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LICADHO

CAMBODIAN LEAGUE FOR THE  
PROMOTION AND DEFENSE OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS



# HUMAN RIGHTS 2014: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

A report issued in  
February 2015



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**LICADHO**

CAMBODIAN LEAGUE FOR THE PROMOTION  
AND DEFENSE 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 civil, political, economic and social rights in Cambodia and to promote respect for them by the Cambodian government and institutions. Building on its past achievements, LICADHO continues to be an advocate for the Cambodian people and a monitor of the government through wide ranging human rights programs from its main office in Phnom Penh and 13 provincial offices.

## MONITORING & PROTECTION



### **Monitoring of State Violations and Women's and Children's Rights:**

Monitors investigate human rights violations perpetrated by the State and violations made against women and children. Victims are provided assistance through interventions with local authorities and court officials.

### **Medical Assistance & Social Work:**

A medical team provides assistance to prisoners and prison officials in 14 prisons, victims of human rights violations and families in resettlement sites. Social workers conduct needs assessments of victims and their families and provide short-term material and food.

### **Prison Monitoring:**

Researchers monitor 18 prisons to assess prison conditions and ensure that pre-trial detainees have access to legal representation.

### **Paralegal and Legal Representation:**

Victims are provided legal advice by a paralegal team and, in key cases, legal representation by human rights lawyers.

## PROMOTION & ADVOCACY

### **Supporting Unions and Grassroots Groups and Networks:**

Assistance to unions, grassroots groups and affected communities to provide protection and legal services, and to enhance their capacity to campaign and advocate for human rights.

### **Training and Information:**

Advocates raise awareness to specific target groups, support protection networks at the grassroots level and advocate for social and legal changes with women, youths and children.

### **Public Advocacy and Outreach:**

Human rights cases are compiled into a central electronic database, so that accurate information can be easily accessed and analyzed, and produced into periodic public reports (written, audio and visual) or used for other advocacy.

### **For More Information Contact:**

Dr. Pung Chhiv Kek, President  
LICADHO  
#16, Street 99  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Tel: (855) 23 727 102/216 602  
Fax: (855) 23 727 102/217 626

E-mail: [contact@licadho-cambodia.org](mailto:contact@licadho-cambodia.org)

Web: [www.licadho-cambodia.org](http://www.licadho-cambodia.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/licadho](https://www.facebook.com/licadho) Twitter: [www.twitter.com/licadho](https://www.twitter.com/licadho)



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Funeral ceremony honoring the deaths of four men killed on Veng Sreng road in Phnom Penh, January 16, 2014.

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# A MESSAGE FROM LICADHO'S PRESIDENT

The human rights situation in Cambodia continued to remain bleak throughout 2014 as the political deadlock continued while space for civil society continued to shrink with the drafting of harmful laws targeting freedom of assembly and expression. There were numerous cases of impunity, while conflicts over land and natural resources continued to remain a source of serious human rights violations with arrests and detention of many land activists. Political repression and the lack of an independent judiciary remain a serious concern, evident from the arrest and detention of Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) Members of Parliament (MPs), officials, and supporters throughout the year. Nevertheless, despite these obstacles, Cambodians persevered taking to the streets to demand their human rights.

The violence that occurred on January 3 and 4 on Veng Sreng road, resulting in the tragic deaths of at least 4 garment workers and the disappearance of a 15 year old boy, Khem Sophath, along with the lack of any credible or transparent investigation, demonstrated that security forces across Cambodia continue to act with complete impunity.<sup>1</sup> In the provinces,<sup>2</sup> LICADHO monitors also documented many incidents of violence, threats, and intimidation against land activists, in addition to security forces threatening and detaining NGO staff.

Despite these gross human rights violations, there was some cause for hope as Freedom Park reopened to the public following the end of the political deadlock between the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and CNRP in July. However, it later became evident that the arrested and detained CNRP officials following the Freedom Park violence were used as a bargaining chip, giving CPP an upper hand at the negotiating table.

The judiciary continued to remain firmly in the hands of the ruling party as the courts persecuted 23 human rights activists and workers after the Veng Sreng protests, closely followed by the groundless charges faced by CNRP officials following the protests at Freedom Park. The judiciary also tried and imprisoned many activists on trumped-up charges, most notably the trials and detention of 19 activists and monks throughout October and November.

As human rights abuses continued throughout 2014, LICADHO's staff continued to monitor government activities and provide information from the front-line of peaceful protests, land evictions, and court hearings of numerous human rights activists arrested over the course of the year. LICADHO's work played a crucial role in informing a number of international actors including, but not limited to, the United Nations, embassies, international NGO's and numerous donor states. LICADHO's advocacy efforts continued to support grassroots groups and disseminate vital and accurate information to the Cambodian public, while lobbying the international community through reports, briefing papers, videos, livestream, and use of



Dr. Pung Chhiv Kek, LICADHO President

social media platforms.

Additionally, LICADHO also provided medical support to thousands of people in prisons, victims of land evictions and those who suffered violent repression at the hands of state security forces while peacefully protesting. Legal assistance was also provided to 119 victims of human rights abuses and human rights activists throughout the year.

This activity report summarizes LICADHO's achievements over the past year and provides an overview of the human rights situation in Cambodia. LICADHO's unique blend of programs, covering human rights monitoring, public advocacy, and grassroots empowerment, would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of LICADHO's staff and our funding partners. As we look to 2015, LICADHO wishes to thank all those who have supported us through 2014 and express our hope that those partnerships will continue as the Cambodian people continue to struggle for their rights.

<sup>1</sup> At least four garment workers were killed during the protests while one died in May due to head injuries sustained during the protests in January.

<sup>2</sup> Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Kampong Thom, Kampot, Koh Kong, Pursat, Ratanakiri, Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, Svay Rieng



# HUMAN RIGHTS 2014 IN REVIEW



Military Police on Veng Sreng road during the deadly crackdown, Phnom Penh, January 3, 2014.

## INTRODUCTION

January 2014 started bloody and violent as thousands of mixed security forces mobilized to ruthlessly suppress a global strike by garment workers for a rise in minimum wage as well as putting an end to the three-week long post-election protest by the opposition. LICADHO monitors witnessed security forces firing live ammunition and grenades directly at crowds of civilians near the Canadia Industrial Area on Veng Sreng road, Phnom Penh, leading to four shot dead, one disappearance of a 15 year old boy, Khem Sophath, and 38 others hospitalized in the worst state violence to hit Cambodia in over a decade. Following the events that occurred on Veng Sreng road, the ruling party continued a policy of systematically repressing civil society as security forces continued to operate with impunity against peaceful protests, access to public spaces such as Freedom Park were shutdown, numerous human rights activists were arrested and tried on spurious charges, and laws designed to curtail freedom of assembly and expression continued to be drafted.

Although the last year saw the end of the political deadlock between the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) following the 2013 elections; the arrests, charges, and detention of various CNRP officials and supporters throughout political negotiations gave CPP the upper hand at the negotiating table. These arrests demonstrated the judiciary continues to remain firmly within the hands of the CPP, once again stressing the lack of independence in Cambodia's legal system.

## CRACKDOWN ON FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY CONTINUES

Throughout 2014, LICADHO documented an increase in violations regarding the right to freedom of assembly and expression. In total there was an 18% increase in violations documented by LICADHO when compared to 2013.

Following the events on Veng Sreng road on January 2 and 3, state security

“ The government's blatant control of the judiciary to manoeuvre the political opposition and suppress dissenting voices has been a striking feature this year and it has demonstrated that any promises of reform by the ruling party simply cannot be trusted. ”

Naly Pilorge  
LICADHO Director

forces put a violent end to a long-standing occupation of Freedom Park by CNRP supporters on January 4. Security forces were accompanied by hundreds of thug-gish civilians wearing red arm bands, who used meter-long steel poles to beat and intimidate the peaceful protesters as hundreds of police and military police blocked the roads surrounding Freedom Park while rapidly, and without warning, moving in to clear the park of protesters. Once the park was clear, the civilian thugs and uniformed forces tore down a stage as well as temporary structures that had been built to provide shelter to protesters, destroying a Buddhist shrine in the process. In the aftermath of this crackdown, the Interior Ministry implemented an unconstitutional ban on freedom of assembly, which was arbitrarily enforced until late July. This included the barricading of Freedom Park, which was legally assigned as a dedicated space for people to gather and protest since 2010.

The implementation of this ban resulted in security forces violently breaking up numerous protests and marches. On three separate occasions in January, union-ists and land activists who had gathered to call for the release of the 23 detainees were arrested and taken into custody. They were all released after a few hours or an overnight stay in detention, having been required to sign documents stating that they would not participate in, or arrange any further public protests.

Another incident of violence occurred on January 27, when Mam Sonando, owner of Beehive radio station, and approximately 1,000 supporters were prevented from entering Freedom Park as guards and civilians attempted to block their route from the park to the Ministry of Information (MOI). Sonando and his supporters were calling for Beehive - one of the few independent broadcasters in Cambodia - to be granted its own TV station allowing for nationwide broadcasts. More than 1,000 municipal security guards, civilian thugs, military police, and riot police, advanced on the group detonating smoke grenades and using electric batons on supporters and bystanders, severely beating and shocking at least eight people.

On April 30, one day before International Labor Day and two days before the beginning of the district and provincial election campaign, barricades and razor wire fences were set up at Freedom Park, completely blocking any access to the surrounding area. Authorities stationed armed police forces within and around the Freedom Park perimeter to prevent the public from being able to access the space.

CNRP events around the country continued to encounter varying degrees of disruption and intimidation from hostile, baton-wielding civilian supporters of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) - often plain clothes-wearing authorities - as

## LICADHO Profile

14

LICADHO offices nationwide

135

LICADHO staff nationwide

2,364

Number of clients who visited LICADHO's Phnom Penh office in 2014



District security guards clash with CNRP supporters at Freedom Park, Phnom Penh, July 15, 2014.



well as state security forces.

Most recently, on July 15, CNRP supporters were beaten by Daun Penh district security guards – followed by an outburst of violence by participants and the local population – during a protest against the continued closure of Freedom Park. A number of CNRP MPs-elect and activists were arrested, even though none of them participated in the violence, with some even assisting injured security guards to seek medical attention.

Even after Freedom Park was re-opened and the ban on assemblies lifted, the mistreatment of protesters seeking to highlight land issues failed to dissipate.

On August 12, 50 villagers from Lor Peang community were violently beaten as they undertook a 60 kilometer peaceful march from Kampong Chhnang province to Phnom Penh, calling for a resolution to their long-standing land dispute. Amid the violent dispersal, three villagers – including the husband of the main Lor Peang community representative Um Sophy – were arrested and sent to the provincial court. Eight villagers were injured.

Additionally, video footage obtained by LICADHO in October, clearly shows security guards and police violently breaking up a peaceful protest held by about 80 villagers from Preah Vihear province and supporters on October 20. The protesters had travelled hundreds of kilometers to Phnom Penh to highlight their land dispute, seeking resolution for the 200 families affected. Eighteen people were injured.

### RAMPANT ABUSE OF JUDICIARY

Abuse of the judiciary escalated significantly throughout 2014 as the CPP attempted to silence and repress freedom of assembly and expression across Cambodia. The trials of 23 garment workers and human rights activists following the violence on Veng Sreng road in January were a clear example of this.

The trials took place over five non-consecutive days starting on April 25 and ending on May 22. At the same time, the trials of two other detainees, who were arrested during garment worker protests on November 12, 2013, also took place.

Although the trials each concluded testimony on different days, the verdicts were issued simultaneously on May 30. Despite lack of evidence against them and a very flawed trial process, all 23, as well as the two others arrested in November 2013, were convicted and sentenced to between six months and four and a half years imprisonment. In each case however, the remainder of the sentence was suspended and the group still in prison was finally released within hours of the court's decision.<sup>3</sup>

More recently, the protests that occurred on July 15 at Freedom Park resulted in groundless accusations against eight CNRP members.<sup>4</sup> The accusations and detention of CNRP members were used by the CPP to pressure CNRP back to the negotiating table, with the latter ultimately deciding to take their seats in the

4

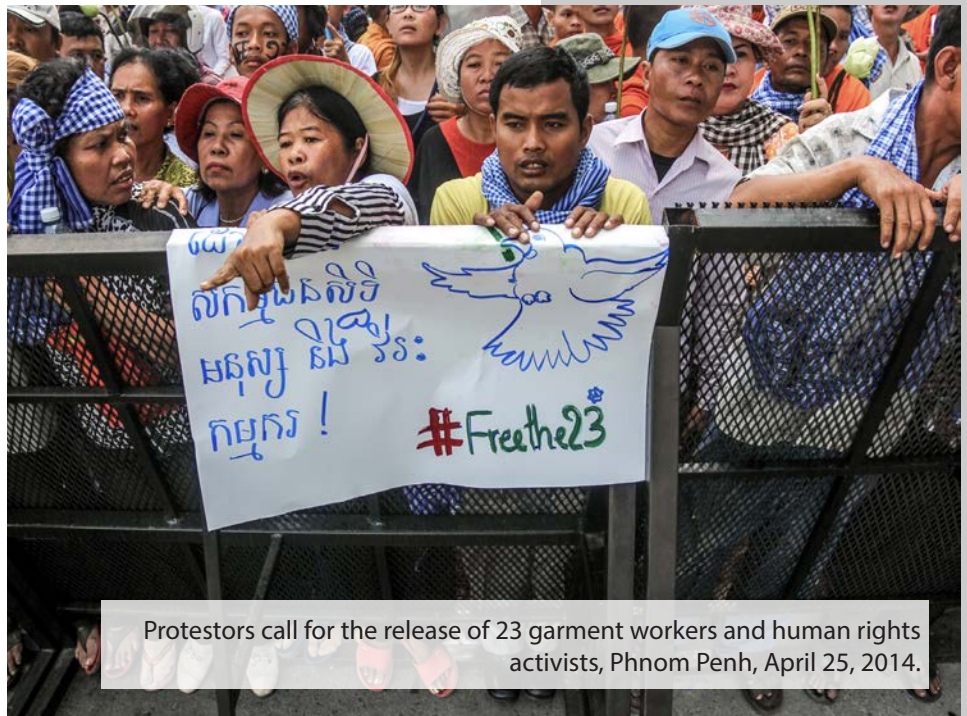
Shot dead

1

Disappearance of a 15 year old boy, Khem Sophath.

38

Others hospitalized



Protestors call for the release of 23 garment workers and human rights activists, Phnom Penh, April 25, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Further details on this case can be read in 'LICADHO's Impact: Free the 23'

<sup>4</sup> The eight CNRP members spent between six to eight days in detention at Prey Sar CC1 and CC2 prisons



National Assembly, following an 11-month boycott over the rampant corruption that plagued the 2013 elections. On the same day the negotiations between the CPP and CNRP concluded, the court released the eight CNRP members from prison.

Two weeks later, three CNRP youth leaders were arrested in connection with the protest on July 15 while both parties were debating upon constitutional amendments. At the same time, the eight released CNRP members, as well as CNRP Vice-President Kem Sokha, were once again summonsed before the court for further questioning.

The subsequent months saw a continual stream of CNRP members and supporters arrested and detained, as negotiations continued over a newly reformed National Election Committee. The arrests and detention of CNRP members throughout the latter half of 2014, has resulted in CNRP capitulating to CPP's demands at the negotiating table. As of the end of 2014, five CNRP members and supporters remain in prison as negotiations continue between the two parties.

In addition to opposition party members and supporters, human rights activists were consistently targeted throughout the year by law enforcement and judicial authorities as the ruling party continued to silence any dissent.

On September 29, a wave of arrests began that targeted 19 opposition party members, activist monks, and long-term land rights activists. Whilst the charges against the 19 vary, the circumstances of the arrests and convictions indicate a concerted effort by the authorities to quash any

dissenting views through harassment and intimidation of activists. Of the 19 arrests, 16 occurred within a period of four days, from November 10 to November 13. Eleven of the 16 were charged, tried, and convicted, just one day after their arrest, each receiving the maximum possible sentence. The rushed nature of these proceedings denied lawyers the opportunity to prepare a defense, violating the rights of the accused to receive a fair trial. As of the end of 2014, all 19 remain detained at Prey Sar CC1 and CC2 prisons.<sup>5</sup>

On November 25, renowned human rights defender Venerable Loun Sovath was brought before the Phnom Penh Municipal Court under alleged charges that stemmed from a case in 2012. He was charged with incitement to commit a felony for allegedly inciting and leading demonstrations against government authorities by victims of land disputes in Chi Kreng, Siem Reap province, and Boeung Kak Lake, Phnom Penh. The incitement charges were first tried in absentia on August 20, 2012, in a case that also named Sourn Serey Ratha as a defendant. Serey Ratha is a controversial figure in Cambodia who has been labeled a terrorist by the CPP. This accusation has been used to groundlessly arrest and convict - without evidence and often on the basis of demonstrably false comments made by Ratha - critics of the government, such as radio owner Mam Sonando. Although Venerable Sovath walked free from the court that day, the status of the case file and the nature of the charges against him remain unclear as the defense lawyers have not yet been granted access to the new case file.



Heng Pich from Boeung Kak Lake community is arrested in front of the Phnom Penh Municipal Court, November 11, 2014.

<sup>5</sup>For further details on the 19 please refer to 'Free the 19'

## HARMFUL DRAFT LAWS

The last year saw worrying developments in the drafting of a number of laws aimed at targeting freedom of assembly, association, and expression.

In May the government drafted a Law on Unions of Enterprises which stated that workers have the right to form a union of their choice “without any distinction whatsoever or prior authorization.” However, subsequent provisions within the draft disprove this statement. Instead, the current draft threatens freedom of association in Cambodia through prohibitive registration requirements as well as vague and discretionary restrictions on union autonomy and activities. Additionally, the draft law seeks to improperly expand the control of the Ministry of Labor (MOL) by delegating to it many powers that should be within the sole authority of the courts.

Furthermore, a secretive draft Cybercrime Law, developed under the pretense of national security concerns and e-commerce in August 2013, raises serious concerns about government censorship of the Internet, a tool that is increasingly relied upon by civil society and human rights activists. The draft law criminalizes a range of vague and arbitrarily enforceable offences for publishing or sharing content online, including content deemed to “hinder the integrity” of Cambodia or generate “instability.” Penalties for violating these provisions could include a “deprivation of civil rights” for individuals as well as dissolution for legal entities. Parallel to this, the government is also drafting a Telecommunications Law, which would give them broad-ranging powers over the hardware and structure of the Internet, opening the door to more censorship, privacy abuses, and possibly service blackouts when needed.

Finally, the draft Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO) also remains a lurking threat to the freedom of association through burdensome registration requirements for some organizations, excessive powers granted to unelected officials of the executive branch, and unreasonable restrictions on foreign NGOs.

## LAND CONFLICTS

Despite a slowdown in the number of land conflicts throughout the election period in 2012 and 2013, there was a renewed wave of violent land grabbing cases in 2014. 112 new cases were documented throughout the year, affecting 10,625 families. This represents more than three times the number of families documented in 2013 - 3,475 - as well as nearly twice the number recorded in 2012 - 5,672. In April, the number of people affected by state-involved land conflicts in Cambodia since 2000 passed the

half-million mark in March, according to data collected by LICADHO.

The last 12 months were marked with significant cases of violence against communities and land activists as they endeavored to have their conflicts with local authorities and private industry highlighted.

The Lor Peang community from Kampong Chhnang province have suffered from a 14 year old land conflict dating back to 2001, when an initial 19 families had their land grabbed, facilitated by then village chief Thai Hie who later became a representative of the K.D.C company. K.D.C – which claims ownership of the land against the local residents – is owned by Mrs. Chea Kheng, wife of the Minister of Mines and Energy, Suy Sem. The dispute has grown over the last 14 years, affecting land rights of over 100 families in Lor Peang village. In July, a violent clash broke out between villagers and K.D.C company workers, while the company was building a two-meter high concrete wall around the disputed land. Following the incident, two villagers – Mr. Seang Heng and Mr. Mang Yav – were arrested. However, not a single worker from K.D.C has been arrested.

On August 4, two military soldiers killed Try Chamroern, a 19-year-old farmer from Srayang commune, Kulen district, Preah Vihear. The soldiers in question attempted to stop Chamroern from farming his own land as they claimed Chamroern’s land belonged to their commanding officer.

In Botum Sakor National Park, Koh Kong province, families in Kiri Sakor and Botum Sakor districts, continually fought against representatives from Chinese company, Union Development Group (UDG), who tore down villagers’ homes and burnt their crops, while being backed by government soldiers.<sup>6</sup>

UDG was granted a 36,000-hectare land concession in Kiri Sakor and Botum Sakor in April 2008 for a \$3.8 billion mega-tourism zone. Another adjacent concession for a hydropower dam brought the total land under the firm’s control within Botum Sakor National Park to 45,000 hectares.<sup>7</sup> Residents who attempted to defend their properties and livelihoods against the evictions faced consistent threats and violence at the hands of government security forces and UDG representatives as they were kicked, handcuffed, and dragged outside their homes before they were destroyed.<sup>8</sup> Security guards working for UDG, speaking under condition of anonymity, have confirmed these reports.<sup>9</sup> Additionally, despite orders being issued by Prime Minister Hun Sen to cease the destruction of communities in the surrounding area, UDG representatives, having bribed provincial authorities, continued with the destruction of family homes throughout the year.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/developer-soldiers-%E2%80%98destroyed-29-homes%E2%80%99>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/post-weekend/koh-kong-villagers-block-road-officials-house>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/developer-soldiers-%E2%80%98destroyed-29-homes%E2%80%99>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/security-guards-accused-beating>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/evictees-prepping-complaint>; <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/post-weekend/koh-kong-villagers-block-road-officials-house>



For many families who decided to relocate, many ended up abandoning their new homes provided for them by authorities, as conditions were so poor. Additionally, a new 30-soldier military platoon was created in the same area, as an intimidation tactic against those protesting their evictions and the conditions of relocation facilities.<sup>11</sup> UDG have also gone to great lengths throughout the year to silence any dissent and to prevent journalists and NGO workers from entering the area through the employment of private security firm Kim Security Company.<sup>12</sup>

Exasperated from the ongoing conflict, villagers in Kiri Sakor and Botum Sakor districts took to the streets protesting outside the offices of UDG in February, while also submitting petitions to provincial authorities and blocking the road to the district governor's house.<sup>13</sup>

## IMPUNITY

During the five-month period of detention endured by 21 of the 23 human rights activists and workers following the Veng Sreng violence, no efforts were made by the Cambodian government to investigate the events surrounding their arrests or to find those responsible for at least four deaths and at least 38 hospitalized civilians that took place on Veng Sreng road over those two days.

Following the deaths of the four protestors in January, on May 17, Moun Sokmean, a 29 year old man who suffered serious injuries on Veng Sreng road on January 3, died whilst on his way to hospital after coughing blood. Sokmean had been hospitalized amid the January violence after receiving trauma from beatings suffered at the hands of authorities to his body, head, and face.

In addition to those who lost their lives, 15-year-old Khem Sophath went missing on January 3, and has not been seen or heard from since. Witnesses last saw Sophath on the morning of January 3, lying on the ground near the Canadia Industrial Park on Veng Sreng road, with blood pouring from an apparent gunshot wound to his chest. Despite the fact that Khem Sophath's whereabouts remain unknown, to date the authorities have failed to conduct any investigation and denied any knowledge of his fate.

Violent incidents against peaceful protestors, opposition party members, and civil society groups, continued throughout the year. Military police, riot police, municipal security guards, and civilian thugs, armed with a variety of weapons from guns and electric batons to slingshots and rocks, indiscriminately targeted human rights activists, union supporters, opposition party officials and supporters, journalists, and rights observers.

Helmeted security guards under the orders of Daun Penh district were regularly dispatched to violently disperse groups of people trying to gather near Freedom

Park, as well as targeting observers and journalists reporting about such dispersal.

On May 2, Voice of Democracy (VOD) reporter, Lay Samean, was severely beaten by at least 10 Daun Penh district security guards just one day before World Press Freedom Day. Samean was attempting to photograph several security guards in the act of beating a monk during a peaceful march as CNRP supporters marked the beginning of the district and provincial council election campaign. Samean was beaten with wooden sticks and kicked in the head, suffering a fractured cheekbone and losing consciousness, while having his phone and recording equipment confiscated, which he had been using to document the attack.

The lack of any proper investigation into the violence committed over the last 12 months has compounded the already existing environment of impunity and created a climate in which police, military police, district security guards, and armed forces are able to use violence against civilians on a regular basis, confident in the knowledge that they will suffer no repercussions.

Additionally, between September and November 2013, Cambodian security forces shot and killed two innocent bystanders as they opened fire twice on protesters with live ammunition. On September 15, 2013, police used live ammunition in a crowd of commuters, local residents, and demonstrators, who were trapped in heavily congested traffic at night, after the police had locked down part of the capital with barbed-wire barricades to prevent a peaceful Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) protest in Phnom Penh from reaching key government institutions. On November 12, 2013, armed forces dispersed a garment workers protest in another area of Phnom Penh, again using live ammunition indiscriminately on the crowd.

Not one member of the security or armed forces has been suspended let alone prosecuted for the use of wholly disproportionate use of force that characterized the actions of the police and various armed forces since September 2013. The families of the dead and injured have little hope of receiving any kind of justice.

## LOOKING TO 2015

The Cambodian people continue to experience systematic and sustained human rights abuses. Worryingly, the last 12 months has seen a significant rise in the number of cases involving impunity with the murder of garment workers by security forces in January, along with the enforced disappearance of 15-year-old Khem Sophath. Communities battling land grabs and evictions have faced increasing threats, violence, and intimidation, resulting in the murder of one activist from Preah Vihear in August.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/evictees-abandon-new-land>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/not-going-without-fight>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/more-homes-torched>; <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/post-weekend/koh-kong-villagers-block-road-officials-house>; <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/koh-kong-gov-bring-petition-say-sam-al>

Although the ban on freedom of assembly has been lifted, opposition party members and supporters, human rights activists, and monks, have faced continued threats from the ruling party and a politically controlled judiciary, resulting in the conviction of 23 garment workers along with 19 opposition party members and supporters, land activists, and Buddhist monks.

Nevertheless, Cambodians remain resilient and continue to mobilize themselves as they persevere for their basic human rights. Unfortunately, given the experiences of the last 12 months, a peaceful 2015 remains an unlikely prospect with looming harmful draft laws, and the unjustified detainment of 19 opposition party members, activists, and monks.



A destroyed house following a forced eviction by Union Development Group, Koh Kong province, October 11, 2014.



# LICADHO'S IMPACT FREE THE 23



Protestors calling for the release of the 23, Phnom Penh, January 29, 2014.

Following the arrests and detainment of the 23 on January 3 and January 4, 2014, LICADHO assisted all 23 defendants through its various projects.

The 23 were held at CC3 prison, an isolated prison located two hours from Kampong Cham town, Kampong Cham Province. In February, two of the 23, one of them a minor who suffered a fractured hand from beatings, were released on bail. The remaining 21 were denied bail despite several attempts by their lawyers to obtain it at the three different leveled courts.

## PARALEGAL & LEGAL REPRESENTATION

LICADHO lawyers were able to briefly see the detainees when they were brought to Phnom Penh Municipal Court the day after their respective arrests. Each detainee was initially charged with intentional violence and intentional damage, both with aggravating circumstances. Three of the arrestees were additionally charged with insulting public officials in the performance of their duties and blocking public traffic. In March 2014, the investigating judge changed the charges against the four human rights activists from participating in the violence and property damage to the lesser offence of incitement.

After being initially informed of the charges, the detainees' lawyers were told that the men would be transported to Prey Sar CC1 prison, a prison near Phnom Penh. Their actual whereabouts, however, were hidden for several days until January 8 when it was confirmed by government officials that they had instead been transported to remote CC3, a prison previously used for adults found guilty by a

court of first instance. During this period and contrary to Cambodian law, Cambodian authorities refused to disclose the location of the prisoners to both their lawyers and their families.

One of the detainees was only 17 years old and considered a minor under Cambodian law. Despite his age, however, he was imprisoned with the adults at CC3 for two weeks before being transferred to a juvenile holding cell at Kampong Cham prison on January 17. Additionally, all of the 23 detainees were beaten and sustained injuries during their arrests and some were in urgent need of medical attention that was not sufficiently provided while they were in police custody or in prison.

Although often referred to as Free the 23 the courts actually conducted simultaneous trials for 25 individuals. Two other defendants' trials were scheduled to coincide directly with the trials of the 23. These two defendants were arrested on November 12, 2013 during violent clashes between security forces, workers and members of the public which put an end to a march by SL garment factory workers. The two boys, one aged 14 and the other aged 19 were charged with intentional violence and intentional damage with aggravating circumstances, as well as insulting and obstructing public officials.

LICADHO represented nine of the 23 who were arrested in early January as well as the two boys who were arrested in November 2013. Through numerous requests submitted to all levels of the courts LICADHO lawyers were able to secure release for three of the 25 detainees in these cases, including the 14 year-old boy arrested in November who sat

in pre-trial detention for a month and a half before being released on bail by the appellate court. However, all of the other detainees remained in prison up to and throughout the trials. LICADHO lawyers met with their clients a total of 14 times through their detainment at both CC3 and CC1.

The trials of the 23 took place over five non-consecutive days starting on April 25 and ending on May 22. At the same time, the trials of two other detainees, who were arrested on November 12, 2013, took place at the same time.

Outside the court, the heavy hand of the security forces was evident throughout the proceedings, with road blocks in place to prevent protesters from approaching the front of the court and on four of the five days, fire trucks reinforced these barricades. Despite this, supporters of the 25 remained as close to the court as physically possible on all five days of the hearing.

The hearings were held in three separate court rooms at the Phnom Penh Municipal Court and from start to finish were characterized by a total absence of fair trial rights. In all three cases the judges failed to act with impartiality, often favoring the prosecution in the admission of evidence (including visual and medical) and the permission to cross-examine witnesses. There was little evidence of the presumption of innocence or of the prosecution's burden to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt, as the judges and prosecutors focused mainly on the defendants' presence at the protests and possible inconsistency of testimony rather than finding evidence that linked them to the charges. Furthermore, the judges repeatedly suppressed attempts by defense lawyers and defendants to introduce evidence of violence by the security forces at the time of the arrests.

Although the trials each concluded testimony on different days, the verdicts were also issued simultaneously on May 30, 2014. Despite lack of evidence against them and a very flawed trial process, all were 25 were convicted and sentenced between six months and four and a half years imprisonment. In each case however, the remainder of the sentence was suspended and those still in prison were finally released within hours of the court's decision.

While the freedom of the 25 was welcomed by all, the verdict was extremely troubling. Indeed, four of the men, Vorn Pao, Theng Savoeun, Chan Puthisak Sokun and Sambath Piseth (a staff member at Center for Labor Rights of Cambodia) received unexpectedly heavy sentences of between four and four and a half years. Additionally, they were fined a sum equivalent to \$2000, after the prosecutor put in a late request to the judge during his concluding comments on May 20, stating that the charges against them be changed to offences carrying much heavier penalties. The mere suspension of their sentences, as opposed to their acquittal, means that they are at risk of having to serve the remainder of those sentences at a later date if found guilty of other charges and may also disbar them from their union management roles.

LICADHO's lawyers have appealed the clients' convictions in these cases however; there are no deadlines for the Court

of Appeal to hear a case. Although it is unclear when, if ever, the court will decide to hear the appeals, the lawyers will continue to press for the cases to be heard.

It is noteworthy that the verdict was announced shortly after a second meeting took place between Cambodian government officials, international unions and eight major brands that produce clothes in Cambodia. According to IndustriALL Global Union, which sent representatives to the meeting, brands warned that continued sourcing from the country depended on stability, transparency, predictability and the rule of law. They also expressed their concerns that the trial of the 23 protestors arrested during the January wage demonstrations must be based on evidence and stand up to international scrutiny.

That the brands concerned exercised their power in this way is a welcome development but the consequent freedom of the 25 is further evidence of the wholly partial nature of Cambodia's judicial system and of the fact that justice can simply be bought.

### **PRISON MONITORING, MEDICAL & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Following the arrests of the 23, LICADHO doctors had only a short time to examine the accused at Phnom Penh Municipal Court. However, as soon as authorities revealed that they were being held in CC3 prison, LICADHO's medical and senior staff went to visit the 23 to provide medical treatment on January 8, 9, and 10. These visits continued on a weekly basis until the detainees were moved to Prey Sar CC1 prison shortly before their trial. LICADHO's social workers provided support for all 23 workers and human rights activists, including their families, throughout their five month detention from January to June 2014. LICADHO's support included the following:

- Covering transport costs for families to visit their relatives in prison twice a month.
- Providing some financial support for the families of the 23 on a monthly basis.
- Providing food, material and financial assistance to all 23 detainees in prison, which was deemed necessary as many services in prison are only available upon the payment of informal fees.

LICADHO also provided food assistance to 38 hospitalized workers and by-standers at the protests that took place in January 2014, in addition to some monetary support for the relatives of one of the workers that was tragically killed by security forces during the demonstrations and the family of Khem Sophath.

A number of members from the 23 sustained injuries during their arrests and pre-trial detention. Between January and May 2014 (when the trial started and victims were transferred to CC1 prison in Phnom Penh) LICADHO's medical team undertook weekly medical visits to the 23 while in CC3, followed by two visits to the detainees when they were transferred to CC1.



## PROMOTION & ADVOCACY

Up until the trial of the 23, LICADHO provided their supporters with campaigning materials to help them carry out their own advocacy. LICADHO printed Free the 23 banners, stickers, t-shirts and provided loudspeakers and other equipment to monks, land communities, and unions who mobilized to support the 23. Throughout the period of detention they arranged regular street protests as well as holding demonstrations at every bail hearing and throughout the five day trial.

Another major part of LICADHO's advocacy work over the last six months has been in support of the Free the 23 campaign. In January, shortly after the killing of at least four protesters, the disappearance of one other and the detention of the 23 human rights workers and activists, LICADHO produced six documents profiling the individuals concerned as well as a detailed timeline of events taking place between December 15 2013 and January 29, 2014. These documents were based on the first-hand experience of LICADHO monitors and interviews with the families of the deceased or detained.

The documents were used by some of the largest international union's worldwide and campaigning organizations such as the Clean Clothes Campaign to draw international attention to the events in Cambodia and to garner support for the global day of action to free the 23, which took place on February 10, 2014. On that day, supporters of the campaign gathered at Cambodian embassies around the world to condemn the violence that had taken place, and to demand the release of the 23. In early January, LICADHO and LICADHO Canada produced a video showing the events of January 2-4. Video footage and documents were shared with, and used by, embassies, international NGO's, international brands, media institutions (BBC, Radio Free Asia), independent filmmakers, shareholders of the companies involved, and LICADHO's legal team, as evidence in support of the legal cases of the 23.

# 12,496

Clicks on LICADHO/LICADHO Canada advocacy videos uploaded to Youtube depicting extreme violence committed by state security forces during the crackdown on garment workers in early January.

# 3,793

Unique visitors followed Livestream coverage of the 5-day trial of the 23 workers and human rights defenders arrested in early January 2014 and related protests on International Workers Day. In addition to the visitors on the LICADHO website, the content of the Livestreams reached several thousand people through LICADHO's Facebook and Twitter pages.



Civil society activists and relatives celebrate the release of the 23, Phnom Penh, May 30, 2014.



# LICADHO'S IMPACT FREE THE 19



Children carry photos of their detained mothers and grandmothers as protesters march from CC2 prison to CC1 prison, November 13, 2014.

A recent wave of arrests began on September 29, 2014, targeting 19 opposition party members, activist monks, and long-term land rights activists. Whilst the charges against the 19 vary, the circumstances of the arrests and convictions indicate a concerted effort by the authorities to quash dissent and to harass and intimidate activists.

Of the 19 arrests, 16 occurred within a period of four days, from November 10 to November 13. Eleven of the 16 were charged, tried, and convicted just one day after their arrest. Each received the maximum possible sentence. The rushed nature of these proceedings denied lawyers the opportunity to prepare a defense, violating the rights of the accused to receive a fair trial.

As of December, 2014, all 19 individuals are currently being detained in Phnom Penh's Prey Sar CC1 and CC2 prisons.

Sum Puthy is the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) council member for Chbar Ampov district. He was arrested on September 29, and charged by the prosecutor for 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). The charges relate to his alleged role in the violence that broke out at Freedom Park on July 15. On November 28, the Investigating Judge changed the charges against Puthy to participating in an insurrectionary movement (Criminal Code articles 456 and 457).

Ouk Pich Samnang is a well-known grassroots activist in Phnom Penh. He was arrested on October 24, four days after he was seriously beaten while joining a protest near Prime Minister Hun Sen's house held by land rights protesters from Preah Vihear province. Samnang was charged by the prosecutor with 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 was also charged in a separate case relating to the violence at Freedom Park on July 15. In relation to Samnang's charges regarding Freedom Park, on November 28, the Investigating Judge changed the charges against him to participating in an insurrectionary movement (Criminal Code articles 456 and 457).

Nget Khun, Tep Vanny, Song Srey Leap, Kong Chantha, Phan Chhunreth, Po Chorvy, and Nong Sreng are long-term activists from the Boeung Kak Lake (BKL) community. All seven were arrested on November 10, before being charged and convicted the following day of obstructing public traffic (Traffic Law Article 78). The arrests came during protests in front of Phnom Penh City Hall, where members of the BKL community were calling for action by city authorities to relieve the latest bout of severe flooding to affect their houses. The severe, chronic flooding has increased since the lake was filled by Shukaku, Inc., a private company owned by ruling party Senator Lao Meng Khin.



In 2007, Shukaku Inc. signed a disputed 99-year lease with the government for the lake and surrounding community land. Five of seven women convicted, Nget Khun, Tep Vanny, Song Srey Leap, Kong Chantha, and Phan Chhunreth, were all previously arrested and convicted of spurious charges in 2012. In the current case, each of the women has been sentenced to one year in prison and fined \$500, the maximum possible sentence for the charged crime.

Meach Sovannara is a CNRP official and Chief of the CNRP Information Department. He was arrested in Phnom Penh on the morning of November 11, in relation to the violence that occurred at Freedom Park on July 15. Sovannara was charged by the prosecutor 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). On November 28, the Investigating Judge changed the charges against Sovannara to leading an insurrectionary movement (Criminal Code articles 459).

Heng Pich, Im Srey Touch, and Phoung Sopheap are activists from the BKL and Thmor Kol communities. The three women were arrested on the morning of November 11, as some 100 riot police and security guards broke up a peaceful protest in front of the Phnom Penh Municipal Court. Supporters had gathered outside the court to protest the arrest of the seven BKL activists the previous day. As with the seven BKL activists arrested the day before, all three women were detained overnight then charged and convicted the following day. The women have been convicted of obstructing public officials with aggravating circumstances (Criminal Code article 504), and also received a maximum sentence of one year in prison and a \$500 fine.

11

Of the 16 were charged, tried, and convicted just one day after their arrest.

12

Public protests and demonstrations in support of the 19.



Venerable Seung Hai is an activist monk from Stung Meanchey Pagoda. He was also arrested outside the Phnom Penh Municipal Court whilst protesting for the release of the seven BKL activists alongside Heng Pich, Im Srey Touch, and Phoung Sopheap on the morning of November 11. Venerable Hai was swiftly defrocked and then, as with Pich, Srey Touch and Sopheap, convicted the following day of obstructing public officials with aggravating circumstances (Criminal Code article 504) and sentenced to one year in prison with a \$500 fine. Venerable Seung Hai was also charged in an additional case of using forged public documents (Criminal Code article 630) and the unauthorized wearing of Buddhist robes (Criminal Code article 508). The additional charges are currently being investigated and Venerable Seung Hai faces penalties of up to five years in prison and \$2,625 in fines on top of his current sentence.

Ke Khim is a tuk tuk driver and CNRP supporter who transported flags to Freedom Park for the CNRP demonstration held on July 15. Khim was arrested in Phnom Penh on the morning of November 11, nearly four months after the July 15 demonstration, on allegations of participating in the violence that erupted that day. He was charged by the prosecutor with participating in an insurrectionary movement (Criminal Code articles 456 and 457). On November 28, the Investigating Judge changed the charges against Khim to participating in an insurrectionary movement (Criminal Code articles 456 and 457).

Venerable Khith Vannak and Venerable Sang Kosal are also activist monks from Stung Meanchey Pagoda. Both were arrested on November 12, while carrying national and religious flags attached to bamboo flag poles to Samaki Rainsy Pagoda to support the land activists from Preah Vihear province who were staying there. For attempting the meet with the activists, both monks have been defrocked and charged with participation in a criminal association (Criminal Code article 499), one of the same charges filed against Ouk Pich Samnang for his activities in support of the same community. The monks face up to five years in prison and \$2,500 in fines.

Tep Narin is a CNRP youth member. He was arrested on November 13, after failing to report at a local Phnom Penh police station, a violation of his judicially supervised release pending trial on charges relating to the violence at Freedom Park on July 15. Narin was charged by the prosecutor 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). On November 28, the Investigating Judge changed the charges against Narin to participating in an insurrectionary movement (Criminal Code articles 456 and 457).

Ly Seav Minh is a resident of the Toul Kork district of Phnom Penh. She was arrested on November 18, when

visiting her father, Ly Srea Kheng, at the Phnom Penh Municipal Court following his arrest earlier that same day. Whilst Ly Seav Minh remains in prison, her father was released from pre-trial detention on December 4. The reasons for his release are unclear but both remain charged with violence against the possessor of immovable property (Land Law article 253). In 2010, the politically connected tycoon Khun Sear claimed ownership of the land on which the Ly family has lived for some 30 years. The family has been fighting eviction ever since and has accused company representatives on numerous occasions of making threats and attacks against them, including, destroying their property, beating them, attempted arson, throwing snakes into their house and poisoning their animals. The charges against the father and daughter relate to events on April 29, 2013 but the company did not file the complaint until September 5, 2014. Ly Seav Minh and her father each face two years in prison and \$6,250 in fines.

## **PARALEGAL & LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

Throughout the arrests, conviction and sentencing of the 19, LICADHO's legal project provided legal representation to 16 of the 19. These were Sum Puthy, Ouk Pich Samnang, Nget Khun, Tep Vanny, Song Srey Leap, Kong Chantha, Phan Chhunreth, Po Chorvy, Nong Sreng, Heng Pich, Im Srey Touch, Phoung Sopheap, Venerable Seung Hai, Ke Khim, Venerable Khith Vannak and Venerable Sang Kosal.

LICADHO's lawyers continually informed their clients about their legal rights, while openly sharing information on the status of their case and sharing advice on court proceedings, which ensured their clients were more comfortable and confident in their fight for justice when attending their subsequent trials.

LICADHO's legal team monitored the court procedure to ensure that court officials respected the law and rights of all 19 defendants. The lawyers made frequent legal challenges requesting bail while joining in solidarity with supporters of the 19 outside Prey Sar CC1 & CC2 prisons to demand for their release. LICADHO's legal team also coordinated heavily with LICADHO's prison project by providing identity information that assisted in gaining permission from the Ministry of Interior (MOI) for LICADHO to visit the 19.

## **MONITORING**

Throughout the arrests, trials, and sentencing of the 19, LICADHO monitors observed protests and supported various advocacy events organized by communities. The monitoring team attended the hearings of all the 19 in addition to attending all 12 protests and demonstrations<sup>14</sup> assisted by LICADHO both in Phnom Penh and outside Prey Sar CC1 and CC2 prisons in November and December.

LICADHO's monitors coordinated heavily with LICADHO's Legal Project through the provision of information that allowed LICADHO's lawyers to consult their clients. Additionally, the monitors accompanied community

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<sup>14</sup> All 12 protests and demonstrations are listed in the Annex



representatives and members of the detainee's families to meet with embassy officials, donor countries, and the United Nations, while in turn escorting donors and international journalists to meet with the communities affected.

Monitors also intervened and assisted in the transport of patients for medical treatment and medical check-ups at Calmette hospital, while assisting in the medical treatment of the 19 during their trial at the Phnom Penh Court of First Instance and Appeal Court.

### **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND SOCIAL WORK**

In addition to legal assistance and monitoring, LICADHO provided food and materials on weekly prison visits, while also providing emotional support.

LICADHO's Prison Project assisted with Free the 19 through coordinating with the medical team to visit the prisoners at least once every week, providing medical treatment, food, vitamins and special nutrition packs as necessary. The Prison Project team also provided sweaters and blankets in addition to other material support to protect the prisoners' health against the poor living conditions.

In one particular case LICADHO's doctors made two special visits on December 18 and 19, when Phan Chhunreth (BKL activist) complained about a heart problem. The doctors intervened with prison medical staff to refer Chhunreth to a hospital after she was diagnosed with a low heart rate and high blood pressure. LICADHO's doctors accompanied Chhunreth to the Khmer-Russian Friendship Hospital on two occasions to have electrocardiography (ECG) and echocardiography tests. LICADHO's Medical and Legal Projects then made a formal request to refer Chhunreth to the Heart Center at Calmette Hospital, where the medical team accompanied her three times for blood tests, X-rays, echocardiography, ECG, and abdominal ultrasound.

LICADHO's President, Dr. Pung Chhiv Kek, also consulted with heart specialists in France about Chhunreth's condition. After consultations, the specialists advised Chhunreth to stop taking Digoxin, a medication Chhunreth had been taking for a sustained period. Chhunreth's condition improved and LICADHO covered all medical costs for her medical tests.

LICADHO's Social Work Project provided crucial assistance to the 19 during 2014. The team provided food, material

assistance, and financial assistance to all 19 detainees in prison every month. This enabled them to stay healthy in the otherwise squalid conditions of the prison, giving them the courage and confidence to survive the ordeal.

Furthermore, LICADHO's Social Work Project also provided material assistance to the families of the 19 including transportation costs, allowing families to visit their relatives in prison. The material assistance also enabled the families to support themselves, allowing their children to remain enrolled in school. The assistance encouraged the families to take a more active role in the activism related to the 19.

In providing assistance, the Social Work Project worked in close conjunction with LICADHO's other projects. The prison monitoring team for example, was able to provide crucial information about prison conditions, enabling the social work team to provide more effective materials and assistance.

The social work team also worked closely with the local communities where the 19 were from. The Boeung Kak Lake community coordinated extensively with the social work team to provide material assistance their advocacy campaign and other activist activities.

### **ADVOCACY**

Through the information gathered by LICADHO's monitoring team, LICADHO's Advocacy Project was able to conduct domestic and international advocacy campaigns to raise awareness on the arrests and detention of the 19. This involved the release of numerous flash news items, as well as joint statements that were sent directly to international media, donor countries, embassies, and UN representatives. This awareness resulted in representatives from the UN, international donors, and foreign embassies observing the trials, applying international pressure on the government and the judicial system.

Throughout November and December, LICADHO supported 12 public protests and demonstrations in support of the 19.<sup>15</sup> This required preparatory meetings with community representatives before each of the activities while providing various advocacy materials, covering transport costs for protesters, and providing food and water on the days of each activity.

<sup>15</sup> All 12 protests and demonstrations are listed in the Annex



A girl from Borei Keila calls for the release of the seven BKL activists outside Phnom Penh Municipal Court, November 11, 2014.



# MONITORING & PROTECTION



Villagers from Kratie province affected by land grabbing face police and security guards, Phnom Penh, August 28, 2014.

## Monitoring of State Violations and Women's and Children's Rights



### CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

The Human Rights Monitoring Project (HRMP) serves as LICADHO's eyes and ears, investigating human rights abuses and collecting evidence to document victims' stories. Between January and December 2014, HRMP investigated a total of 356 new human rights cases, affecting more than 50,000 individuals in Phnom Penh and 13 provinces where LICADHO is based. Land grabbing was the most common type of human rights violation with 112 new cases, accounting for 31.46% of the total human rights cases, affecting 10,625 families or an estimated 49,519 individuals. This represents more than three times the number of families documented in 2013 - 3,475 - as well as nearly twice the number recorded in 2012 - 5,672. In the context of the newly investigated land conflicts in 2014, a total of 10 individuals were detained by authorities. In one case, a 19 year old farmer was shot and killed by Brigade 41 soldiers, who fired on a group of farmers involved in a land dispute with the military unit in Preah Vihear province .

LICADHO documented an 18% increase in violations regarding the right to freedom of assembly and expression with 39 violations documented in 2014 compared to 32 in 2013 , and an increase of 15% regarding illegal arrests and detentions with 40 cases (compared to 34 in 2013) . However, there was a 30% decrease in the number of killings with 12 documented in 2014 (compared to 18 in 2013), and an 18% decrease regarding human trafficking cases with 97 investigated in 2014 (compared to 118 in 2013).

Despite the ban on freedom of assembly being lifted following the end of the political deadlock between CPP and CNRP in July, LICADHO's monitors observed an alarming reduction in the space for peaceful assembly throughout the latter half of 2014. One example occurred during the peace marches for International Human Rights Day (IHRD). On National Road 2, Takeo province, over one hun-

# 10,625

Families newly affected by land disputes in 2014.

# 89

Cases closed that were investigated in 2014; 5 cases were resolved by courts, the remaining cases by competent authorities or out-of-court compensations.

# 99

Victims of human trafficking (61 women and 38 men) LICADHO helped repatriate from China, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore in 2014.

dred monks and civilians were blocked by a group of armed soldiers and police officers on the order of Takeo Provincial Governor Lay Vannak. Authorities asserted that the group would not be allowed to go ahead with the peace march unless they obtained permission from the Interior Ministry. The interference took place over two days, as authorities locked the gates into Wat Saom, located in Takeo's Kirivong district leaving the marchers with nowhere sheltered to sleep. The events in Takeo were followed by further disruption as police, military police, and security guards, were mobilized to block marchers on national roads 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6, from entering the city.

One of the more worrying trends in 2014 was the increasing number of Cambodian women who were trafficked to China. In 2014, LICADHO received 36 complaints involving 55 victims trafficked to China as brides. Whilst the brokers use different premises to convince the women to travel to China, upon arrival they are taken to a local broker's house where they are held until they can be sold. After they are sold, the women are often confined in the husband's house, forced to work long hours and are sexually and physically abused.

### **INTERVENTIONS**

LICADHO monitors filed complaints and/or met with relevant authorities in 42% of 356 newly investigated cases. In 22 cases, the interventions contributed to resolving the conflicts.

In July, LICADHO monitors in Banteay Meanchey province investigated the illegal grabbing of 846 hectares of community forest belonging to 132 families' by a military commander, who wanted to distribute the land among his soldiers. On July 15, the provincial monitors met with the deputy provincial governor on behalf of the affected families to request intervention. On July 21, the governor ordered the military commander and soldiers to leave the forest and give the land back to the villagers.

"In Pursat province, a 48-year-old female farmer was arrested in November, when she protested against the destruction of her house, during the forced eviction of 13 families by more than 150 armed forces, working on behalf of MDS Company in Veal Veng district, Pursat province. On the day of her arrest, LICADHO met with the Pursat deputy governor to call for the release of the woman. After spending three nights in prison, the woman was released."

LICADHO monitors also continued intervening in cases that were opened prior to 2014.

In November, LICADHO's monitors in Kampong Thom were able to successfully resolve a land dispute between 27 families and a Vietnamese-owned company, CRCK, dating back to 2010, when the company received an economic land concession of 6,044 hectares for rubber plantations. The concession affected 190 hectares of farmland of the 27 families, who did not receive compensation. The affected families filed complaints at both commune and provincial level in 2013. In October 2014, the district governor for Sandan district, Kampong Thom, appealed to the company to find a solution to the land conflict. However, as the company only agreed to return a portion of the land, the 27 families requested an intervention by the LICADHO office in Kampong Thom, and on October 21, LICADHO submitted an intervention letter to the provincial governor. As a result, the provincial governor promised to find a solution for the victims and resent the case to Sandan district governor. On November 28, the authorities ordered the company to return all 190 hectares to the affected 27 families.

### **WOMEN'S RIGHTS MONITORING**

On paper, men and women enjoy equal rights in Cambodia, but the situation can be much different in reality. In particular, crimes such as sexual abuse and domestic violence often go uninvestigated and unpunished, thanks to official corruption, impunity, and a culture of silence surrounding crimes that occur within the home. The role of LICADHO's Women's Rights Monitoring Project (WRMP) is to help bridge the gap between the law and reality by documenting crimes against

## **Death in Prey Speu Social Affairs Center**

On November 26, LICADHO's monitors conducted an investigation into the death of a man who was arbitrarily detained and denied medical treatment at the Prey Speu center outside Phnom Penh. The victim, who had been living on the streets, was seriously ill when taken into custody on November 2. He was extremely thin and covered with infected wounds on his legs and other parts of his body. Sources said that during his weeks-long detention, the center staff made no effort to provide him with medical treatment and refused to take him elsewhere. He died on the morning of November 26, after which his body was taken for immediate cremation at a Buddhist temple, Wat Sopheakhuon. Police failed to launch any proper investigation into his death.

## **Life Sentence for Brutal Child Killing**

In December 2013, a 13 year old girl living in Phnom Penh was taken by her 20 year old neighbor to watch a boat race on the river. The neighbor killed the girl in order to steal her jewelry which he later sold for \$50. He then dumped her body in the river. The girl's family came to LICADHO as they wanted help to ensure the perpetrator was prosecuted. The case was investigated by the children's rights monitoring team and a LICADHO lawyer was assigned to represent the girl's family, thereby ensuring that the police pursued the case and gathered the necessary evidence for a conviction. The perpetrator was tried and convicted on December 15, 2014. He was sentenced to life imprisonment and ordered to pay compensation to the victim's family of \$7,500.



women.

From January to December 2014, the WRMP investigated 247 new cases of women's rights violations (a 6% decrease from 2013), involving 254 female victims and 269 perpetrators. WRMP documented the deaths of three women due to domestic violence and five women who died after being raped. Domestic violence accounted for 66% of all cases. Regarding LICADHO's new cases, 201 are pending and 46 cases have been resolved. 176 of the open cases are at the court for investigation and 25 cases remain with local authorities.

### **Case Study: Domestic Violence**

Prosecution of perpetrators of domestic violence is rare in Cambodia for several reasons. Women are often reluctant to report it because of the heavy social pressure to be and stay married, and because of their partial or total financial dependence on their husbands. When women do report it, it is common for the police to simply ask the husband to agree not to use violence in future and not to take the case any further. This is particularly the case where there is little or no physical evidence of violence.

With the right intervention, however, it is possible to achieve a prosecution, as the following case illustrates. The victim in this case had been suffering violence at the hands of her husband for many years but had never reported it. After one particularly serious incident, during which her husband had pulled her from her neighbor's house where she had taken shelter, beaten her across the back with a metal wrench, and strangled her, the victim lost consciousness and was hospitalized by her family.

LICADHO's monitors read about the case in the newspaper, contacted the victim's family and offered to intervene. The victim's family was very poor and LICADHO provided them with medical treatment, food, household materials, and legal advice. The victim's husband was arrested shortly after the incident and sent to pre-trial detention. Three months later, the victim dropped the complaint against her husband, because she said that without him she had no income. She asked the prosecutor not to pursue the case. Because of the photographic evidence of the victim's injuries taken by LICADHO at the time of the incident, the prosecutor was able to continue with the case even though the victim no longer wanted to continue.

The case went to trial and the husband was convicted and sentenced to two years in prison. The sentence was partially suspended to seven months with the provision that if the husband was violent towards his wife again within the next five years he will serve the rest of his sentence. As the husband had already spent six months in prison he was released a month later and moved back

in with his wife. LICADHO monitors are still in touch with the victim and have met with the local police chief to ensure that the police continue to monitor the husband's behavior.

### **CHILDREN'S RIGHTS MONITORING**

LICADHO's Children's Rights Monitoring Project (CRMP) is dedicated to investigating and documenting human rights abuses against children, and to providing specialized assistance for young victims. From January to December 2014, CRMP investigated and documented 233 new cases affecting 247 children under the age of 18 (231 girls and 16 boys). This represents an increase of 4% in the number of child rights cases from 2013. Rape and attempted rape remained the most common form of child rights violations investigated by LICADHO, accounting for 78% of total cases received and investigated.

Of the 233 cases involving child's rights abuse, 16 cases were resolved and 217 cases remain open. Of the 217 cases remaining open, 185 are currently at the court for investigation and 32 remain with local authorities.

### **Case Study: Child Domestic Workers**

Some complex cases require the involvement of several LICADHO teams and external partners to achieve a successful intervention. In one such case this year, LICADHO partner, Our Home, sought the help of our women's and children's rights monitoring staff with a case involving two child domestic workers from the same family.

According to the children's sister, the two, a 17 year old girl and a 10 year old boy, were being held against their will in the house of a well-connected businessman and were subject to physical abuse and, in the case of the girl, sexual abuse. LICADHO's priority was to retrieve the children quickly and safely from the house. With the help of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), LICADHO's monitors and legal team persuaded the Phnom Penh prosecutor that there was enough evidence to order a raid on the house and retrieve the children.

The raid was successful and the two children were released and reunited with their family. Our Home was able to provide accommodation for the family and work for the parents and adult children. The 10 year old boy is now attending school.

Given the extremely corrupt nature of Cambodia's criminal justice system, achieving a prosecution in cases involving rich and well-connected perpetrators is difficult. However, LICADHO's lawyers continue to represent the children and are trying to ensure that the prosecutor pursues criminal charges against the businessman and the other members of his household who abused the children.

# Medical Assistance & Social Work



LICADHO's holistic approach to human rights protection involves medical and social work projects providing food, medical, and other emergency assistance to victims of human rights abuses. LICADHO helps to enable victims of human rights abuses to gather the strength and courage needed to persevere and overcome crises, by temporarily providing food and emergency aid as well as medical assistance in treating injuries and restoring health. LICADHO is continuously impressed by the tenacity of Cambodians and their ability to rise above challenges, transforming themselves into human rights activists and promoting the rights of other citizens and community members. LICADHO remains committed to encouraging individuals in such endeavors.

## SOCIAL WORK PROJECT

In 2014, LICADHO's Social Work Project provided food and material assistance across 14 provinces, to 6,781 victims of human rights abuses, including 3,563 women. This was a 51% increase from the number of individuals treated in 2013 (3,319). Among those receiving assistance, 4,880 were victims of human rights abuses connected to land grabbing.

Throughout 2014, LICADHO's Social Work Project supported 43 community organized advocacy events and peaceful demonstrations involving more than 7,500 participants, a 70% increase when compared to 2013. The events were connected to the arrests of activists, as well as cases of land grabbing and forced evictions. Assistance to the communities included the provision of food, drinking water, phone cards, and visual materials such as flags, banners, and blue kramas (a Cambodian symbol for human rights). The team also contributed to transport costs to help individuals attend the events.

# 62

Imprisoned human rights and land rights activists received food and other material assistance from LICADHO's Social Work Project.

# 7,500

Participants in 43 separate community-led advocacy activities received support from LICADHO's Social Work Project in the form of food and material assistance as well as transport fees.



Victims of land grabbing in Kampong Speu province receive aid from LICADHO, October 28, 2014.



LICADHO's Social Work Project also provided assistance to 62 imprisoned human rights activists (compared to 54 in 2013) and land rights activists, as well as providing support to 49 of their families, which accounted for over 100 individuals. The 62 imprisoned included 31 land rights activists from numerous communities, 23 union members and workers, five members of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), and three monks from the Independent Monk Network for Social Justice. Of the 49 families who were provided assistance, five received extra assistance after an evaluation of their circumstances. Two families in Battambang province were provided with recourses to help them start up small businesses in order to support themselves. Materials for renovating dilapidated houses were also provided to two families in Kampong Chhnang province and one family in Kampong Thom.

LICADHO's Social Work Project also provided assistance to victims of other human rights abuses including: rape (106 individuals); domestic violence (95 individuals); illegal arrests and detention (58 individuals); physical assault (58 individuals); and human trafficking (105 individuals). The Social Work Project also provided assistance to 1,334 vulnerable children.

### **Case Study: Pursat Province**

On November 22, a group of approximately 150 individuals including mixed security forces and representatives of the MDS company attempted to violently evict a community in Sangkum Themei village, Pursat province. The communities were accused of illegally living on state land. The security forces and MDS representatives were led by the Pursat Deputy Governor Khouy Rida, who is in charge of the local Provincial Land Conflict Resolution Committee.

At around 4pm, a 48 year old woman was arrested for challenging the eviction and detained for two days before her release on November 24. On November 28, LICADHO's Social Work Project visited the area and provided food and other material assistance to 12 affected families including that of the imprisoned woman. In total, 73 people including 30 women received material assistance such as tents, cooking pots, water containers, and blankets, as well as food and water, which they were seriously lacking following their forced evictions.

### **MEDICAL PROJECT**

LICADHO remains the only human rights organization in Cambodia with a medical team that works to complement its monitoring, legal, and advocacy projects. Medical assistance can help offset serious physical and psychological effects for individuals involved in forced relocations and protests. Participation in protests can result in serious injuries, and forced relocations can expose individuals to poor-health environments. By providing medical assistance to victims of human rights abuses, LICADHO's Medical Project is able to alleviate many of these problems. LICADHO's medical team is also involved in regular visits to relocation sites and prisons which have minimal or non-existent medical care.

### **LAND GRABBING**

Throughout 2014, a total of 10,188 consultations with victims of land grabbing were conducted, a slight increase from 10,162 in 2013. Of these consultations 6,064 were with females and 2,311 of these involved children under the age of 12.

LICADHO's Medical Project regularly visited key resettlement sites near Phnom Penh (Trapeang Anchanh, Oudong/Phnom Bat, and Tuol Sambo, Andong). A total of 6,854 consultations were conducted at these resettlement sites. The most common diseases encountered at the resettlement sites were, the common cold, diarrhea, hypertension, pneumonia, dyspepsia, and arthritis.

In addition to regular visits to remote relocation sites, LICADHO's Medical Project also provided ongoing treatment for three Phnom Penh urban communities resisting land grabbing and forced evictions.

In 2014, there were an increased number of rural communities involved in land disputes who visited Phnom Penh in order to voice their concerns to the relevant

# 10,188

Medical consultations with victims of land grabbing were conducted, a slight increase from 10,162 in 2013.

# 15%

Increase in the number of prison visits when compared to 2013.

### **Case Study**

On September 16, material assistance was provided to the family of a 46 year old land rights activist living in a village in Battambang province. As a result of his activities the activist was arrested on August 6 and remains in detention. The activist's wife runs a small business selling rice and rice soup in order to support her family, but after her husband's arrest was unable to make enough income to support her two children or to visit her husband in prison. LICADHO's Social Work Project provided her with a variety of cooking materials, furniture and utensils in order to help make her business sustainable.

After receiving assistance the wife was able to expand her business and significantly increase her income. She has since started two more businesses and is now able to support her children and pay for their school tuition, as well as being able to purchase two motorcycles and repair her house. She now has enough money to visit her husband in prison once a month and can provide him with mobile phone credit allowing him to remain in touch with his family.

authorities. Members of these communities often suffer from poor health as a result of persistent poverty due to loss of land and income. While in Phnom Penh, LICADHO's Medical Project provided essential treatment to all affected individuals. The medical team also made several field visits to affected communities such as the Lor Peang community in Kampong Chhnang. In total LICADHO provided medical treatment for 14 affected communities from nine provinces.

## PRISONS

Another key focus of LICADHO's Medical Project is to conduct regular prison visits in order to provide essential medical treatment to inmates and prison staff. Prisons in Cambodia are severely underfunded and insufficient medical treatment is provided by the state.

During 2014, medical staff screened and treated 8,952 patients, including 8,638 inmates (7358 male and 1280 female) and 314 prison staff (254 male and 60 female) over the course of 137 prison visits to 17 prisons. LICADHO's medical staff saw an increase of 15% in the number of prison visits when compared to 2013 (116 visits).

Thirteen prisons are visited on an ongoing basis while four other prisons were visited upon emergency requests. The most common problems encountered in prisons were the flu, scabies, beriberi, diarrhea, hypertension, gastritis, tinea, and malnutrition (especially a lack of essential vitamins).

LICADHO's Medical Project also provided treatments and consultations to victims of a variety of other human rights violations, including domestic violence and injuries inflicted by security forces. The team also facilitated general medical check-ups and preventive care to key human rights defenders and activists.

## Medical assistance to human rights marchers

Throughout the marches to celebrate International Human Rights Day, 18 members of the medical team, including medical interns, were mobilized to seven different national roads to provide treatment for people who joined the march this year. LICADHO's medical team provided 1,525 treatment/consultations. The most common health problems included fatigue, headache, diarrhea, muscle pain, blisters, common cold, and hypertension. The support of the medical team helped the marchers to maintain their energy and health, allowing them to continue their march until they reached Phnom Penh.



A LICADHO doctor treats prison inmates at Oddar Meanchey provincial prison, August, 2014.





## TORTURE, CORRUPTION, AND OVERCROWDING

LICADHO regularly monitors 18 of Cambodia's 28 prisons.<sup>16</sup> LICADHO's primary monitoring mechanism is weekly interviews with pre-trial detainees and convicts, family members of prisoners, and released prisoners. Through these interviews, LICADHO is able to monitor prison conditions, identify prisoners with legal and medical needs, and uncover the occurrence of torture.

During 2014, LICADHO researchers interviewed 1,370 prisoners who were either convicted or imprisoned under pre-trial detention. LICADHO researchers also conducted 168 interviews with prisoners' families. Interviews are purely voluntary and are conducted in a safe and secure environment. LICADHO researchers do not ask questions that could endanger inmates or compromise their conditions of detention if confidentiality cannot be assured.

LICADHO's activities also include performing interventions on behalf of prisoners who have been held in pre-trial detention beyond the legal limits and on behalf of prisoners who have long been awaiting their appeal hearing. As a result of LICADHO's interventions, between January and December 2014, 49 inmates held in pretrial detention beyond the legal limit were finally tried at the municipal court level and 117 inmates finally had their appeals heard by the Court of Appeal. LICADHO also referred 279 prisoners' cases to legal aid organizations for representation.

By the end of 2014 there were a total of 13,771 prisoners, both pre-trial and convicted, being held in the 18 prisons monitored by LICADHO, including 1,077 women and 305 juveniles. Despite a small reduction of the prison population in the first half of the year, there was an increase of 10% between June and December culminating in a total increase of 5% for the year.

For these prisoners, overcrowded and squalid conditions remain the norm, and corruption is widespread. Cash flow typically dictates conditions of detention, treatment, family visits, and access to basic needs such as food, water, daylight, and fresh air for each prisoner. Levels of pre-trial detention are high, particularly amongst women and juveniles and there are many documented cases of unlawful detention and long waits for appeal hearings.

The situation of inmates with mental health problems, juveniles, pregnant women, and children living in prison with their mothers is also of concern, especially given the dire state of prison health facilities and ongoing reports of abuse.

## TORTURE REPORT

On June 26, International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, LICADHO released a new report on torture and ill-treatment in Cambodia's police stations and prisons, including the abuse of females and juveniles and those experiencing mental health problems. The report analyzed the details of testimony received between January 2008 and June 2014, finding no palpable change in the type, frequency, and severity of abuse reported over that time period.

Inmates described being beaten, kicked, slapped or punched, often until they were bleeding and unconscious. Objects used during beatings included guns, sticks, iron rods, stun batons, and electric cables. Other forms of torture reported to LICADHO included prisoners being dragged on the ground by their hair; being forced to stand on one leg for prolonged periods; guards standing and stamping on their bodies and faces; objects being forced into mouths; cigarette burns; forced prolonged kneeling, including in direct sunlight; choking; and the use of electroshock weaponry for torture.

<sup>16</sup>Police Judiciare (PJ), Correctional Center 1 (CC1), Correctional Center 2 (CC2), Correctional Center 3 (CC3), Correctional Center 4 (CC4), Takhmao, Kampong Som, Kampong Speu, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Pursat, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Svay Rieng and Koh Kong.

# 166

Inmates who benefited from intervention by LICADHO in addressing legal and procedural irregularities.

# 5%

Increase in prison population in the 18 prisons monitored by LICADHO since end 2013.

Between January and December 2014, LICADHO documented 164 allegations of torture or ill-treatment, 18 of which occurred inside the prisons whilst the remaining 146 cases occurred during arrest or in police custody. This represents 11% of all inmates interviewed and remains consistent with statistics recorded by LICADHO over the past several years, with approximately 90% of all abuse reported to LICADHO since 2008 alleged to have taken place in police custody, often for the purpose of extracting confessions.

### EARLY YEARS BEHIND BARS

In 2014, LICADHO continued its work to try and bridge the gap of knowledge that currently exists concerning young children in Cambodian prisons. As of December 2014, there were 41 children between the ages of one month and four years living with their mothers in 18 Cambodian prisons monitored by LICADHO. Approximately half of them were born while their mothers were imprisoned and almost all have never experienced or do not remember life beyond prison walls.

LICADHO released the first in a series of case studies on the issue in October 2013 and a second will be released in February 2015. Whilst there have been few detailed studies assessing the long-term impact of prison life on a child's development, it is clear from LICADHO's reports that for some children early life behind bars in Cambodia can have devastating physical and psychological consequences.

In general LICADHO continues to support efforts to ensure newborn babies and small children have the opportunity to remain with their detained mothers in Cambodian prisons when it is in the child's best interest. However, LICADHO believes that a child should only stay in prison following a comprehensive individual assessment. This takes into account all benefits and risks such as the impact of a prison environment on a child's development, the risk of a child being abandoned, or if the child is in a place of inadequate shelter due to Cambodia's poorly developed child-welfare system.

### ACCESS AND OTHER CHALLENGES

One of the reasons that reports of torture and abuse in police custody remain proportionally high is because the government does not allow NGOs to monitor places of police detention and there are no other independent bodies that are permitted or adequately equipped to regularly inspect and monitor treatment and conditions.

Interviews with former prisoners may become even more important to LICADHO's work as in the past few years LICADHO's prison access has also become increasingly restricted. LICADHO cannot visit places of detention without prior notice and, increasingly, prison researchers are unable to conduct in-prison interviews in full confidentiality.

LICADHO also monitors relevant legal developments affecting prisoners. Of note, after a reported ten-year drafting period, Cambodia's Law on Children in Conflict with the Law (Juvenile Justice Law) had still not been finalized by the end of December 2014. Currently juveniles in detention are subject to the same abuse, humiliations and degradations as adults and are just as likely to be treated according to their financial status rather than age.

LICADHO is also following the implementation of new pre-trial detention forms. Cambodian law requires the investigating judge ordering pre-trial detention to issue reasons for the order and the new forms are intended to ensure judges more carefully consider all relevant facts before depriving someone of their liberty. Unfortunately, thus far the adoption of the new pre-trial detention forms has been slow and judges still often fail to provide strong reasoning for ordering pre-trial detention.







During 2014, LICADHO's Human Rights Legal Project (HRLP) assisted 119 clients (64 male and 55 female) across 11 provinces. This was an increase of 58% when compared to 2013 where lawyers assisted 50 clients across six provinces.

LICADHO's HRLP provided legal representation and consultation to victims in cases regarding land grabbing, threats to human rights defenders (HRDs), rape, human trafficking, domestic violence, and special cases.

Throughout 2014, LICADHO's lawyers represented and assisted their clients at all levels of the court, working to fight for clients' civil rights and to give them a better understanding of legal procedures and the interventions required to secure these rights. Through each stage of the legal process, LICADHO's lawyers act promptly on behalf of their clients: submitting evidence and witness statements when they are received; petitioning the prosecutor and investigating judge to dismiss cases when no inculpatory evidence exists; and arguing the merits of each case before the trial court, appellate court, and Supreme Court as necessary.

Moreover, LICADHO's legal project co-defended and partnered with other NGOs on a number of high-profile cases to sustain pressure on the judiciary and to protect lawyers from possible retaliation. Legal support is accompanied by other LICADHO services such as material, food, and medical assistance, giving greater confidence to LICADHO's clients in their fight for justice.

Regarding high profile cases throughout 2014, LICADHO cooperated and shared information with donor countries, foreign embassies, and the UN to raise public awareness in an effort to ensure that court officials applied the law correctly when considering pre-trial detention orders and convictions, and to discourage officials from engaging in corrupt or abusive activities.

## Case Study: Phea Leu village

Eleven families from Phea Leu Village in Kandal province were in a yearlong land dispute with Suy Sophan, the owner of Phanimex, a well-connected company notorious for instigating and participating in the violent forced eviction of residents from the Borei Keila community in Phnom Penh. In January 2014, Sophan filed charges against the families accusing them of illegally selling land that Sophan claimed belonged to her. Sophan also filed charges against the business who purchased the land and the commune chief who authorized the sale.

The 2001 Land Law provides possessory rights for families who had been living on land for at least five years before the passage of the law. In this case, the commune chief had previously recognized that each of the accused families met the conditions set forth in the Land Law and rejected Suy Sophan's application for title to their land. When the same commune chief subsequently approved the sale of the land by the 11 families, Suy Sophan filed claims against everyone involved with the Kandal Provincial Court.

Six months after the case was filed, the families and the commune chief received summons from the Kandal prosecutor and LICADHO agreed to defend each of them. After conducting an investigation, LICADHO's lawyers filed a two-part motion with the prosecutor first demanding that the charges be dropped due to lack of evidence or, in the alternative, that the criminal proceedings be postponed to allow the title dispute to be filed and resolved first by a civil court.

In late December 2014, nearly a year after the original complaint was filed, the prosecutor of the Kandal Provincial Court conceded the arguments made by LICADHO's lawyers and issued a non-suit order, deciding not to pursue the case any further. If convicted, the villagers would have faced up to three years in prison and would have had to pay Suy Sophan the money they received for the sale of their land. The commune chief would have also faced up to three years in prison and over USD 6,000 in fines. Instead the village families and the commune chief no longer

# 119

Clients (64 male and 55 female) from across 11 provinces assisted by LICADHO's Legal Project.

# 8

Cases successfully closed in 2014, involving 22 clients (13 female and 9 male). Six of the cases were pending from previous years, two were opened in 2014.

have to live with the stress of a long protracted trial or the threat of prison sentences and fines that could have been exploited by Suy Sophan to force harmful settlements from each of them.

### Case Study: Trafficking

In June, 2013, a mute and deaf 13 year old girl, infected with HIV since birth, was sold for sex near Dey Krahorm community. The perpetrator, the mother of the girl's friend, sold the victim to a man in order to pay off gambling debts.

Local NGO, New Hope for Cambodian Children (NHCC) lodged a criminal complaint against the woman who sold the victim, and the man who raped her, to the Phnom Penh Municipal Court, while asking for legal assistance from LICADHO.

LICADHO provided one lawyer to work on the case with the assistance of a body language expert to communicate with the victim. LICADHO have continually followed up on the case and submitted evidence to the case file. In this case, the seller of the victim was arrested and detained but the second perpetrator (who raped the victim) has fled since an arrest warrant was issued.

On August 28, 2014, the trial judge opened the case and convicted both of the accused parties to 15 years in prison, and joint compensation of eight million Cambodian Riel to the victim.

The victim is now living in the New Hope for Cambodian Children (NHCC) where she is now attending school.



Protestors near Phnom Penh Municipal Court, July 16, 2014.



# PROMOTION & ADVOCACY



Housing rights demonstration on World Habitat Day, Phnom Penh, October 6, 2014.

## Public Advocacy & Promoting Grassroots Empowerment



LICADHO uses a range of advocacy methods, from the production of written and audiovisual materials to the maintenance of direct contact with those in positions of influence. Common to all this work is the accuracy and clarity of the information transmitted. This is a result of the work of LICADHO's monitoring staff that investigates human rights abuses and maintains a regular presence at protests and public human rights celebrations and the Documentation Resource Office (DRO), which maintains the LICADHO database, in addition to the production of video, audio, and written advocacy materials.

### INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

During the last 12 months LICADHO has used several international mechanisms to draw attention to human rights abuses in Cambodia.

In the case of Free the 23, once it became clear that the 23 were being held in an undisclosed location, LICADHO immediately alerted the UN Sub-committee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT) about the incommunicado detention of the 23. Incommunicado detention facilitates torture and in itself amounts to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. The SPT conducted an official visit to Cambodia three weeks prior to the arrests of the 23, during which they made unannounced visits to

places of detention and were in the process of preparing a confidential submission to the Cambodian government.

Following the enforced disappearance of Khem Sophath, LICADHO submitted a request for urgent action to the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearance. The committee immediately transmitted their request to Cambodian authorities, emphasizing the urgency of the case and calling on authorities to clarify his fate and whereabouts and to ensure that the perpetrators be arrested, prosecuted, and adequately punished.

In March the European Union and Cambodia held their 8th Joint Committee session, which is typically held every other year to determine development priorities and recommendations on a broad range of bilateral issues. LICADHO contributed to this process by submitting a joint brief that identified issues to be prioritized in the context of EU-Cambodia relations, especially under the EU's Everything but Arms trade policy. Some of the issues raised include the deterioration of freedom of expression, assembly, and association, as well as ongoing problems with land grabbing, labor trafficking, and harmful draft legislation.

LICADHO along with The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), submitted a report to the UN Human

Rights Committee's Task Force for the adoption of a list of issues on Cambodia detailing serious and persistent violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), including: the right to life; the freedom of expression and assembly; the right to fair trial; and the prohibitions against torture and arbitrary detention. The Task Force met in 2014 to determine the issues that will be considered by the Human Rights Committee in March 2015, when it assesses Cambodia's compliance with the ICCPR for the first time since 1998.

In April, a LICADHO lawyer traveled to Sweden with two peers from partner organization the Community Legal Education Center (CLEC), to attend a conference for Human Rights Defenders and to lobby on issues relating to land grabbing, human rights defenders, labor practices, and the current political situation in Cambodia. Following the HRD conference, the group lobbied representatives from two government departments as well as the Head of the Left Party Parliamentary group and met a representative of the Equality Ombudsman. They also held advocacy meetings with international civil society organizations including Civil Rights Defenders, and the Clean Clothes Campaign, Norway.

In September, a LICADHO staff member along with a one peer from partner NGO Cambodian Youth Network (CYN) attended a regional consultation in Nepal on the 'Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association.' LICADHO and CYN lobbied regional NGOs and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, Maina Kiai, on upcoming harmful draft laws along with the trial of the 23 and ongoing restrictions to freedom of peaceful assembly.

In December 2014, LICADHO, along with two partner NGOs, attended the 6th Asian Regional Human Rights Defenders Forum in the Philippines. The forum focused on building stronger HRD Networks in Asia through highlighting protection initiatives and challenges, and identifying effective measures for action and protection of HRDs. LICADHO and its partners provided a presentation on land issues in Cambodia while also participating in workshops with other regional NGOs. LICADHO also lobbied the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders, Michel Forst, summarizing the cases of the 10 Boeung Kak Lake women arrested and detained as part of the 19.

By participating in conferences and meetings abroad, LICADHO ensures that factual and emerging information about high profile cases, and the domestic human rights situation, are raised in countries that have a stake in Cambodia. Furthermore, this work has enabled LICADHO staff with key community and other grassroots representatives, to lobby directly to international policy makers and media. The result has linked campaigns and lobbying at the regional level to both national and international platforms. This has increased the knowledge and abilities of communities and grassroots organizations as well as renewing their confidence.

### **LICADHO's ONLINE PRESENCE**

Throughout 2014, LICADHO continued to develop its online presence and its use of audio-visual materials. LICADHO produced and disseminated 12 new videos along with 10 short video clips for livestream. During this period the LICADHO/LICADHO Canada YouTube channel received 158,145 views with 171 new subscriptions. LICADHO also produced 40 new audio clips during this period covering a variety of human rights issues.

LICADHO produced 11 livestreams throughout the year. Livestreams continue to be produced simultaneously in English and Khmer with some content targeted for each audience. LICADHO introduced a new audio feature for its Free the 23 livestream, which enabled the embedding of audio files recorded by LICADHO monitors at the protests outside the court. It is also now possible to tweet and share livestreams on Facebook directly from the livestream page.

## **Case Study: 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence**

In November, to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence campaign, LICADHO published a report exploring how the lives of women land campaigners have been affected by their activism. The report was based on new research conducted by LICADHO staff and revealed the high price women pay for their activism, suffering not only serious economic and emotional impacts but also domestic violence and family breakdown.

To accompany the report, LICADHO planned two radio shows with WMC radio involving interviews with four of the activists who participated in the research. As well as the planned radio shows, both Radio Free Asia and Voice of America radio stations broadcast reports and interviews covering the issues raised in the report. During the radio shows several members of the public called to express their support for the activists and encourage them to continue with their campaigning. After the shows the four women commented that talking publicly about their lives and the difficulties they have faced was a very positive experience for them and had made them feel justified in the choices they had made.

### **Publication: An Overview**

- 86 flash news
- 40 audio clips
- 33 media statements
- 12 videos
- 11 livestreams
- 6 reports
- 6 photo albums
- 5 briefing papers
- 4 documents



In the past 12 months LICADHO produced 86 flash news items and 33 (independent and joint) statements. The high number of news items and statements is an indicator of a troubled period that was characterized by frequent violent suppression of peaceful and often small-scale protests. Throughout 2014, LICADHO produced more news items relating to events in the provinces. This is a result of increased competence in photography and the use of Smartphone's for reporting purposes by LICADHO's provincial monitors.

The growing production of evidence based advocacy material in multimedia forms produced by LICADHO has resulted in an increased use of LICADHO's information and material amongst national, regional, and international media, governments, international NGOs, unions, and other interest groups. LICADHO's advocacy material is increasingly viewed as a reliable and trusted information source on the human rights situation in Cambodia and key issues affecting victims and civil society. LICADHO spends significant time and resources to ensure that the information is not only factual but also complementary and timely to its beneficiaries and stakeholders.

In response to a heavy surge in land grabbing and other human rights abuses throughout 2014, Cambodians have become increasingly organized and vocal in demanding their rights. Unfortunately, pursuing a legal complaint is rarely successful as the perpetrators of land grabs and human rights violations are often well connected and operate with impunity. LICADHO provides legal assistance, monitoring, protection, and capacity building services to unions, grassroots groups, and affected communities who are attempting to claim their rights.

# 158,145

Number of views of LICADHO/LICADHO Canada videos on YouTube during 2014.

# 30,989

Views on YouTube of video 'Youth Beaten Bloody during Borei Keila Occupation;' the video also reached 29,744 people on Facebook.



Members from Chi Kor Leu community protest against an economic land concession affecting their land, Koh Kong province, October 8, 2014.



## SUPPORTING PEACEFUL PUBLIC PROTESTS

In 2014 LICADHO provided financial and technical support as well as human resources to partners exercising their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression. Below is sample list of some events that LICADHO provided material resources along with medical and monitoring support.

- On October 5, LICADHO supported over 600 community members for World Habitat Day . The peaceful protestors gathered at the National Assembly to demand ‘development for all’ and an end to forced evictions across Cambodia. Additionally, LICADHO released a new video titled ‘Borei Keila Evictees: Justice Overdue,’ highlighting the ongoing land dispute between the Borei Keila community in Phnom Penh and local development company, Phanimex.

- On October 9, LICADHO supported more than 250 villagers from three villages, Trapeang Kandorl, Chi Khor, and Chhouk, in Sre Ambel district, Koh Kong, as they marched to deliver a petition to Chi Khor Leu commune hall and Sre Ambel district office. The petition was submitted in response to a long running land dispute regarding an overlapping economic land concession that involved Oknha Ly Yong Phat and is used to produce sugar for Thai sugar-manufacturer, Khon Kaen Sugar (KSL). The district governor and commune leader for Chi Khor Leu received their petitions after which the villagers then marched to Koh Kong Sugar, where a representative for the company accepted their petition as well.

- Throughout November and December, LICADHO supported 12 public protests and demonstrations in support of Free the 19. This required preparatory meetings with community representatives before each of the activities while providing various advocacy materials, covering transport costs for protesters, and providing food and water on the days of each activity. LICADHO provided advocacy materials which included the provision of national and Buddhist flags, balloons, posters of those detained, and lotus flowers. Due to LICADHO’s advocacy efforts and the international attention received throughout the trials, none of the 19 activists have suffered intimidation or mistreatment by prison officials since their imprisonment. Moreover, their families, along with LICADHO and other NGOs have been able to visit them in prison.<sup>17</sup>

### Success Story: International Human Rights Day

This year, International Human Rights Day (IHRD) was once again the occasion of an impressive mobilization of Cambodian civil society. Hundreds of individuals from associations, networks, federations, unions, and NGOs, as well as Cambodian citizens and monks, joined a 10-day march for peace. Starting on December 1, the marchers walked on seven different national roads, through rural Cambodia, towards Phnom Penh. More than 600 permanent marchers joined the event across various provinces under the theme “Respecting Human Rights Leads to Peace.” Additionally, some 300 members of indigenous communities in Ratanakiri province took part in the IHRD march for the first time.



A farmer from Koh Kong province joins the march on National Road 4, December 8, 2014.

<sup>17</sup> For further details please see “Free the 19” section.



Along the way, participants engaged in teachings on Buddhism and human rights, question-and-answer sessions about human rights, quizzes, and poetry recitals, before converging in front of the National Assembly in Phnom Penh. Members of communities affected by land disputes, associations, networks, unions and NGOs, delivered hand-written petitions that had been collected during the previous nine days, while indigenous communities from Ratanakiri also submitted a separate petition on indigenous rights.

Members of Parliament (MPs) from the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), Mrs. Lork Kheng and Mrs. Chhun Sarim, and Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) MP, Mr. Chea Pouch, all from the Commission on Human Rights, Complaints, and Investigation, received the petitions.

The petitions included the following recommendations to the Royal Government of Cambodia:

- Take immediate measures to ensure that the Law on Demonstrations is properly implemented at all levels of authority
- Ensure the independence of the judicial system at all levels
- End the use of violent force against activists and human rights defenders
- Stop forced evictions

The march was organized by the Friends of December 10th, an informal group of human rights defenders. The event demonstrated the growth over recent years of mutual support and solidarity between disparate groups. Together the Friends of December 10th set up a secretariat, information/media committee, monitoring/security committee, medical team, and fundraising/finance committee.

LICADHO is a member of the Friends of December 10th and was heavily involved throughout the planning process, contributing administrative resources and providing meeting rooms. During the march LICADHO assigned monitors and medical staff to all seven national roads. This proved crucial to the event's success as many marchers suffered from minor illnesses and injuries. In some places the marchers were met with hostility by authorities and local monks. LICADHO's monitors and medical staff ensured the marchers stayed healthy and safe throughout, and were able to participate in the concluding events on December 10.

### **INTRODUCING LICADHO PARTNERS TO INTERNATIONAL LOBBYING**

In September, a LICADHO staff member accompanied one land activist from Boeung Kak Lake, along with members from partner NGOs, to the 27th regular session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. The group conducted a joint presentation to the council with Surya Subedi, the UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, while also submitting a report. The group also met with the President for the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, Emmanuel Decaux, regarding the case of 15 year old Khem Sopath who was last seen on January 3, lying on the ground near the Canadia Industrial Park on Veng Sreng road, with blood pouring from an apparent gunshot wound to his chest.

The trip exposed partner NGOs and local activists to the mechanisms involved in international advocacy and the UN as a whole. This exposure was facilitated through one-to-one meetings with international NGOs such as Forum-Asia, along with UN ambassadors from the United States, United Kingdom, Indonesia, and South Korea, among others.



Indigenous people and Buddhist monks march in Ratanakiri province to promote human rights, December 4, 2014.





Youth CPGs from Phnom Penh/Kandal participate in International Youth Day, August 12, 2014.

In 2014, LICADHO's Children's Rights Office (CRO) continued to partner with grassroots Child Protection Groups (CPGs) to advocate for child rights in four target areas: Phnom Penh/Kandal, Sihanoukville, Koh Kong, and Siem Reap. CPGs are comprised of children, youths, and adults. They regularly organize public forums, theater performances, marches, and group discussions to raise awareness on child rights issues in their communities.

LICADHO's CRO supported meetings of child and youth CPGs where cases of child abuse were reported to authorities. These meetings also nurtured community relationships, facilitated brainstorming and the planning of various activities such as public forums, theater performances, and fundraising events.

The CRO also conducted training workshops that covered topics such as advocacy, child participation in commune councils, legal procedures to help child victims, and fundraising. These training programs and events encouraged authorities to monitor and intervene more frequently in child abuse cases, and to promote child participation in community decision making.

## GROWING ACTIVISM

This year, it was exciting to witness the growing activism of youth CPGs in Phnom Penh and Kandal as they creatively advocated and fundraised on behalf of vulnerable children, and on behalf of human rights defenders and land activists.

On November 7, a group of youths sold drinks at Wat Phnom during the annual Water Boat Festival to raise money for school materials for children in Phnom Bat, a land eviction relocation site. Although the youths were temporarily harassed by security guards known for violently dispersing peaceful demonstrations, they successfully negotiated a compromise and were able to raise 80,000R (\$20).

On November 9, youths from Phnom Penh and Kandal used traditional Cambodian games to teach 50 children in Phnom Bat and Thmor Kol (communities affected by land conflicts) about their rights. The youths also distributed DVD footage of these games to communities along National Road 3 during International Human Rights Day (IHRD) marches.

On December 21, Phnom Penh and Kandal youths participated in a public forum at Freedom Park to learn more about three draft laws – the Agricultural Law, the Cybercrime Law, and the Law on Unions of Enterprises – and how they will restrict freedom of assembly and expression. The youths signed petitions calling on the National Assembly to scrap these laws.

## Case Study:

### Story of Nuon Narin

Nuon Narin is a commune councilor for the Commune Committee in Charge of Women and Children (CCWC) in Dang Tong district, Koh Kong city. In 2013, Narin participated in an exposure visit organized by the CRO in Kandal province where she learned how commune councilors at Prek Roka commune were inviting children to join meetings.

After the exposure visit, Narin began allowing two to three children from CPGs to participate in commune meetings, and encouraged them to speak up about child rights issues without fear. At a recent council meeting, several children discussed two cases of children dropping out of school. One child had dropped out because his house was far away and he was afraid of gangs beating him up on the way. Narin facilitated his transfer to a school closer to his home, and worked with the child CPGs to raise money to buy him a bicycle.

Narin actively shares stories of her council's success in integrating the voices of children, and encourages other commune councils to do the same. In late 2014, she brought along four child CPGs to neighboring Koki commune to share about their experiences. She also invited a commune councilor from Smarch Meanchey to observe her commune's council meetings. Now, both communes have invited children to participate in their meetings.



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# LICADHO ADMINISTRATION

## LICADHO STAFF

In 2014, LICADHO employed 135 staff including eight part-time staff (five women and three men), six disabled staff (three women and three men) and eight foreign consultants (three women and five men). LICADHO also employed two interns (two men) and recruited 14 new staff (four women and 10 men).

During this period, 16 staff members (five women and 11 men) resigned. Reasons for staff leaving varied from new employment opportunities, termination of their contracts, or to take care of their children. Meanwhile, 13 staff members were promoted or transferred to another project/unit.

## COMMUNICATION, MEETING AND EVENTS

During January to December 2014, LICADHO received a total of 2,364 clients and visitors - 685 in Phnom Penh and 1,679 in the provinces. The organization sent out a total of 1,209 letters to various institutions, including letters of intervention and invitations to events; 158 of them were sent from the Phnom Penh office.

## INTERNAL MEETINGS

- The Management team met at least three times per month to discuss/resolve internal issues such as retreat preparation, smartphone use and responsibility, staff recruitment, the establishment of the new Ratanakiri starting up, mission allowance and compensation raising, NGO Governance and Professional Practice (NGO-GPP) assessment preparation, activity planning etc.

- Provincial coordinators convened in Phnom Penh at the end of every month for 1-2 days to submit reports, obtain funds and discuss key issues.

- Provincial coordinators, Phnom Penh coordinators, supervisors and deputy directors met two times to discuss and set up LICADHO's strategy for the next four years.

- Meetings were conducted with all relevant staff to prepare schedule for GPP team to assess on LICADHO GPP.

- All staff in Phnom Penh's office participated in a meeting to share information and discuss LICADHO's role and support for the 25 detainees.

- All LICADHO staff participated in the annual meeting to discuss the four year strategic plan, policy awareness, relationship building and the trip to Sihanouk province for four days on May 2-5, 2014.

- The Policy Implementation Monitoring Committee met three times to discuss the terms of reference of this committee and Q&A on policies for policy awareness during the annual meeting.

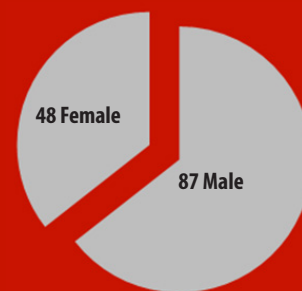
## INSURANCE & EQUIPMENT

- Five cars and forty two motorcycles and 135 staff are currently insured.

- 139 Samsung Galaxy SIII mini and Galaxy Grand II smartphones were provided to provincial and Phnom Penh staff and partners.

- 50 power banks provided to key staff who worked on the IHRD 2014 event (Child Rights/Women's Rights monitors, Human Rights monitors, Documentation and Resource staff, and Medical staff).

## LICADHO Staff Profile



## Impacts

- Even though equipment was old and in need of repair, especially in the provinces, the Administration and Human Resources office (ADM & HR) were able to serve all the needs of provincial staff.

- All staff members were satisfied with the facilities provided and feel confident with their work. The office was repaired throughout the year, including the sewage system, a replaced water pump during office closure, electric power was increased from 40A to 64A for the front office and the electric system was reorganized as well.

- More clients who accessed LICADHO received the assistance they required and were satisfied with the responsive service.

- With the support from ADM & HR, other office staff celebrated and conducted events and activities throughout the year.

## Challenges & Lessons Learned

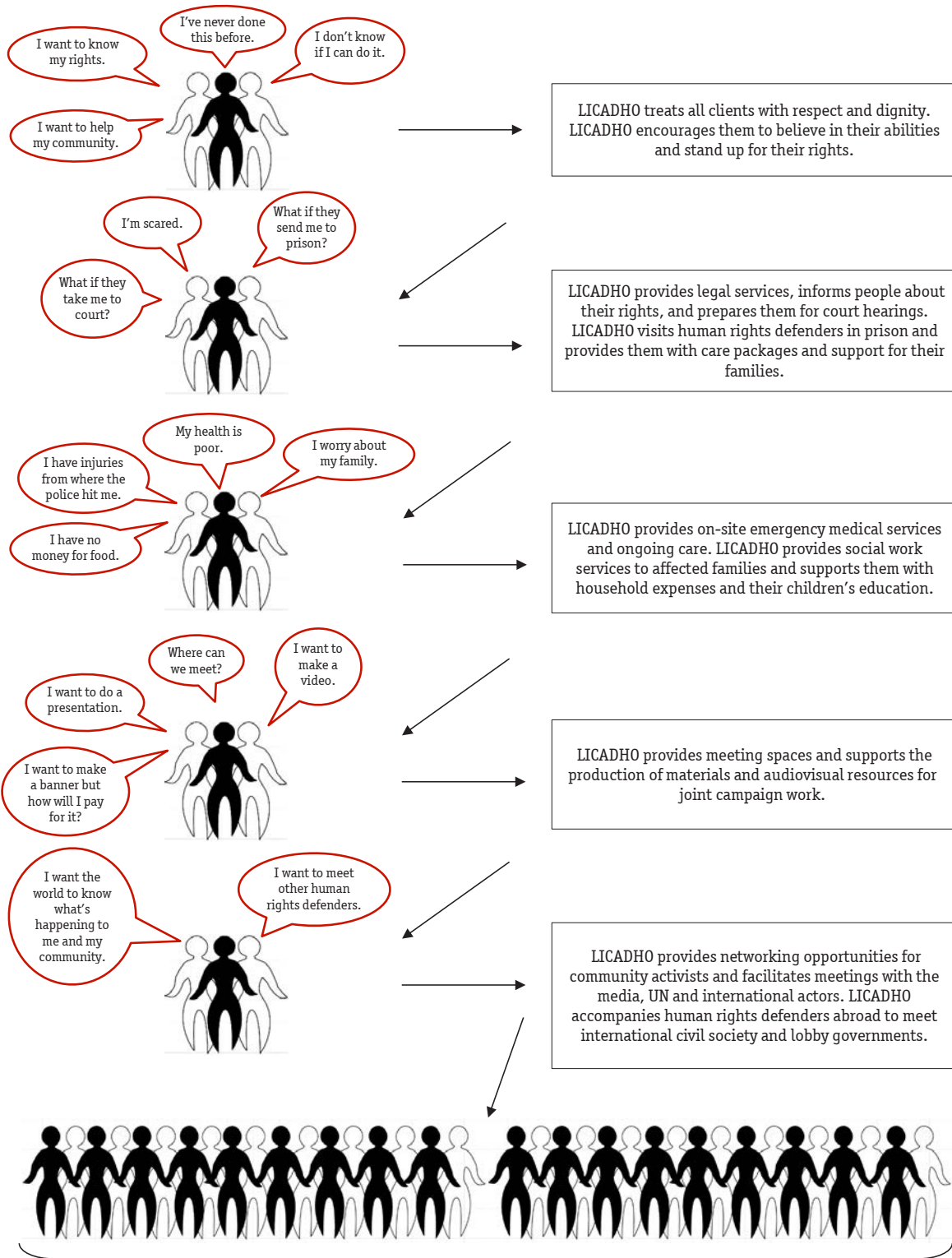
- Many computers and motor bikes in the provinces are old and require regular repairs.

- Recruitment of senior staff has proven difficult due to LICADHO's salary scale being lower than that of other NGO's.

- Electric capacity is limited and can sometimes cut off, therefore disturbing the work of all staff.



# LICADHO: PROMOTING CLIENT EMPOWER- ERMENT & WELL-BEING



We are smart, we are strong and we stand together.

# APPENDIX 1: LICADHO PUBLICATIONS

JANUARY 2014

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**Briefing Paper: List of the Dead and Missing from January 3, 2014, Demonstration**

January 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=190>

**Briefing Paper: 23 Workers & Human Rights Defenders Detained in Kampong Cham's CC3 Prison**

January 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=191>

**Media Statement: Military Special Command Unit Deployed to Crackdown on Striking Workers**

January 2, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=333>

**Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Civilians Killed and Injured by Security Forces amid Civil Unrest in Phnom Penh**

January 3, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=334>

**Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Peaceful Protesters Expelled from Freedom Park as Military Mobilization Escalates**

January 4, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=335>

**Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Cambodian Authorities Must Reveal Whereabouts of Detainees Immediately**

January 6, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=336>

**Video: Workers & Political Activists under Attack in Cambodia**

January 7, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/video.php?perm=43>

**Photo Album: Three Days of Terror: State Forces Crack Down on Garment Factory**

January 10, 2014

[http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view\\_photo.php?cat=61](http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view_photo.php?cat=61)

**Video: When Prayers Meet Suppression: Calling for the Release of the 23**

January 21, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/video.php?perm=44>

**Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Cambodia: Harassment, Arrest, and Detention of Human Rights Defenders Continue**

January 22, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=339>

**Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Universal Periodic Review: Address Cambodia's Human Rights Crisis**

January 26, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=337>

**Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Latest Crackdown on Peaceful Dissent Further Perpetuates Impunity and Fuels Tensions**

January 28, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=338>

**Document: Submission to the UN's Universal Periodic Review for Cambodia by LICADHO**

January 28, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=187>

**Document: Submission to the UN's Universal Periodic Review for Cambodia by CLEC, LICADHO, LSCW, and HRW**

January 28, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=188>

**Document: Submission to the UN's Universal Periodic Review for Cambodia by Amnesty International and LICADHO**

January 28, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=189>



## FEBRUARY 2014

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**Article: When Freedom Meets Oppression: Timeline of Recent Events**

February 9, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/articles/20140209/137/index.html>

**Article: On Global Day of Action, Cambodians Release Balloons to Sky in Solidarity with 23 Arrestees**

February 10, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/articles/20140210/138/index.html>

**Audio Book: Turned Away: Fraud, Irregularities, and Intimidation during the 2013 National Assembly Elections**

February 12, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/media/index.php?id=24&c=1>

**Video: Youth Beaten Bloody during Borei Keila Occupation Clampdown**

February 14, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/video.php?perm=45>

**Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Human Rights in Cambodia Suffered “Devastating Blows” in 2012**

February 18, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/media/index.php?id=269>

## MARCH 2014

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**Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): LICADHO Calls for More Rehabilitation Opportunities for Female Prisoners**

March 8, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=340>

**Article (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Year 2013 in Review: Cambodian Elections**

March 18, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/articles/20140318/139/index.html>

**News (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Year 2013 in Review: A Shrinking Space for Assembly and Expression in Cambodia**

March 19, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/articles/20140319/140/index.html>

**News (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Year 2013 in Review: Impunity in the Cambodian Courts**

March 20, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/articles/20140320/141/index.html>

**News (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Year 2013 in Review: Land, a Country in Crisis**

March 21, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/articles/20140321/142/index.html>

**Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Public Letter Urging an Immediate Investigation into the Disappearance of Khem Sophath**

March 23, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=341>

## APRIL 2014

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**Video: Time-lapse: State-Involved Land Conflicts in Cambodia**

April 1, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/video.php?perm=46>

**Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): 2014 Brings a New Wave of Cambodian Land Conflicts**

April 1, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=342>

## MAY 2014

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**Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): On International Children's Day, LICADHO Calls for Improved Protection of Children in Prison**

May 30, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=343>

**Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Phnom Penh Court Orders Conviction with Suspended Sentences for 25 Workers and Activists**

May 30, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=344>

## JUNE 2014

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**Video: Too Young to Work: The Life of a Former Shoe Factory Worker**

June 9, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/video.php?perm=47>

**Video: Out of School and Working: The Story of an Evicted Girl**

June 10, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/video.php?perm=48>

**Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): On World Day Against Child Labour, LICADHO Urges Authorities To End Root Causes of Child Labour**

June 11, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=345>

**Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Unconstitutional Draft Laws on the Judiciary should be Rejected**

June 15, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=346>

**Report: Torture and Ill-Treatment: Testimony from Inside Cambodia's Police Stations and Prisons**

June 26, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=195>

**Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): LICADHO Report: Torture and Ill-Treatment: Testimony from Inside Cambodia's Police Stations and Prisons**

June 26, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=347>

## JULY 2014

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**Media Statement: LICADHO Condemns this Morning's Violence at Phnom Penh's Freedom Park**

July 15, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=348>

**Media Statement: Civil Society Groups Condemn Baseless Charges and Call for an End to Violence and Repression**

July 17, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=349>

**Media Statement: Seven Opposition MPs Detained Amid Ongoing Restrictions on Peaceful Assembly**

July 18, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=350>

**Report: Submission to the Human Rights Committee's Task Force for the Adoption of the List of Issues on Cambodia**

July 23, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=196>



## AUGUST 2014

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**Media Statement: Abuse of the Court to Suit Political Agenda Must Cease and Charges against CNRP Members Should be Dropped**

August 7, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=351>

**Media Statement: LICADHO Condemns the Violent Crackdown of a Peaceful March by Lor Peang Villagers**

August 12, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=352>

**Photo Album: International Youth Day 2014**

August 12, 2014

[http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view\\_photo.php?cat=62](http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view_photo.php?cat=62)

**Media Statement: LICADHO Calls for Immediate Family Access to all Three CNRP Youth Leaders Currently Detained in Prey Sar's CC1 Prison**

August 20, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=353>

**Media Statement: Response to Phnom Penh Sugar Company's Allegations Against Equitable Cambodia Executive Director Eang Vuthy**

August 21, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=356>

**Media Statement: Rights groups call for an end to enforced disappearances in ASEAN**

August 30, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=357>

## SEPTEMBER 2014

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**Media Statement: Civil Society Groups Condemn the Groundless Detention of Equitable Cambodia Staff**

September 12, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=358>

**Photo Album: Workers Kickstart \$177 Minimum Wage Campaign Under Watchful Gaze of Military**

September 17, 2014

[http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view\\_photo.php?cat=63](http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view_photo.php?cat=63)

**Briefing Paper: Legal Analysis of Cambodia's Draft Law on Unions of Enterprises**

September 18, 2014

[http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/collection/23/legal\\_analysis\\_draft\\_law\\_unions](http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/collection/23/legal_analysis_draft_law_unions)

**Statement: Joint Legal Analysis of the draft Law on Unions of Enterprises**

September 18, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=359>

## OCTOBER 2014

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**Video: Borei Keila Evictees: Justice Overdue**

October 6, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/video.php?perm=49>

**Media Statement: Oddar Meanchey Authorities' Continued Illegal Conduct Towards Equitable Cambodia's Staff**

October 16, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=360>

**Video: Yet Another Violent Dispersal of Land Protesters near the Prime Minister's Home**

October 21, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/video.php?perm=50>

## NOVEMBER 2014

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**Media Statement: Civil Society Groups Condemn Arrest and Detention of the Boeung Kak Lake Seven**

November 12, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=361>

**Photo Album: Four Supporters of Boeung Kak 7 Arrested Outside Phnom Penh Court**

November 12, 2014

[http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view\\_photo.php?cat=64](http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view_photo.php?cat=64)

**Video: A Child's Hope**

November 20, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/video.php?perm=51>

**Video: Freedom of Assembly in Cambodia**

November 21, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/video.php?perm=52>

**Media Statement: Groundless Charges against Venerable Loun Sovath Need to be Dropped**

November 23, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=362>

**Report: "Good Wives": Women Land Campaigners and the Impact of Human Rights Activism**

November 23, 2014

[http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/collection/24/good\\_wives\\_women\\_land\\_campaigners](http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/collection/24/good_wives_women_land_campaigners)

## DECEMBER 2014

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**Media Statement: Monks to Lead International Human Rights Day March**

December 2, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=364>

**Media Statement: Death in Prey Speu Highlights Detention Center Abuses**

December 7, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=365>

**Media Statement: LICADHO Calls for the Release of the 19 Men and Women Wrongfully Imprisoned in Prey Sar's CC1 and CC2 Prisons**

December 8, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=366>

**Photo Album: Free the 19: Spotlight on the Boeung Kak 10**

December 8, 2014

[http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view\\_photo.php?cat=65](http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view_photo.php?cat=65)

**Photo Album: Marching for International Human Rights Day 2014**

December 15, 2014

[http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view\\_photo.php?cat=66](http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view_photo.php?cat=66)

**Briefing Paper: Freedom Park Violence, CNRP Arrests, and Political Deal: Timeline of Events July – November 2014**

December 22, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=201>

**Media Statement: LICADHO Condemns Politically Motivated Allegations Against CNRP Officials and Supporters**

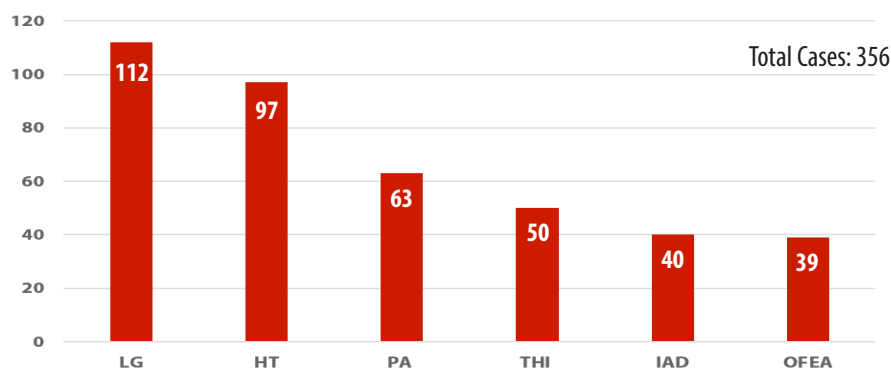
December 22, 2014

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=367>



# APPENDIX 2: MONITORING PROJECT STATISTICS

## Most Common Violations Investigated by HR Monitoring in 2014



- LG Land Grabbing
- HT Human Trafficking
- PA Physical Assault
- THI Threats, Harrassment, and Intimidation
- IAD Illegal Arrest, Detention
- OFEA Obstruction of Freedom of Expression / Assembly

## Perpetrators of HR Monitoring Cases Investigated in 2014

Police, military police, soldiers involved in 35% of the cases

Civil servants involved in 26% of the cases

Companies, businessmen involved 23% of all cases

## Observations, Interventions, Investigations & Referrals in 2014)

### ACTIONS: 2,398

522 observations

856 investigations

1,020 interventions

### INTERVENTION LETTERS SENT: 49

16 to courts

33 to authorities

### PARALEGAL ADVICE: 1,890

### MEETINGS: 368

## Challenges & Lessons Learned

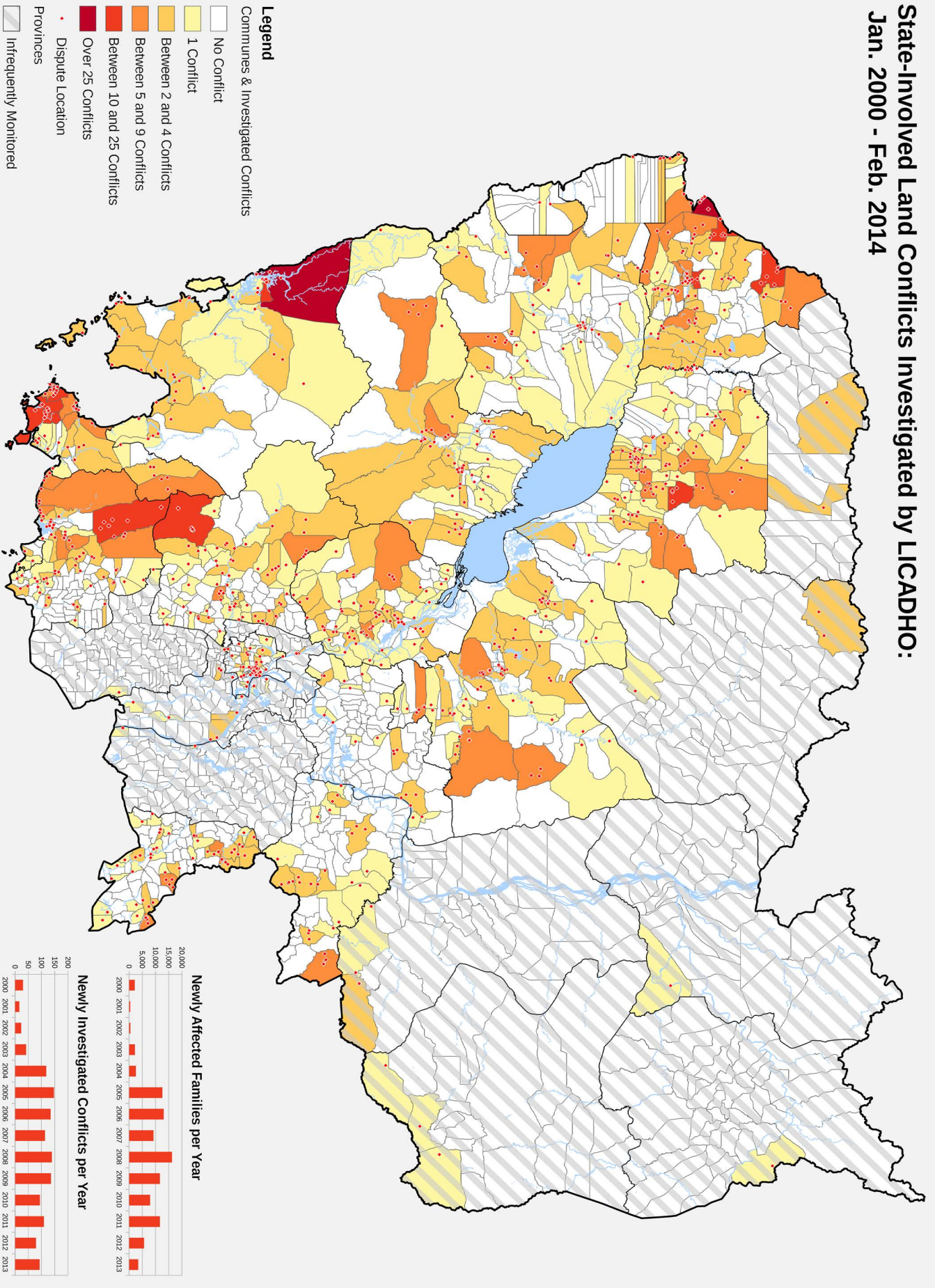
Throughout 2014, LICADHO monitor's continually encountered resistance at all levels of their investigations into human rights violations across Cambodia, receiving little or no cooperation from local authorities when investigating cases. As a result, communication at both a local and national level on the part of authorities is poor, particularly when requesting interventions.

As the court system is under the direct supervision of the Executive Branch of the ruling party, this allows for powerful interests to consistently interfere, leading to endemic corruption throughout the whole judicial process. This is particularly prominent when cases of human rights violations are brought against individuals or companies with political connections to the ruling party.

Despite these challenges, LICADHO will continue to pursue a national and international advocacy campaign to highlight the challenges faced by its monitoring team through meeting and lobbying with donor countries and embassies in Cambodia to apply continued pressure on the government.

# State-involved Land Conflicts Investigated by LICADHO: Jan. 2000 - March 2014

State-Involved Land Conflicts Investigated by LICADHO:  
Jan. 2000 - Feb. 2014





## Status of HR Monitoring Cases (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

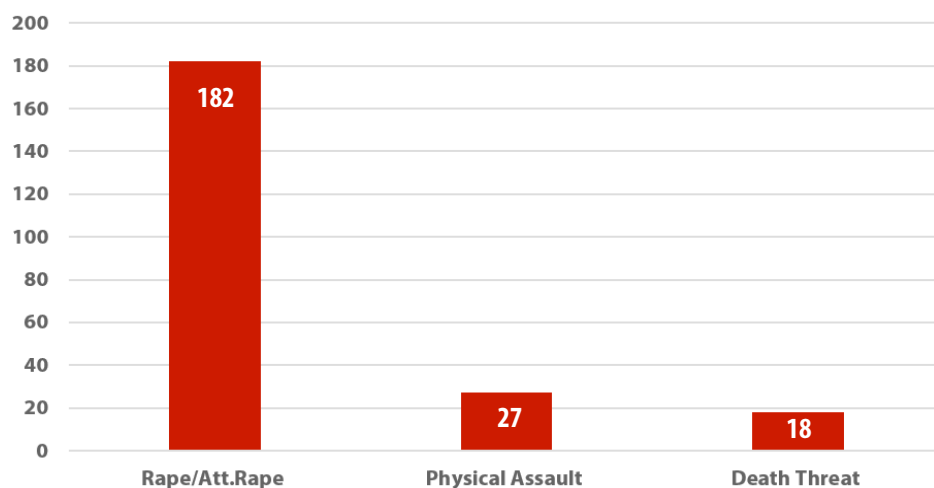
Case Type	Total Cases	Cases Pending				Cases Resolved			Case Unresolved
		Sent to Court	Charged by Prosecutor	Authorities	Land Commission	Court	Authorities	Land Commission	
Killing	13	3	7	3	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Killing	4	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
Mob Killing	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Death Threat	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Enforced Disappearance	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Torture	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
Physical Assault	36	8	9	7	0	1	7	0	4
Threat / Harass. / Intim.	29	2	6	14	0	0	7	0	0
Abduction	5	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
Illegal Arrest / Detention	29	0	7	11	0	2	9	0	0
Labor Trafficking	47	3	5	24	0	0	14	0	1
Sexual Trafficking	37	2	2	18	0	0	15	0	0
OFEA *	13	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	5
DAP **	9	0	1	4	0	0	4	0	0
Land Grabbing	102	13	4	24	44	1	9	7	0
Forced Eviction	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Failure to Protect / Pros.	10	0	0	8	0	0	2	0	0
Special Case	10	0	0	8	0	0	2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>

\* OFEA Obstruction of Freedom of Expression / Assembly

\*\* DAP Destruction/ Illegal Appropriation of Property

# APPENDIX 3: CHILDREN'S & WOMEN'S RIGHTS STATISTICS

## Most Common Violations Investigated by CR Monitoring in 2014



## Rapes investigated by LICADHO (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

### 258 rape cases investigated by LICADHO's Women's and Children's Rights Office

In 75% of rape cases victims were aged 18 or below

In 37% of rape cases victims were aged 12 years of below

In 25% of rape cases perpetrator aged 18 or below

in 8% of rape cases victims with disability

6% of rape cases were gang rapes

## Radio Talk Show on Topic "My Child, Your Child" with VOD

Topic	Date of Broadcasting	# of Callers on Air
Child Labor issues	August 21, 2014	7 people
Child Labor issues	August 28, 2014	7 people
Child Labor issues	Sep. 04, 2014	8 people
Child Labor issues	Sep. 11, 2014	6 people
Child domestic worker	Sep. 18, 2014	4 people
Child domestic worker	Oct. 02, 2014	6 people
Child domestic worker	Oct. 09, 2014	5 people
Child domestic worker	Oct. 16, 2014	4 people
Child labor in Brick factory	Oct. 30, 2014	6 people
Child labor in Brick factory	Nov. 13, 2014	3 people
Child labor in Brick factory	Nov. 20, 2014	2 people
Child labor in Brick factory	Dec. 04, 2014	5 people

## Challenges & Lessons Learned

The main challenge in women's rights cases remains the reliance of victims of domestic and sexual violence on informal methods of resolving cases. It is extremely rare, for example, for domestic violence cases to result in a prosecution as the majority of wives are fearful of the financial and social consequences of being without a husband. The outcome favored by most women therefore is for their husbands to sign a contract in the presence of the police stating that they will no longer be violent towards them. It goes without saying that these are of very limited effect.

In rape cases too, prosecutions are rare and the majority of cases are brought to an end when financial compensation is paid by the perpetrator to the victim. Sometimes this payment is the outcome of a civil complaint by the victim but in many cases it is informally negotiated by an authority figure such as a police officer. For the women concerned, accepting such payments should be regarded as a rational decision as the police and courts remain extremely unsympathetic to rape victims and the likelihood of achieving a prosecution is slim.

LICADHO must respect the women's choice in such cases but this makes it very difficult to achieve real justice or to move towards a situation in which there is respect for the rule of law.

LICADHO also found it increasingly difficult to communicate with victims of human trafficking particularly in countries such as China, Malaysia, and Thailand due to the lack of cooperation between Cambodian embassies and the relevant host country. Additionally, the agencies involved in the recruitment and transport of trafficked Cambodians refuse to cooperate, adding further barriers to contacting the victims involved.



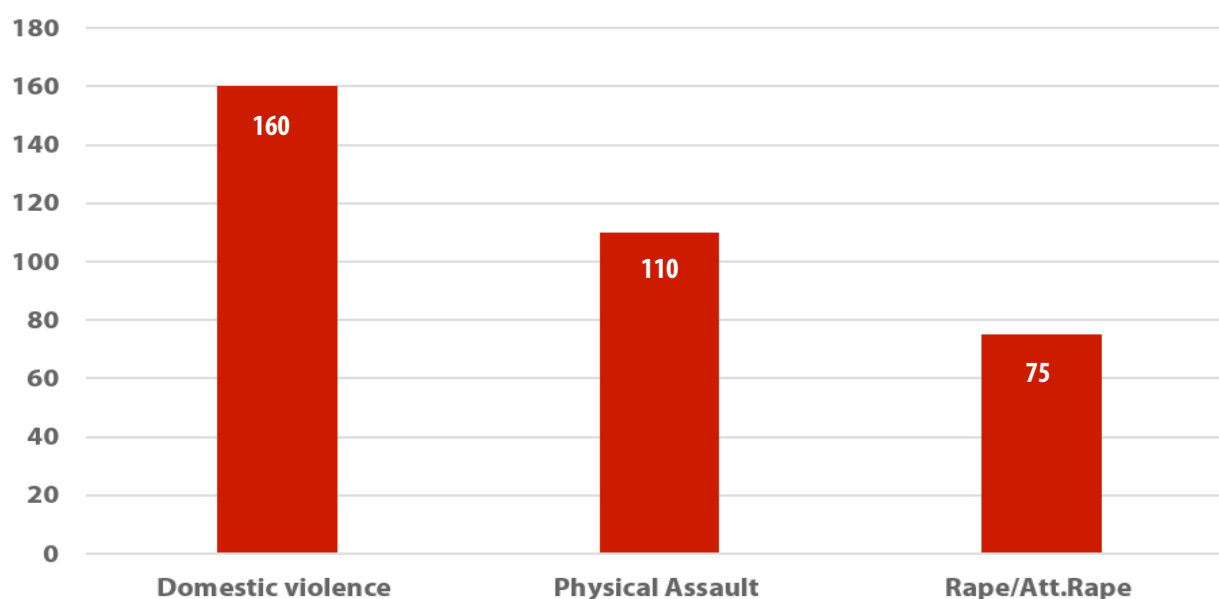
## Children's Rights Cases Pending with Authorities (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

Case	Police	Authorities/ District	In Court Process			Total
			Suspect Escaped	Arrest Warrant	No Action	
Rape	19	0	36	117	2	174
Indecent Assault	1	0	2	1	0	4
Killing	0	0	0	3	0	3
Attempted Killing	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sex Trafficking	0	0	0	2	0	2
Labor Trafficking	0		0	1	2	3
Torture	0	0	1	4	1	6
Physical Assault	1	0	2	4	0	7
Illegal Arrest / Detention	1	0	0	0	0	1
Enforced Disappearance	2		0	0	1	3
Child Domestic Violence	3	0	0	3	0	6
Child Domestic Work	2	0	0	1	0	3
Special Case	3	0	1	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>217</b>

## Number of CPGs in Phnom Penh, Kandal, Koh Kong, Siem Reap and Preah Sihanouk Provinces

Type of CPG	Number of CPGs	Male Members	Female Members	Total Member
Child CPGs	20	168	186	350
Youth CPGs	6	39	53	92
Adult CPGs	49	321	230	551
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>993</b>

## Most Common Violations Investigated by WR Monitoring in 2014



## Women's Rights Cases Closed (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

Type	Legal	Non-Legal	Unresolved	Total
Domestic Violence	1	32	7	40
Rape	0	3	2	5
Indecent Assault	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>46</b>

## Women's Rights Cases Pending (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

Type	Commune Chief	Police	In the Courts			Released on Bail	Total
			Still Under Investigation	Suspect Arrested	Suspect Escaped		
Domestic Violence	7	11	66	30	9	0	123
Rape	0	3	11	36	14	1	65
Indecent Assault	0	1	2	2	1	0	6
ACID	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Sex Trafficking	0	3	2	0	0	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>201</b>



# APPENDIX 4: PRISON MONITORING STATISTICS

## Population & Occupancy Rate of Prisons Monitored by LICADHO (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

Prison	Population (Dec. 2014)	Occupancy Rate 2013	Occupancy Rate 2014
Police Judiciare (PJ)	139	76%	70%
Correctional Center 1	3,351	147%	209%
Correctional Center 2	705	176%	201%
Correctional Center 3	1,438	176%	111%
Correctional Center 4	169	55%	121%
Takhmao	1,016	268%	290%
Kampong Som	391	241%	196%
Kampong Speu	351	194%	176%
Kampot	437	226%	62%
Kampong Chhnang	456	119%	130%
Kampong Cham	783	124%	201%
Kampong Thom	403	141%	161%
Koh Kong	303	176%	216%
Pursat	236	200%	148%
Battambang	1,069	161%	153%
Banteay Meanchey	901	122%	129%
Siem Reap	1,240	109%	113%
Svay Rieng	383	189%	160%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,771</b>	<b>153%</b>	<b>158%</b>

## Number of children Living with their mothers in prison (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

Age	As of December 2013	As of December 2014
1 day to 12 months	7	17
1 -3 years	22	18
3-5 years	5	6
5-13 years	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>

## Challenges & Lessons Learned

One of the reasons that reports of torture and abuse in police custody remain proportionally high is because the government does not allow NGOs to monitor places of police detention and there are no other independent bodies that are permitted or adequately equipped to regularly inspect and monitor treatment and conditions.

Interviews with former prisoners may become even more important to LICADHO's work as in the past few years LICADHO's prison access has also become increasingly restricted. LICADHO cannot visit places of detention without prior notice and, increasingly, prison researchers are unable to conduct in-prison interviews in full confidentiality.

LICADHO also monitors relevant legal developments affecting prisoners. Of note, after a reported ten-year drafting period, Cambodia's Law on Children in Conflict with the Law (Juvenile Justice Law) had still not been finalized by the end of December 2014. Currently juveniles in detention are subject to the same abuse, humiliations and degradations as adults and are just as likely to be treated according to their financial status rather than age.

LICADHO is also following the implementation of new pre-trial detention forms. Cambodian law requires the investigating judge ordering pre-trial detention to issue reasons for the order and the new forms are intended to ensure judges more carefully consider all relevant facts before depriving someone of their liberty. Unfortunately, thus far the adoption of the new pre-trial detention forms has been slow and judges still often fail to provide strong reasoning for ordering pre-trial detention.

# APPENDIX 5: LEGAL STATISTICS

## New Cases Opened (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

Case Type	Open Cases	Cases Pending			Cases Closed
		City/ Provincial Court	Appeal Court	Supreme Court	
Land Grabbing	15	13	2	0	2
Human Rights Defender	11	8	3	0	0
Human Trafficking	4	4	0	0	2
Special Case	7	6	1	0	2
Rape	1	1	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	2	2	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

## Cases Closed in Favor of Client (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

Case Type	No of Case	Cases Opened in Previous Years			Outcome
		Male	Female	Total	
LG	1	6	5	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trial judge issued verdict to acquit the clients</li> <li>• Prosecutor dropped accusations against the client</li> </ul>
SC	5	2	7	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigating judge dropped charges against the client</li> <li>• Accused was convicted, imprisoned and ordered to pay reparations to the client</li> <li>• Plaintiff withdrew complaint against the client</li> </ul>
Cases Opened in 2014					
HT	1	0	1	1	• Accused was convicted, imprisoned and ordered to pay reparations to the client
SC	1	1	0	1	• Client was charged with three crimes, acquitted of two and given a reduced sentence for the third
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>22</b>	

## Challenges & Lessons Learned

Throughout 2014, LICADHO's lawyers continue to face intimidation and pressure from authorities, powerful parties, or institutions involved in certain cases. Court officials are often biased towards well-connected and powerful interests or ruling party officials due to the payment of bribes. This results in the courts bringing groundless charges against many activists, prompting their arrests or detention, while also ignoring exculpatory evidence, witness testimonies, and other statements brought forward by LICADHO's lawyers, impacting their ability to provide adequate legal services.

Civil and criminal cases filed by vulnerable community members or victims of human rights abuses are normally delayed due to lack of willingness by court officials to cooperate with the parties involved.

In some cases regarding gender-based violence, victims and their families have received compensation and benefits outside the judicial system contributing to the ongoing climate of impunity, inhibiting LICADHO's efforts to protect victims of gender-based violence.

Cambodian lawyers are banned by the Law of the Bar to talk to media about any cases they are working on or have worked on. This prohibition can be an obstacle for lawyers who want to draw public attention on specific legal or human rights issues in their cases.

Despite these challenges, LICADHO's HRLP will continue working hard to protect and support its clients throughout the legal process, while also coordinating with donor countries, embassies, partner NGOs, and the UN, in an effort to challenge court officials to apply Cambodian law in a just and equitable manner.



# APPENDIX 6: SOCIAL WORK & MEDICAL PROJECT STATISTICS

## Food and Material Assistance to Victims of Land Grabbing in 2014

Location / Community	Province	Number of Families
Oudong (relocation site)	Kandal	20
Borei Keila community	Phnom Penh	40
Toek Chou & Chhuk	Kampot	6
Bannan & Koh Kralor	Battambang	57
Poipet	B.Meanchey	30
Svay Choum & Romeas Haek	Svay Rieng	77
Kampung Tralach & Lar Peang	Kampung Chhnang	103
Kraya	Kampong Thom	69
Banteay Srey & Srae Nouy	Siem Reap	132
Obak Rotes	Preah Sihanouk	111
Botum Sakor	Koh Kong	44
Phnom Srouch	Kampong Speu	66
Veal Veng	Pursat	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>767</b>

## Social Work Assistance by Case Type (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

Case Type	Number of Clients
Vulnerable Children	1,334
Rape / Attempted Rape	106
Land Grabbing	4,880
Trafficking for Labor	105
Illegal Arrest	58
Domestic Violence	95
Physical Assault	58
Special Case and Others	145
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,781</b>

## Challenges & Lessons Learned

One acute challenge experienced by the social work team in 2014 was local authorities preventing LICADHO's Social Work Project from providing assistance to communities in need. Often local authorities would claim LICADHO lacked authorization from higher authorities, who in turn claimed they were unable or unwilling to grant permission. The social work team was usually able to overcome this difficulty by working with community members to negotiate with the local authorities. When community leaders, supported by LICADHO, are able to demonstrate a genuine need for assistance, the local authorities will often step down and allow assistance to be provided.

LICADHO's Social Work Project plans to develop strategies to increase formal requests and to provide advanced notice of planned assistance to high level authorities.

## Prison Patients Receiving Medical Treatment (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

Prison	Consultations with Prisoners		Consultations with Guards		Total Consultations	Prison Visits
	Men	Women	Men	Women		
Toul Sleng	0	0	13	0	13	1
PJ	281	56	1	0	338	8
Takhmao	608	90	10	3	711	11
Prey Veng	630	75	18	5	728	8
Svay Rieng	404	60	20	1	485	8
Takeo	455	51	38	9	553	8
Kg. Som	405	120	19	6	550	8
Koh Kong	406	131	19	10	566	8
Pursat	487	42	13	1	543	8
Battambang	1,171	278	29	12	1,490	8
Kg. Thom	422	86	11	3	522	7
Kg. Cham	520	93	13	3	629	7
Kg. Chhnang	451	95	12	4	562	8
Oddar Meanchey	18	14	0	0	32	1
CC1	89	0	4	1	94	6
CC2	11	89	0	1	101	11
CC3	854	0	21	0	875	14
CC4	146	0	13	1	160	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,358</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>8,952</b>	<b>137</b>

## Number of Victims Treated by Medical Team (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

Category	Number
Victims of human rights violations (except land grabbing victims)	719
Victims of land grabbing and evictions	10,188 (6,064 female)
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,907 (6,064 females)</b>

## Challenges and Lessons Learned (Medical Project)

LICADHO's Medical Project continued to consult patients with a variety of serious conditions that required specialist medical treatment throughout 2014. Cambodia's health care system has a range of underlying and systemic problems. Consequently LICADHO's medical team often finds it difficult to refer patients requiring specialist treatment to quality professional clinics and hospitals.

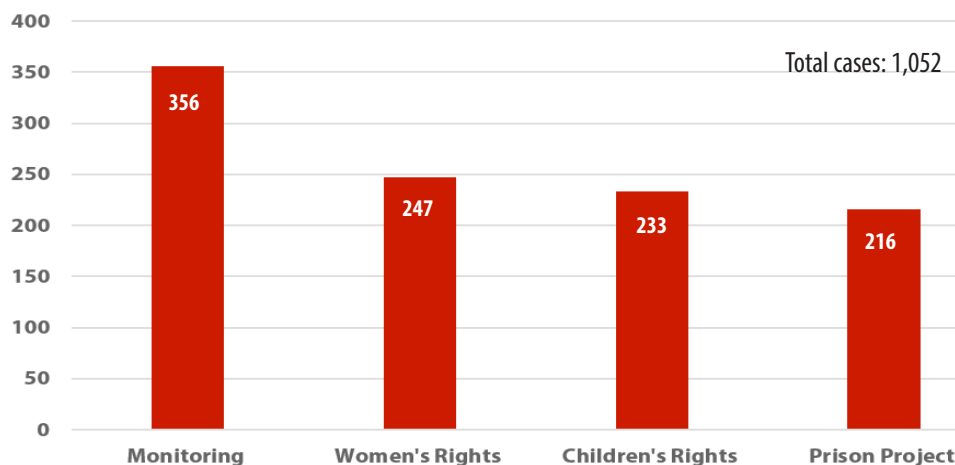
Additionally, due to a lack of accessible medical training courses in Cambodia, LICADHO's Medical Project found it difficult to engage in capacity building initiatives. In order to overcome this problem LICADHO is continuing to build and reform a framework for internal information exchange, encouraging dialogue between medical staff facilitating capacity building. The medical team will also start having monthly meetings with LICADHO's President, (a medical professional with extensive experience) in order to discuss important cases encountered in field work as well as new findings in medical science.

One of the biggest challenges for LICADHO's Medical Project was effective cooperation with prison medical staff providing essential medical treatment to inmates. Many prisoners have serious on-going medical conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and tuberculosis. These require consistent check-ups and regular medication and in more serious cases can require external visits to hospitals.

Unfortunately in 2014, LICADHO's medical team sometimes found local prison medical staff difficult to cooperate with, limiting the team's ability to provide effective treatment. For example, when patients required external visits to hospitals, the prison's medical teams were sometimes inefficient and uncooperative in facilitating the process. LICADHO is working on increasing their lines of communication with prison staff, in the hope that more regular and detailed communication will increase the level of effective cooperation.

# APPENDIX 7: ADVOCACY AND DOCUMENTATION

## Cases Entered into Central Database (Jan. to Dec. 2014)



## Social Media Statistics

### Facebook:

- 6,973 "likes" for the LICADHO page
- 12 photo albums
- 5 videos

### Twitter:

- 4,833 followers
- 887 tweets

### Top five countries watching LICADHO/ LICADHO Canada YouTube channel in 2014:

- Cambodia
- Thailand
- Vietnam
- USA
- France

## Web Statistics (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

In 2014, the LICADHO website had a total of 116,775 unique visitors

### The top five countries generating visits to Website were:

1. USA
2. Cambodia
3. France
4. UK
5. Vietnam

### The top four pages/topics viewed on the Website:

1. Flash news
2. Press releases
3. Video page
4. Reports

### The top four search words used to access LICADHO's Website:

1. Cambodia
2. LICADHO
3. Rights
4. Khmer

# 171

Number of new subscribers to LICADHO/ LICADHO Canada's YouTube channel, which represents roughly 50% of its lifetime subscribers (447)

# 63%

Percentage of views of LICADHO/ LICADHO Canada's YouTube videos from mobile devices

# 46%

Percentage of minutes watched of LICADHO/ LICADHO Canada's YouTube videos from mobile devices

# 1,118,870

Total views since creation of the LICADHO/ LICADHO Canada YouTube channel. This means that roughly half of all channel views came during 2014.



## List of Protests that LICADHO Assisted in Support of The 19

### November 12

- Protestors gathered outside the Phnom Municipal Court as three BKL activists and Venerable Seung Hai were being sentenced.

### November 14

- 200 community representatives, monks, media, and NGO staff, gathered in front of the National Assembly to submit a petition calling for the release of the recently arrested activists.

### November 16

- 200 monks, NGO representatives and land activists from Borei Keila, BKL, Thmor Kol and Lor Peang communities gathered outside Prey Sar CC1 and CC2 prisons to call for the release of the imprisoned activists. Demonstrators, including relatives of the land activists held speeches and released balloons before marching near the prisons.

### November 18

- A peaceful march of 150 community members and monks submitted petitions to a total of 13 embassies calling for the release of all arrested activists and monks.

### November 23

- 300 people from civil society organizations, monks, and communities protested outside Prey Sar CC1 and CC2 prisons before moving to the Phnom Penh Municipal Court for further demonstrations.

### November 28

- 100 land activists – BKL, Borei Keila, Preah Vihear, and Lor Peang – and monks, gathered in front of the Buddhist Institute before marching to the

Ministry of Justice to submit a petition.

### November 30

- 200 people from civil society organizations, monks, and communities protested outside Prey Sar CC1 and CC2 prisons to demand the release of the 19.

### December 10

- Over 1,000 human rights activists from across Cambodia gathered outside the National Assembly for International Human Rights Day to submit petitions and to call for the release of the 19.

### December 14

- Civil society organizations, monks, and communities gathered outside Prey Sar CC1 and CC2 prisons for the fourth time to protest the arrests and imprisonment of the 19.

### December 18

- Monks, community members and activists gathered at different sites in Phnom Penh to deliver petitions to government institutions.

### December 24

- Community members and relatives of the 19 gathered in front of the Court of Appeal to submit a petition.

### December 28

- Civil society organizations, monks, and communities once again gathered at Prey Sar CC1 and CC2 prisons to demand the release of the 19 and requested an end to the hunger strike of eight female activists detained in CC2 that started on December 10.

Throughout all these protests and demonstrations, LICADHO provided advocacy materials which included the provision of national and Buddhist flags, balloons, posters of those detained, and lotus flowers. Due to LICADHO's advocacy efforts and the international attention received throughout the trials, none of the 19 activists have suffered intimidation or mistreatment by prison officials since their imprisonment. Moreover, their families, along with LICADHO and other NGOs have been able to visit them in prison.

## Notable LICADHO Appearances in Media, NGOs publications, and elsewhere (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

### The Guardian

Quote from LICADHO staff regarding May Day protests

### Amnesty International

Reference to joint submission to UN on deteriorating situations for Human Rights Defenders

### Aljazeera

Quote by LICADHO in relation to Internet law

### AlJazeera

Reference to LICADHO's activist condemning crackdown in January

### AlJazeera

LICADHO's facts and position on the arrest of land activists reported

### AlJazeera

Quote from LICADHO and reference to LICADHO's number of killed and injured workers during clampdown in January

### The Diplomat

Reference to LICADHO's number of land grabbing victims in 2014

### Wall Street Journal

Reference to LICADHO's data regarding January protests

### Civil Rights Defenders

Reference to LICADHO's photos and videos about political activists in Cambodia

### La Presse

Reference to LICADHO about January crackdowns

### BBC News

Article mentioning how LICADHO helped a trafficked Cambodian woman return from China

### ABC News (Australia)

Quotes from LICADHO staff regarding the July Freedom Park protests

### Daily Mail Online

Quotes from LICADHO staff about arrests of Boeung Kak Lake activists

### Reuters

Quote from LICADHO director regarding garment worker demonstrations

## Selected Trainings & Workshops Attended by LICADHO Staff (Jan. to Dec. 2014)

### February 4, 2014

*Trainer/host:* Ministry of Social Affair

*Topic:* Consultation meeting on draft of Juvenile Justice law

*Attended by:* One LICADHO staff

### February 11, 2014

*Trainer/host:* NGOCRC

*Topic:* Consultation on promotion of child rights and protection in ASEAN countries

*Attended by:* One LICADHO staff

### March 6-7, 2014

*Trainer/host:* Cambodian Bar Association and OHCHR-Cambodia

*Topic:* Lawyer code of conduct, internal regulation and meeting for IWRD

*Attended by:* Two LICADHO staff

### March 10-14, 2014

*Trainer/host:* DCA/CA

*Topic:* BCC follow up and refresher training

*Attended by:* Two LICADHO staff

### March 20, 2014

*Trainer/host:* Cambodia Bar Association and JICA

*Topic:* Obligation of contract in civil code

*Attended by:* One LICADHO staff

### March 31, 2014

*Trainer/host:* Ministry of Justice

*Topic:* Workshop on law against human trafficking and protection of victims

*Attended by:* Two LICADHO staff

### April 24-26, 2014

*Trainer/host:* Civil Rights Defenders

*Topic:* Advanced digital security (ICT)

*Attended by:* Three LICADHO staff

### April 28-29, 2014

*Trainer/host:* Civil Rights Defenders

*Topic:* Basic digital security (ICT)

*Attended by:* Two LICADHO staff

### April 29- May 3, 2014

*Trainer/host:* Welthungerhilfe

*Topic:* Monitoring and evaluation

*Attended by:* Two LICADHO staff

### April 30, 2014

*Trainer/host:* NCC

*Topic:* National consultation workshop on additional protocol to UNCRC of complaint procedure

*Attended by:* One LICADHO staff

### June 11-13, 2014

*Trainer/host:* LICADHO

*Topic:* Writing investigating reports and reflection meeting

*Attended by:* thirty-two LICADHO staff

### June 16-17, 2014

*Trainer/host:* BdfW-EED

*Topic:* Workshop about QuickBook and financial monitoring tools

*Attended by:* Two LICADHO staff

### June 16-17, 2014

### July 04, 2014

*Trainer/host:* OHCHR

*Topic:* Briefing presentation on new form of pre-trial detention

*Attended by:* One LICADHO staff

### August 25, 2014

*Trainer/host:* IESC

*Topic:* Monitoring and Evaluation

*Attended by:* One LICADHO staff

### September 2-4, 2014

*Trainer/host:* NGO-CEDAW

*Topic:* Situation Analysis Training

*Attended by:* One LICADHO staff

### September 11, 2014

*Trainer/host:* Cambodian Bar Association

*Topic:* Training on Civil Code

*Attended by:* One LICADHO staff

### October 27-29, 2014

*Trainer/host:* DCA/CCC

*Topic:* Policy Advocacy and Planning

*Attended by:* One LICADHO staff

### November 19-21, 2014

*Trainer/host:* LICADHO

*Topic:* Arts Therapy Training Workshop

*Attended by:* Two LICADHO staff

### November 24, 2014

*Trainer/host:* Ministry of Women Affair

*Topic:* Result-Based Monitoring and Evaluation

*Attended by:* One LICADHO staff

### December 27-31, 2014

*Trainer/host:* NGO-CEDAW

*Topic:* CEDAW convention

*Attended by:* One LICADHO staff

## Challenges and Lessons Learned (Promoting Grassroots Empowerment)

For most Cambodians, the only option for demanding their rights is community movements and public protests; however these activities carry significant risks. Community leaders may be arrested, intimidated, assaulted and even killed. LICADHO documented an 18% increase in violations regarding the right to freedom of assembly and expression with 39 violations documented in 2014 compared to 32 in 2013, and an increase of 15% regarding illegal arrests and detentions with 40 cases (compared to 34 in 2013). These figures demonstrate the challenges that grassroots groups continue to face as they continue to organize community movements and public protests. Nevertheless, Cambodians across the country remain resilient in the face of such threats, and LICADHO will continue to support grassroots groups through legal assistance, monitoring, protection, and capacity building services.

## Challenges and Lessons Learned (Advocating for Better Cambodia)

One of the challenges for LICADHO's Advocacy Project is the control of traditional media by the government. Although English language newspapers are free to publish their own content, Khmer language newspapers are strictly monitored as are Khmer language radio and television stations, inhibiting LICADHO's ability to advocate at a national level.

To combat this, LICADHO advocates heavily through its website and social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. However, although the Internet remains relatively free from censorship, in 2014 a draft Cybercrime Law was leaked to the public, which would criminalize a range of vague and arbitrarily enforceable offences for publishing or sharing content online, including content deemed to "hinder the integrity" of Cambodia or generate "instability." Furthermore, the government also has a draft Telecommunications Law, which would give them broad-ranging powers over the hardware and structure of the Internet, opening the door to more censorship, privacy abuses, and possibly service blackouts when needed. Both draft laws, if passed, would hinder LICADHO's ability to disseminate advocacy materials online through its website and social media.

As in other years, LICADHO's main challenges in advocacy continue to involve operating within government structures and institutions that are fully controlled by the ruling party. Determining the medium and long term impact of advocacy in such a volatile, corrupt, and un-predictable political, economic, and social environment remains highly challenging. While LICADHO continues to increase partnerships and support to activists and groups in order to trigger important changes, working with individuals and groups dealing with long term trauma and conflicts can be highly challenging and can result in negative effects for campaigns and lobbying goals.

## Challenges and Lessons Learned (Child Protection and Advocacy)

CPGs face interference from authorities when participating in commune level meetings or advocating and raising funds for vulnerable children.

There were several instances throughout 2014 of uncooperative local governance where several local communes refused to allow children to take part in commune council meetings. In Stung Haov district, Preah Sihanouk, children were prohibited from participating in local council sessions after they raised the issue of corruption in their schools. The headmaster of one of the schools in question happened to be part of the council and was displeased with their complaints. This was unexpected as local councils in Preah Sihanouk were some of the first to invite children to participate.

In addition to uncooperative local authorities, LICADHO's CRO had to contend with hostile local authorities. In one particular incident at Wat Phnom, Daun Penh security guards attempted to prevent youth CPGs from selling drinks to fundraise for school materials of vulnerable children. Daun Penh security guards are infamous for violently dispersing peaceful demonstrations. However, with the assistance of LICADHO's CRO advocates and the intervention of LICADHO's President, the youth negotiated a compromise with the security guards. They agreed to fundraise without using a banner and t-shirts they designed.

LICADHO's CRO also found that many youth CPGs were unaware of the extensive land conflict and land grabbing problems in their own country. This lack of awareness is due to widespread government censorship and the near-blanket monopoly over television and radio airwaves enjoyed by the ruling party.

In light of the challenges encountered in 2014, LICADHO's CRO learned that exposure visits should happen more frequently as they assist CPGs in better understanding child rights in Cambodia while learning how to address other human rights issues. Furthermore, LICADHO's CRO learned that social media and smartphone technology circumvent the government's media censorship of human rights violations taking place in the country, allowing CPGs to access information pertaining to child rights and other human rights issues.



