight CNRP officials formerly detained in connection with the Freedom Park violence on July 15 are all summonsed to appear at Phnom Penh Municipal Court between August 8 and August 13.

#### **August 2, 2014: Morning Events**

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<sup>14</sup> Articles 76, 151, 152, 153



At 7.30 AM, Khin Chamreun the Chief of Phnom Penh CNRP Youths is arrested at a restaurant in Takhmao town, south of Phnom Penh. Chamreun is transported to Phnom Penh Municipal Police Station where he is formally accused alongside the other eight CNRP officials who were detained for one week at CC1 and CC2 over the violence at Freedom Park on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **August 2, 2014: Afternoon Events**

Khin Chamreun is transported to CC1 at 12.10 PM. At the same time, police arrest two additional CNRP youth leaders in Phnom Penh: Tuol Kork district youth leader San Kimheng and Chbar Ampov district youth leader Neang Sokhun.

Chamreun was originally named in the court documents filed by case prosecutor Keo Soheat on July 16 in which he was formally accused, along with the other eight CNRP officials, of inciting and instigating violence, and leading an insurrectional movement. Kimheng and Sokhun are accused of acts of violence, obstructing public officials and taking part in an insurrectional movement.<sup>15</sup>

#### **August 4, 2014: Morning Events**

Prime Minister Hun Sen delivers a speech at Western University's graduation ceremony on Koh Pich Island, Phnom Penh, warning that people 'who instigate and commit acts of violence will face the full force of the law.'<sup>16</sup>

#### **August 4, 2014: Afternoon Events**

Family members of the three CNRP youth leaders are turned away from CC1 prison when they attempt to visit. They are told they cannot visit until they have permission from the court or the General Department of Prisons (GDP). The same families had also tried previously on August 3.

#### **August 5, 2014: Afternoon Events**

Lawyers for the CNRP youth leaders submit a request for family visit on their behalf to Investigating Judge Keo Mony. This request will go unanswered for 17 days.

King Norodom Sihamoni swears in all 55 CNRP MPs to the National Assembly at 4 PM.

#### **August 6, 2014: Morning Events**

Freedom Park is reopened to the public following the swearing in of all 55 CNRP MPs.

#### **August 7, 2014: Morning Events**

Investigating Judge Keo Mony refuses a bail request regarding the three CNRP youth leaders detained at CC1 in Prey Sar Prison.

#### **August 7, 2014: Afternoon Events**

Prime Minister Hun Sen warns CNRP that the political deal could fall through if CNRP fail to turn up to the first plenary meeting of the National Assembly on August 8.

#### **August 8, 2014: Morning Events**

The National Assembly opens for its first plenary session with all CPP and CNRP MPs in attendance.

#### **August 9, 2014: Morning Events**

One week after their arrests, Sam Rainsy and CNRP MPs visit the three CNRP youth leaders detained at CC1. However, relatives of the detainees are still refused visitation rights.

<sup>15</sup> Chamreun is charged under articles 28, 218, 459, 495. Kimheng and Sokhun are charged under articles 218, 456, 457, 504

<sup>16</sup> May, T., "'Acts of Violence' Won't be Tolerated," Phnom Penh Post, August 6 2014,

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/%E2%80%98acts-violence%E2%80%99-won%E2%80%99t-be-tolerated-premier>





### **August 11, 2014: Morning Events**

All seven of the CNRP MPs detained over the Freedom Park violence on July 15 announce that they will not attend the Phnom Penh Municipal Court in response to their respective summonses for additional questions this week as they now have parliamentary immunity.

### **August 11, 2014: Afternoon Events**

Investigating Judge Keo Mony states that he will no longer continue to question any of the eight CNRP MPs (the seven detained at CC1 and CC2 during July 15-22, and Kem Sokha) in relation to the Freedom Park violence; however he will continue questioning CNRP official Ouern Narith on August 13 at 2 pm.

### **August 13, 2014: Afternoon Events**

Kampong Chhnang Provincial Court summons three CNRP officials to appear in court on August 15, 2014.

Phnom Penh Municipal Court announces that it has summonsed CNRP candidate for Banteay Meanchey, Meach Sovannara, in addition to CNRP youth members San Seihak (sibling of Sam Kimheng, arrested on **August 2**) and Tep Narin.

Both Seihak and Narin are scheduled to be interviewed by Phnom Penh Municipal Court on August 27, while Meach Sovannara is scheduled to appear before the court on September 01.

Meanwhile, the three CNRP youth leaders (Chamreun, Kimheng, and Sokhun) who were arrested on August 2 and are currently being detained at CC1, will appear before the investigating chamber of the Phnom Penh Municipal Court of Appeal at a non-public hearing regarding their bail application on August 22 at 8 AM.

### **August 15, 2014: Afternoon Events**

Investigating Judge Keo Mony issues a summons for Sovannara, Seihek and Narin to appear for court interviews at Phnom Penh Municipal Court regarding the Freedom Park violence on July 15.

Furthermore, a new summons is issued for known grassroots activist and CNRP supporter, Ouk Pich Samnang. Samnang will appear before Phnom Penh Municipal Court on August 26, at 2 PM.

CNRP youth members San Seihak and Tep Narin will appear before the same court on the morning of August 27, while Meach Sovannara will go to court on September 1, at 2 PM.

In total, there are now eight CNRP members and supporters that are facing legal action over the Freedom Park violence: Ouern Narith, Khin Chamreun, San Kimheng, Neang Sokhun, Meach Sovannara, San Seihak, Tep Narin, and Ouk Pich Samnang.

Amnesty International issues a statement calling the legal action before the CNRP officials to be “arbitrary, politically motivated and designed to silence dissent, in violation of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and to freedom from arbitrary detention.”<sup>17</sup>

### **August 19, 2014: Morning Events**

Three CNRP MP's are granted access to visit the three detained CNRP youth leaders at CC1 following permission from the GDP.

### **August 21, 2014: Morning Events**

A Senior Officer of the National Assembly announces that voting to select the President and Vice-President of the National Assembly will take place next week. This will also include voting on the 10 committees which will take place on August 26, 2014.



### **August 21: Afternoon Events**

Ho Vann confirms that CNRP supporter and known grassroots activist Ouk Pich Samnang, will go to Phnom Penh Municipal Court on August 26 at 2 PM. Additionally there is a new summons issued for CNRP youth member An Batham to appear at court on the same day as Samnang.

LICADHO lawyers meet court officials to follow up on their letter of request for family visitation rights to the three youths in CC1. The lawyers meet with Investigating Judge Keo Mony who says that court officials do not have the right to permit family visits. However he advises that the families of the CNRP youths in CC1 should send a letter to the Ministry of Interior. Mony says that he can decide on a request made by a specific person from a government institution such as a Senator, MP, or government official.

### **August 22, 2014: Morning Events**

At 9.30 AM, the three CNRP youth leaders arrested and imprisoned at CC1 on August 2 are granted bail for a total deposit amount of \$1,000. Khin Chamreun, San Kimheng and Neang Sokhun are granted provisional release under judicial supervision.

### **August 22, 2014: Afternoon Events**

At around 6 PM the three CNRP youth leaders are released from CC1.

### **August 26, 2014: Morning Events**

Voting on Presidential and Vice-Presidential positions at the National Assembly begins. CPP MP Nguon Nhil becomes second Vice President by a vote of 122 National Assembly MPs, while Kem Sokha becomes first Vice President of National Assembly with 116 votes.

### **August 26, 2014: Afternoon Events**

Ouk Pich Samnang appears before Phnom Penh Municipal Court for interview with Investigating Judge Keo Mony.

CNRP MP Eng Chhay Eang is voted as head of parliament's commission on human rights, and CNRP standing committee chairman Pol Ham is voted as head of the commission on investment, planning and agriculture.

CNRP chief whip, Son Chhay, is appointed deputy head of the banking and finance commission, underneath CPP MP Cheam Yeap.

### **August 27, 2014: Morning Events**

In a surprise move, Mu Sochua fails to obtain the needed majority to be voted head of the commission on health, social affairs, labor and women's affairs, receiving only 56 votes. All but one CPP member of parliament declined to vote for Sochua.

In the same fashion, Yim Sovann fails to be elected as head of the newly created anti-corruption commission.

### **August 27, 2014: Afternoon Events**

San Seihak appears before Phnom Penh Municipal Court for interview with Investigating Judge Keo Mony.

CNRP decides not to contest the decision of the National Assembly, replacing Mu Sochua with Keo Sovannroath and Yim Sovann with Ho Vann. Sovannroath is elected as head of commission on health, social affairs, labor and women's affairs, while Ho Vann is elected as head of commission on anti-corruption.

CNRP spokesman Yem Ponharith is elected chairman of the commission on education.



CNRP MP Long Ry is elected deputy chairman of the commission on interior and national defense, under Hun Sen's brother Hun Neng.

CNRP MP Mao Monyvann is elected deputy chairman of the commission on public works, transport, telecommunications, post, industry, energy and commerce under CPP MP Nin Saphon.

CNRP MP Tioulong Saumura is elected deputy chairwoman of the foreign affairs commission under CPP MP Chheang Vun.

Ou Chanrith is elected deputy chairman of the commission on justice, underneath CPP MP Pen Panha.

#### **September 29, 2014: Morning Events**

CNRP Chbar Ampov elected district council member Sum Puthy is arrested in relation to the violence that took place on July 15 at Freedom Park.

Puthy is charged with intentional violence with aggravating circumstances (Criminal Code article 218), participating in an insurrectionary movement (Criminal Code articles 456 and 457), and obstruction of a public official with aggravating circumstances (Criminal Code article 504). He is sent to CC1 at Prey Sar Prison for pre-trial detention making him the twelfth CNRP official to be arrested in relation to the Freedom Park violence.

He is now facing up to 15 years in prison and \$3,000 in fines.

#### **October 24, 2014: Morning Events**

Grassroots activist and CNRP supporter, Ouk Pich Samnang, is arrested four days after he was seriously beaten while joining a protest near Prime Minister Hun Sen's house on October 20, 2014, held by land rights protesters from Preah Vihear province.

Samnang is charged with the same offences listed against Sum Puthy above in regard to the Freedom Park violence.

Samnang is also charged over the events regarding the Preah Vihear protests on October 20, accused of intentional violence with aggravating circumstances (Criminal Code article 218), intentional property damage with aggravating circumstances (Criminal Code article 411), obstruction of public officials (Criminal Code article 503) and participation in criminal association (Criminal Code article 499).

Samnang is facing a total of 10 years in prison and \$10,625 in fines.

#### **November 11, 2014: Morning Events**

CNRP candidate for Banteay Meanchey, Meach Sovannara, is arrested by authorities in Phnom Penh and detained at Phnom Penh Serious Crime Police Station.

Sovannara was previously summonsed by Investigating Judge Keo Mony to Phnom Penh Municipal Court on September 1 over the Freedom Park violence. However, as Sovannara was abroad at the time, he was unable to appear before the court.

Sovannara is charged with instigating aggravated intentional violence (Criminal Code articles 28 and 218), inciting the commission of a felony (Criminal Code article 495), and leading an insurrectional movement (Criminal Code article 459). He faces up to 30 years in prison and \$3,500 in fines.

Ke Khim, a tuk tuk driver and CNRP supporter, who transported flags on the day of the Freedom Park violence, is arrested and detained at Prey Sar's CC1 prison.



### **November 13, 2014: Morning Events**

CNRP youth member Tep Narin is arrested by local authorities after failing to report at a local Phnom Penh police station. Narin was required to present himself before police once every two weeks while under judicial supervision.

Narin is accused by case prosecutor Keo Socheat of taking part in the violence that occurred at Freedom Park on July 15, 2014.

Currently there are 5 CNRP officials and supporters being detained by authorities at Prey Sar's CC1 Prison: Activist and CNRP supporter, Ouk Pich Samnang; CNRP Chbar Ampov council member, Sum Puthy; CNRP candidate for Banteay Meanchey, Meach Sovannara; CNRP supporter, Ke Khim and CNRP youth member, Tep Narin.

In total, 16 CNRP officials and activists have now been arrested over the violence at Freedom Park on July 15.

▪ Mu Sochua	MP for Battambang	arrested	Jul	15
▪ Men Sothavarin	MP for Kampong Thom	arrested	Jul	15
▪ Keo Phirum	MP for Kratie	arrested	Jul	15
▪ Ho Vann	MP for Phnom Penh	arrested	Jul	15
▪ Real Camerin	MP for Svay Rieng	arrested	Jul	16
▪ Ouern Narith	Official of Public Affairs Department	arrested	Jul	16
▪ Long Ry	MP for Banteay Meanchey	arrested	Jul	17
▪ Nuth Rumduol	MP for Kampong Speu	arrested	Jul	17
▪ Khin Chamreun	Chief of Phnom Penh Youths	arrested	Aug	02
▪ San Kimheng	Tuol Kork district youth leader	arrested	Aug	02
▪ Neang Sokhun	Chbar Ampov district youth leader	arrested	Aug	02
▪ Sum Puthy	CNRP Chbar Ampov council member	arrested	Sep	29
▪ Ouk Pich Samnang	Activist and CNRP supporter	arrested	Oct	24
▪ Meach Sovannara	Candidate for Banteay Meanchey	arrested	Nov	11
▪ Ke Khim	CNRP supporter	arrested	Nov	11
▪ Tep Narin	Youth member	arrested	Nov	13

These arrests take place at a time when CPP and CNRP working groups are drafting the National Election Committee (NEC) law, which has been stuck on a number of issues.

CNRP Deputy Public Affairs Director Kem Monovithya tells the Cambodia Daily that "the CPP is using the tactic of arresting CNRP officials to put pressure on the CNRP, as our party disagrees with some points on the issue of the NEC."

### **November 28, 2014: Morning Events**

Prime Minister Hun Sen and CNRP President Sam Rainsy have a private meeting at the National Assembly resulting in a signed agreement which states that all issues surrounding the drafting of the new law on the National Election Committee have been resolved. In particular, and despite previous resistance by the CNRP, Rainsy agrees to the CPP demand of that commissioners hold Khmer citizenship only.

The agreement also mentions the granting of more antennas to a CNRP-affiliated radio station (93.5FM) as well as a TV license to a CNRP-affiliated company.

### **November 28, 2014: Afternoon Events**

Investigating Judge Keo Mony separates the case against the seven CNRP MPs from the upcoming case against the 11 CNRP officials and supporters due to take place on December 25, 2014.



Ouern Narith, Khin Chamreun, San Kimheng, Neang Sokhun, San Seihak, An Batham, Ouk Pich Samnang, Ke Khim, Sum Puthy, Meach Sovannara, and Tep Narin have all been summonsed to answer charges stemming from violence that erupted at Freedom Park on July 15, 2014.

Narith, Chamreun, and Sovannara, are all charged with the offence of leading an insurrectionary movement (Criminal Code article 459). The others will be tried for participating in an insurrectionary movement (Criminal Code articles 456 and 457). If convicted, the charge of participating in an insurrectionary movement carries a prison sentence of 7 to 15 years, and leading an insurrectionary movement imposes 20 to 30 years.

The case against the seven CNRP MPs (Mu Sochua, Men Sothavarin, Keo Phirum, Ho Vann, Real Camerin, Long Ry and Nuth Rumduol) remains under investigation by Investigating Judge Keo Mony. The case file continues to contemplate additional 'unknown' perpetrators.

The statute of limitations for a felony in Cambodia is 20 years.