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LICADHO

CAMBODIAN LEAGUE FOR THE
PROMOTION AND DEFENSE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS



HUMAN RIGHTS 2016: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

A report issued in
February 2017



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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 the respect of these rights by the Cambodian government and other state and non-state institutions. LICADHO continues to monitor and investigate human rights abuses and to advocate for the rights of the Cambodian people from its Phnom Penh headquarters and 13 provincial offices.

MONITORING & PROTECTION



Monitoring of State Violations & 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, victims of human rights violations, human rights defenders and families in resettlement sites. Social workers conduct needs assessments of victims and their families and provide short-term material and food assistance.

Prison Monitoring:

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

Paralegal & Legal Representation:

Human rights defenders and victims of human rights violations are provided with legal services, including representation, by human rights lawyers.

PROMOTION & ADVOCACY

Supporting Unions & Grassroots Groups and Networks:

Unions, grassroots groups and affected communities are provided with protection and legal services, as well as technical support which enhances their capacity to campaign and advocate for their own human rights.

Public Advocacy & Outreach:

Human rights cases, which are compiled into a central electronic database so that accurate information can be easily accessed and analyzed, are used for evidence-based written and audiovisual advocacy and lobbying at national and international levels.

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Delivering a statue of Kem Ley to mark his
100-day ceremony, 16 October 2016

A MESSAGE FROM LICADHO'S PRESIDENT



LICADHO's President pays tribute to Kem Ley at Wat Chas, 11 July 2016

In 2016, Cambodia faced a continued downward spiral in human rights ahead of commune and national elections, set for 2017 and 2018 respectively. Political truces were made and broken, critics detained, and time and time again authorities intolerant of dissent brutally shut down groups of people peacefully exercising their rights. Twenty-five years after the Paris Peace Agreement was signed, Cambodia's struggle to build democratic institutions is under grave threat.

Throughout the year, LICADHO continued to meet injustice through advocacy aimed at changing attitudes, behaviours and policy. In a time of new repressive laws, we continued to help people to access accurate information. Working in a space which increasingly restricts the freedom of citizens to express themselves, we sought to amplify the voices of the grassroots as they continue to ask for development that works for everyone in Cambodia.

This year, our monitors investigated hundreds of complaints of human rights violations perpetrated by the Cambodian authorities or private interests. We supported thousands of victims of abuse in their struggle for justice, bridging a gap in services by providing much-needed medical treatment and social support to those subject to such abuse. Our lawyers represented dozens of

clients navigating Cambodia's imperfect justice system.

The assassination of political analyst Kem Ley in July shocked the country. Although his murder casts a chilling effect over Cambodia's vibrant civil society, which could prevent others who seek change from speaking out, the response to his death was astonishing – thousands of Cambodians took to the streets to express their grief and call for justice for him and his family.

It is vital that Cambodians continue to peacefully and legally promote the values of human rights, as provided for in the Cambodian constitution and international law, and that the international community supports these efforts. Under increased pressure, Cambodia's civil society is developing: it is increasingly clear that it is through the resolve of community networks, trade unions, and Cambodia's youth that positive change will come. Indeed, it is our work with grassroots groups that continues to give us hope for the future.

This Annual Report shows what LICADHO achieves through the dedication of our staff, and the ongoing support of our partners and friends. Together, we have challenged injustice and supported each other through increasingly hard times. Thank you all for your vital help to protect and promote human rights in Cambodia.



Imprisoned ADHOC staff at the Supreme Court in Phnom Penh, 5 2016

HUMAN RIGHTS 2016 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

On 10 July, 2016, prominent political analyst Kem Ley was shot dead in the middle of Phnom Penh. His murder sent shockwaves across Cambodia, and his funeral saw hundreds of thousands of Cambodians take to the street in numbers not seen since the 2013 elections to accompany his body from the capital city to his home village in Takeo province.

His shocking murder took place amid mounting political tensions. Elections are set for 2017 and 2018, and throughout the year the Cambodian government appeared increasingly determined to shut down civil and political dissent through use of force, legal attacks and a legislative assault before the country goes to the polls. By July, there were 29 documented political prisoners in Cambodia's jails. At the end of the year, 27 remain imprisoned still.

Throughout the year, civil society faced repressive legislation, unwarranted legal attacks and a crackdown on fundamental freedoms in an attempt to create a climate of fear and silence. Peaceful gatherings were shut down, sometimes violently. Belligerent rhetoric from both the

government and the armed forces, which disingenuously labeled assembly and expression as "colour revolutions", became commonplace.

Meanwhile, the opposition party was subject to a sustained political and judicial attack by the government: after the leader of the opposition party was forced into exile, 2016 saw a far-reaching smear campaign against his deputy, culminating in six months of de facto house arrest, the mobilization of soldiers around his headquarters, and a conviction that eventually received a royal pardon in December.

By the end of 2016 – which marked 25 years after the Paris Peace Agreement was signed – the future of democracy and human rights in Cambodia edged closer to the precipice. However, there remains some cause for optimism. Despite the shock of Kem Ley's murder, his death prompted hundreds of thousands of Cambodians to join a mass outpouring of calls for justice. In the face of intimidation, imprisonment and violence, Cambodian civil society maintained sustained public protests and calls for

change. As elections approach, this tenacity and visible presence will prove ever more vital.

JUDICIAL ATTACKS ON CIVIL SOCIETY

Among the main victims of politically-motivated cases stemming from Cambodia's fractious political situation were activists and human rights workers jailed as the government increasingly attacked its critics through the criminal justice system.

In one of the most egregious examples, five human rights defenders – Lim Mony, Nay Vanda, Yi Soksan and Ny Sokha from human rights NGO Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC), and National Election Committee (NEC) deputy secretary-general Ny Chakrya – were jailed in May under politically-motivated bribery charges after an 'investigation' led by Cambodia's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) into deputy opposition leader Kem Sokha. At the end of the year, the five remain in prison, awaiting trial on entirely spurious charges widely condemned by local and international groups, diplomats and the UN. In November, the UN's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention ruled that their imprisonment was arbitrary based not only on the total absence of fair trial rights extended to the five, but also because they had been discriminated against based on their status as human rights defenders.

This outrageous misuse of the ACU – and the wider criminal justice system – exemplified the close links between Cambodia's state institutions and its ruling party, and the expanding use of such institutions as tools of civil society intimidation. For the ADHOC staff to be charged and imprisoned for simply doing their job also shows a concerning characterization of legitimate activities as criminality that has serious consequences for both civil society and the rule of law.

In response to the jailing of the five human rights defenders, civil society groups launched the Black Monday campaign, in which supporters wear black to call for the release of the five. From its very inception, the government consistently met the peaceful campaign with ludicrously disproportionate suppression.

On 15 August, land activists Tep Vanny and Bov Sophea were arrested during a peaceful Black Monday ceremony within their Boeung Kak Lake community. Footage of the arrests show they were specifically sought out by para-police. Within a week, they had been convicted of "insult" under Article 502 of the Cambodian Criminal Code and sentenced to six days' imprisonment after a trial which violated numerous fair trial rights.

This, however, was to mark just the beginning of the government's counter-campaign against long-time land activist Tep Vanny. On 19 August, while she was still in pre-trial detention, two separate cases relating to Boeung Kak Lake protests in 2011 and 2013 were simultaneously resurrected against her. She was immediately placed in pre-trial detention on charges of "intentional violence with aggravating circumstances" relating to the 2013 case. This

marked Vanny's third spell in jail in four years.

In September, Vanny, along with three other Boeung Kak Lake representatives, was tried and convicted of obstruction of a public official with aggravating circumstances relating to one of the other reactivated cases – a protest in 2011. The four were sentenced to six months' imprisonment, which will not be enforced until all appeals have been exhausted. At the end of 2016, Vanny remains in pre-trial detention, having been repeatedly denied bail.



FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS UNDER SIEGE

In a particularly shocking example, an unprovoked attack by para-police on a march to celebrate World Habitat Day on 10 October left a human rights monitor and community representative badly injured.

Para-police – led by head of the Daun Penh para-police Kim Vutha – blocked the peaceful march, which was being led by local land communities through Phnom Penh, before launching an unprovoked, violent and targeted attack on land activist Chan Puthisak, a Boeung Kak Lake communi-

“The government is so fearful of democratic expression that it consistently misrepresents it as ‘insurrection’ – and uses this rhetoric to quash fundamental freedoms and silence critics”

LICADHO, May 2016

ty representative. The violence continued with a similarly unprovoked attack by para-police against a senior human rights worker – LICADHO's Monitoring Manager Am Sam Ath – who attempted to peacefully de-escalate the situation. Both men were left in need of medical treatment.

The Cambodian government's de-facto ban on assemblies critical of government policy also extended to Black Monday gatherings. From the first, the government was already referring to the movement as a "colour revolution" which set out to violently topple the government. Such disingenuous rhetoric was to continue throughout the year, backed up by use of force against peaceful gatherings.

On the first Black Monday, held on 9 May, supporters were prevented from gathering outside Prey Sar's CC1 and CC2 prisons, close to Phnom Penh, where four of the five human rights defenders are being held. Eight people, including four land activists and four human rights workers – including three LICADHO staff members – were arbitrarily detained and subject to hours of questioning before being released in the evening. Further Black Monday gatherings were no less eventful: over subsequent weeks, there were at least 36 arbitrary arrests – mostly of women from land communities – simply for wearing black clothing. This ludicrously disproportionate police response to the movement came to a head in August, over three months after it began, with the targeted arrest and conviction of the two Boeung Kak Lake activists.

Throughout the Black Monday campaign, peaceful candlelight vigils were not only monitored closely by authorities, but often violently broken up by para-police. Authorities took exception to freedom of expression, as well as peaceful assembly – in Preah Vihear province in May, authorities told NGO workers they are not permitted to wear black within the private property of the organisation. Civil society groups were told that they need permission to post Black Monday photos on Facebook. By the end of May, the Minister of Defence himself was threatening military force against those participating in what he deemed "illegal" Black Monday protests.

Rural development workshops were increasingly targeted with security force, and with no legal justification. In March, a mixed group of police and gendarme officers were mobilized to prevent indigenous groups holding a community training workshop in Ratanakiri province.

On December 10, human rights defenders and citizens celebrating International Human Rights Day were prevented from marching and gathering in certain areas of Phnom Penh by large-scale deployments of anti-demonstration police armed with batons, shields and tear gas guns. Eventually, a small gathering of around 1,000 people was allowed to hold a celebration at the city's Freedom Park, although the gathering was surrounded by hundreds of police for its duration. Across Cambodia, similar provincial celebrations faced disruption and intimidation, including in Kampot, where attempts to hold small-scale celebrations to mark the day were repeatedly broken up by the authorities.

These represent just examples of the increasingly restrictive environment for the peaceful exercise of fundamental freedoms in Cambodia. The arbitrary and regular excessive use of force used to police peaceful assemblies, combined with new repressive legislation and consistent misuse of existing laws to curtail legitimate freedoms, continued to demonstrate the shrinking of civil society space in Cambodia ahead of elections.

Attacks against trade unions continued against a backdrop of sustained national and international campaigns for a fair living wage for Cambodia's workers. In February 2016, a dispute between recently unionized, and subsequently fired, employees and their employer Capitol Tours took a violent turn when a peaceful strike in front of the company was brutally dispersed by members of the government-organised Cambodia for Confederation Development Association (CCDA). No CCDA members were arrested following the assault – in which some assailants wielded metal bars and hammers – but two protester victims of the beating were charged and spent nearly two months in jail before being released on bail. Attacks such as these reflected a worrying recent trend of organised groups loyal to the ruling party





Heavily-armed security forces attempt to arrest Kem Sokha at the CNRP headquarter, 26 May 2016

willing and able to commit violence against political or civil groups with near-total impunity.

On the same day, four prominent trade union leaders – Cambodian Labour Confederation (CLC) President Ath Thorn, CLC General-Secretary Kong Athit, Cambodian Informal Economy Workers Association President Sok Chhun Oeung, and Cambodian Transport Workers Federation Secretary Ean Kim Hong, only one of whom was present when the violence took place – were also charged with the same three offences, although not detained. The charges still hang over their heads. And under the Law on Unions of Enterprises (TUL), enacted in May 2016, convictions for these charges could be used to prevent the four holding any trade union office in future. This continued a recent trend to use the criminal justice system to silence the labour movement by groundlessly charging its key leadership.

POLITICAL PERSECUTION

Severe restrictions on fundamental freedoms proved to be just one facet of government crackdown on dissent in the run-up to the next elections. In a year dominated by increasingly political tensions ahead of upcoming elections, 2016 began with opposition leader Sam Rainsy in self-imposed exile overseas and 14 opposition party members and supporters in jail.

By December, Sam Rainsy was officially exiled with a government ban from re-entering his home country and CNRP deputy leader Kem Sokha had been subject to a far-reaching smear campaign, a failed attempt to arrest him on spurious charges and six months under de facto house arrest in a case that ultimately claimed seven more people for Cambodia's ever-growing list of political prisoners.

Following violent protests again Kem Sokha in 2015, the now-acting opposition leader spent most of the 2016 subject to a far-reaching legal and political attack, ostensibly over an alleged affair. The road to his eventual trial in September was a winding one: after Kem Sokha refused to respond to a summons as a witness in a case against two CNRP MPs accused of procurement in relation to the alleged affair, he was subject to an attempted arrest in May and took refuge inside the CNRP headquarters. This marked the beginning of over half a year spent in de facto house arrest.

On 9 September, Kem Sokha was tried and convicted in absentia of “refusal to appear as a witness” after a trial boycotted by his legal team in protest at the violation of his parliamentary immunity from prosecution. He was sentenced to five months in prison. On 2 December, however, Kem Sokha's time in de facto house arrest drew to an abrupt close when he was pardoned by the king at the request of Prime Minister Hun Sen. Three days later, opposition commune councillor Seang Chet was sentenced to five years' imprisonment following a show trial for “bribery of a witness” in the same case. He, too, received a royal pardon on 7 December.

Following the royal pardons, many believed additional political prisoners would soon be released. However, the apparent political truce was not to last.

Kem Sokha's time inside the CNRP headquarters in Phnom Penh was characterized by intermittent displays of military power outside it. On 1 September, the CNRP headquarters was repeatedly circled by RCAF attack helicopters as the building was simultaneously surrounded by speedboats with mounted machine guns and large convoys of heavily armed troops of the Prime Minister's bodyguard unit. For weeks after that, such intimidation and shows of force took place outside the opposition HQ on a virtually daily basis, including in the early hours of the morning. Following a CNRP statement in September that mass protests may be the opposition's only remaining option, the Prime Minister publicly issued orders to ‘all competent forces to be ready to get rid of all illegal activities in order to protect the happiness of the people, no matter the cost’. Such orders were taken seriously: the deployment of soldiers during this period reflected a militarization of political tension on a scale not seen in over a decade.

While Kem Sokha's case was the most high-profile example of judicial shenanigans lodged against opposition politicians inside the country, the government's

campaign against its political opposition has led to a number of elected opposition officials unjustly jailed or subject to judicial harassment over the past year – often with scant regard for parliamentary immunity.

For example, both opposition senator Hong Sok Hour and CNRP MP Um Sam An were convicted in relation to politically-motivated charges brought against them punishing online expression via Facebook and sentenced to seven years and two years' imprisonment, respectively. Posting on Facebook appears to be a dangerous pastime for opposition officials and supporters: a CNRP commune councilor and a party supporter from Svay Rieng also face five to 10 year sentences on forgery charges after publishing an image of a birth certificate on Facebook suggesting a Cambodian province was part of Vietnam.

Thak Lany, an opposition senator, was stripped of her immunity and sentenced in absentia to 18 months' imprisonment on defamation and incitement charges after allegedly suggesting the Prime Minister was involved in the death of Kem Ley.

And in October, the exile of opposition leader Sam Rainsy, who faces multiple prison sentences, was cemented by government orders issued in October banning him from entering Cambodia.

Fourteen CNRP officials and supporters remain in jail serving between seven and 20-year sentences on insurrection charges following their participation in a 2014 protest turned violent. Eleven were convicted after a show trial in 2015 and a further three CNRP youth members were convicted in June this year. Their trial proved no less farcical than that of the original 11 – defence lawyers were blocked from questioning key witnesses, and the prosecution produced limited evidence to substantiate their claims.

In the first half of 2016, an opposition party petition to the King calling for his intervention to alleviate the growing political crisis, which gathered over 170,000 thumbprints, was subject to a criminal investigation. At least 18 activists gathering thumbprints were briefly detained over May and June, and when opposition politicians attempted to deliver the petition to the Royal Palace on 30 May, hundreds of police and troops armed with tear gas guns barricaded the main streets into central Phnom Penh in a show of intimidation.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Cambodia has seen a marked uptick in the number of political prisoners in the last year, but one person paid the ultimate price for his dissenting views. On 10 July, prominent political commentator Dr Kem Ley was shot dead, in broad daylight in the middle of Phnom Penh, in an execution-style killing while having a coffee at a petrol station.

His death sent shockwaves through the whole country. Within minutes of the murder, a growing number of people gathered outside the petrol station, where his body remained after the shooting. Within hours, thousands had began a procession across the city to bring him to Wat

Chas. By the time they reached the pagoda, about seven kilometres away, the march had swelled to around 5,000 people, including monks and local communities.

A suspect was arrested shortly after the shooting, about two kilometers away from the murder scene. Upon arrest, the man identified himself as “Chuob Samlab”, which translates in English as “Meet Kill”. He confessed to the murder, which he claimed was over an unpaid debt of \$3,000 – an allegation widely rejected. Chuob Samlab – whose real name is Oeuth Ang – was promptly charged, and has been detained since then. Although members of the government have publically cast doubt on the plausibility of Oeuth Ang's confession, there has still been no thorough and independent investigation into the murder.

In 2014, Kem Ley founded grassroots group Khmer for Khmer, which aimed to increase democracy among political parties. A year later, the group began the Grassroots Democratic Party (GDP). Kem Ley had no part in the leadership of the new party, but he remained an outspoken political commentator. He left behind a wife – who at the time of the killing was five months pregnant – and four children.

Kem Ley's assassination saw a groundswell of popular demonstrations not seen in years. Nationally and internationally, people likened his murder to those of labour



activist Chea Vichea, killed in 2004, and environmental activist Chut Wutty, shot dead in 2011.

Despite a heavy police presence in Phnom Penh for days leading up to his funeral procession on 16 October, and attempts to obstruct the procession through official orders to close petrol stations, hundreds of thousands of people came to the capital to line the streets, and walk alongside Kem Ley's body as it was transported to his home town in Takeo to grieve his loss, and to call for justice for him and his family.

THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY

Throughout 2016, authorities – including the military – continued to ramp up their use of fiery rhetoric against any form of civil or political dissent.

Public declarations of allegiance and displays of force by the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) became

a common occurrence across Cambodia, especially in heavily militarized provinces such as Oddar Meanchey, where commanders delivered a speech stating they are simply awaiting orders to go into action against fellow Cambodians. In August, the operational chief of the RCAF, Joint Chief of Staff Kun Kim, made a public pledge of allegiance to the Prime Minister and government, before stating he would enforce the arrest of Kem Sokha at “any cost” including bloodshed.

Such incidents, which occurred throughout 2016, are indicative of the a public return by the military in the political sphere, highlighted by the addition of virtually all military commanders into the ruling party’s central committee in February 2015. This militarization of domestic politics is a deeply concerning trend and does not bode well for free and fair elections in 2017 and 2018.

Sustained attacks against the revamped National Election Committee (NEC), which was overhauled after 2013’s contested elections, have made sincere election reform all but impossible. In addition to the pre-trial detention of NEC member Ny Chakrya in one case and his conviction in a second case, the courts have also begun proceedings against a second CNRP NEC representative, Rong Choeun, after the revival of an old criminal case.

Even youth groups trying to encourage Cambodians to register to vote have been subject to electoral intimidation. Opposition activists in northern Siem Reap were prevented from engaging in the voter registration process. In November, authorities prevented youth volunteers for publicly encouraging citizens to register to vote by detaining seven of the youths and confiscating their loudspeakers. Similarly, during the yearly



Unionists protest the new Trade Union Law near the National Assembly in Phnom Penh, 4 April 2016

ELECTORAL REFORM JEOPARDISED

After closely-contested 2013 elections, significant electoral reform remains crucial to build the necessary foundations from which the 2017 and 2018 commune and national elections could be considered free and fair, but such reform is in serious jeopardy. After some delays, voter registration took place in advance of the commune elections. However, there are concerns that migrant workers and other groups have been unable to register, in some cases on the pretext that they lack adequate identity cards. According to NEC estimates, approximately 1.7 million eligible voters will not be able to vote in the commune election. Evidence has emerged of illegal registrations – particularly by the military – in close-race constituencies.

water festival, voter registration advocacy by members of civil society were interfered with by authorities.

REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION

2016 saw authorities begin to implement the raft of new legislation passed last year aimed at curtailing rights and fundamental freedoms. The threat of the Law on Associations and Non-governmental Organisations (LANGO) which hangs over the head of every civil society group, has been used by authorities as a pretext for infringing on freedom of speech and assembly. So far, implementation of LANGO has been vague and arbitrary.

Following the charges against ADHOC staff, pro-govern-

ment NGOs directly asked for the NGO to be punished using LANGO. The Cambodian National Human Rights Committee – a government body formerly led by the current head of the ACU – has called for “strict legal action” against ADHOC, potentially resulting in the de-registration of the organisation. On 18 May, the government directly threatened LICADHO with possible closure under LANGO for breaching vague “political neutrality” requirements following the publication of a thoroughly investigated list of political prisoners.

The new Law on Telecommunications, enacted at the end of last year, poses a severe threat to Cambodia’s newly-found online freedoms and could mean an end to private expression through telecommunications. While the government claims the law to be industrial regulation of the telecommunications sector, it also legalises universal covert surveillance of all communications with the undefined “approval of legitimate authorities” and contains numerous offences punishing free expression. Under the new law, individuals could potentially be sentenced to 15 years’ imprisonment for private expression the government deems to be a threat under vague national security provisions.

The Law on Unions of Enterprises (TUL), passed in April 2016 and promulgated by the King one month later, contains serious restrictions on strike action and establishes government control over the existence and autonomy of unions. Laws relating to ballot procedures make it practically impossible for many unions to carry out their internal democratic procedures and to decide on strike action. The law creates responsibilities for a Labour Court which, without accountability and sufficient independence from the existing court system, threatens to become just another method of government control over unions. With unions representing the bulk of organised civil society, this law, along with LANGO, severely threatens the very existence of formal civil society groups. In addition, the labour movement faces further restriction through a draft “Minimum Wage Law” and draft “Labour Dispute Resolution Law” that became publicly available late in 2016. These repressive drafts, if passed, could have severe consequences for the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association, and could restrict access to justice for Cambodian workers.

LOOKING TO 2017

Throughout 2016, the Cambodian government’s growing hostility to dissent was subject to international scrutiny.

Cambodia is now at a critical point in its progression. With commune elections just six months away, the government grows increasingly demonstrative in its willingness to punish any peaceful exercise of rights and freedoms it deems threatening. Throughout 2016, civil society faced repressive legislation, unwarranted legal attacks and a crackdown on fundamental freedoms in an attempt to create a climate of fear and silence. Peaceful gatherings were deemed revolutions and shut down, sometimes violently, as belligerent rhetoric from both the government and the armed forces towards any form of dissent became commonplace.

But this was not enough to stop the almost daily protests, especially in the provinces, of people who refused to give up on calling for their land rights, labour rights, or political rights to be upheld. In July, more than half a million people took to the streets to call for justice for Kem Ley. Despite constant efforts of those in power to silence them, Cambodians continued to demand that their voices be heard.

And although it is all but certain that the government will continue to deny people their freedoms into the election years ahead, it is equally clear any such clampdown will continue to be met with resistance, solidarity and renewed calls for justice.

Throughout 2016, civil society faced repressive legislation, unwarranted legal attacks and a crackdown on fundamental freedoms. But despite constant efforts of those in power to silence them, Cambodians continued to demand that their voices be heard.



Communities celebrating World Habitat Day in Phnom Penh, 10 October 2016

LICADHO'S IMPACT IMPRISONED HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

On 2 May, following four days of detention and interrogation by Cambodia's Anti-Corruption Unit, five human rights defenders were jailed in a politically-motivated case. Ny Sokha, Nay Vanda, Yi Soksan and Lim Mony of Cambodian human rights NGO ADHOC were charged with bribery of a witness after providing legitimate material and legal support to a client, and sent to Prey Sar's CC1 and CC2 prisons. Deputy secretary-general of the National Election Committee Ny Chakrya was charged as an accomplice to the bribery offence, and sent to PJ Prison.

One week after the five were unjustly jailed, supporters from grassroots groups, unions, NGOs and other civil society launched the Black Monday campaign to call for their release. The peaceful campaign was met with a ludicrously disproportionate response from the government: there were at least 36 arbitrary arrests of those participating in Black Monday, most of whom were detained for hours before being released without charge.

On 15 August, two Boeung Kak Lake community representatives – Tep Vanny and Bov Sophea – became the latest people to be arrested during a peaceful Black Monday gathering. This time, however, the two were charged with incitement and sent to pre-trial detention. At the same time, two further cases were activated against Vanny, relating to protests in 2011 and 2013. On 22 August, the pair were convicted of 'insulting a public official' and sentenced to the maximum six days' imprisonment. Bov Sophea was released on time served. Tep Vanny, facing pre-trial detention under charges brought against her the previous week, was returned to Prey Sar's CC2 prison.

The cases were met with national and international outrage. But eight months after the initial five human rights defenders were arrested, and more than four months after Vanny was first detained, the six remain imprisoned. They are all subject to the miserable conditions endemic in Cambodia's prisons; all six are held in crowded cells with poor sanitation for up to 23 hours a day, and have limited access to food and medication.

LICADHO has been involved in these cases throughout, providing support, medical care and legal advice, as well as joining its voice to the chorus of those in and outside the country calling for their release.

MONITORING OFFICE

Over the days while the five human rights defenders were detained inside the ACU prior to their charging in May, LICADHO monitors maintained a constant presence

outside alongside families and colleagues of the five, as well as supporters such as local land communities who wanted to offer solidarity.

LICADHO's monitors were also on hand throughout the authorities' constant pushback against peaceful Black Monday gatherings. On May 9, the campaign's first day, eight participants in the campaign were detained, including three LICADHO staff members, the director of partner NGO Samakum Teang Tnaut (STT), and four land activists. LICADHO monitors were on the spot and documented the arrests, allowing information to be quickly and efficiently shared. One monitor was able to accompany two detained LICADHO staff for questioning at the immigration police office in Phnom Penh.

Land communities Boeung Kak Lake and Borei Keila, who were amongst the most vociferous Black Monday campaigners, were targeted by the government throughout. Authorities routinely violently dispersed assemblies taking place within both communities by illegally destroying advocacy material and, in some cases, arbitrarily detaining individuals. While LICADHO was not able to prevent the destruction of the activists' property, the presence of LICADHO monitors helped reduce the chance of further arrests.

LEGAL OFFICE

LICADHO's lawyers provided legal representation to Tep Vanny and Bov Sophea throughout their imprisonment. Lawyers kept both women informed of their legal rights, while sharing information on the status of their case and providing advice on court proceedings, ensuring that their clients were more comfortable and confident in their fight for justice. The legal team also monitored court procedure to ensure that the numerous violations of fair trial rights by court officials were documented, allowing such occurrences to be made public. LICADHO's legal team continues to represent Vanny on her two other current cases, which were both re-activated unexpectedly while she was in pre-trial detention for the case relating to the Black Monday gathering. So far, her lawyers have made frequent legal challenges requesting bail. Lawyers have also coordinated closely with LICADHO's Prison Project to gain permission from the Minister of Interior for LICADHO to visit Vanny.

Aside from representation, the Legal Office drafted a legal analysis on the case of the five originally detained human rights defenders, which LICADHO was able to use for international advocacy.

MEDICAL AND SOCIAL WORK OFFICES

LICADHO's doctors have all been involved in treating the six detainees in prison. In particular, consultations with 63-year-old ADHOC staffer Lim Mony enabled LICADHO doctors to diagnose and treat long-term illnesses which were exacerbated by woeful prison conditions and stress.

The medical team also intervened at early stages of Tep Vanny's custody and continue to make regular visits to all six human rights defenders not only for treatment, but for support and encouragement. To further alleviate pressure on Vanny's family, LICADHO's social workers provide monthly support – encompassing food and material – to help her children attend school. In coordination with LICADHO's advocacy office, the Social Work Office has consistently provided material and financial support for peaceful Black Monday gatherings, including transportation, lotus flowers and balloons.

pressure on the government to end the judicial harassment. To this end, it drafted and released joint statements with a number of organisations as well as publishing numerous flash news items. Senior LICADHO staff commented on the cases publically in the media throughout the year.

With help from LICADHO's Legal and Monitoring Offices, which ensured accurate and up-to-date information, LICADHO launched a new webpage – 'Cambodia's Political Prisoners' – in May, highlighting the alarming uptick in the number of political prisoners incarcerated inside Cambodia's jails. To complement this new advocacy tool, LICADHO's advocacy team also drafted biographies of the five using information from interviews with their families on prison conditions and on the impact of the imprisonment. The biographies were shared with embassies, development partners and other stakeholders to lobby for their release.



Black Monday protesters released from a Phnom Penh police station after being 'educated' following their hours-long detention, 15 August 2016

PRISON

LICADHO's Prison Project has visited all six detained human rights defenders consistently throughout their time in jail, often facilitating visits from their families, international organisations, and other relevant people. This facilitation has meant that the case is better raised at the international level by enabling the six to tell their stories directly to international visitors. As importantly, it helps the six to remain strong by enabling much-needed face time with their families.

ADVOCACY

Using information gathered from monitors, partner organisations and families of the detained, LICADHO's advocacy team covered the cases broadly through public and private advocacy designed to raise awareness and increase

In terms of international advocacy, LICADHO jointly drafted a submission to the UN's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) on the case of the five ADHOC and NEC staffers. In November, the WGAD ruled that their detention was arbitrary based on grave violations to their fair trial rights and right to association. Most significantly, the WGAD ruled that the five had been discriminated against based on their status as human rights defenders – the first time ever that the WGAD, or any other UN mechanism receiving individual complaints, had referred to HRDs as a protected group that is entitled to equal legal protection under international law. LICADHO also focused its efforts on lobbying to embassies, development partners and multilateral institutions, sharing information and raising awareness on political prisoners and these outrageous cases in particular.

HUMAN RIGHTS 2016: THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

33 political prisoners in jail during 2016.

6 months spent by Kem Sokha under house arrest inside the opposition headquarters.

4 military helicopters deployed to circle the opposition headquarters while deputy opposition leader Kem Sokha was under house arrest inside.

3 members of Prime Minister Hun Sen's personal Bodyguard Unit arrested and convicted for beating opposition MPs outside Cambodia's National Assembly, out of 16 men recorded punching or kicking the lawmakers.

32 Black Monday gatherings in support of imprisoned human rights defenders.

36 arbitrary arrests of peaceful Black Monday protestors. 8 people were arrested during the first Black Monday gathering alone, including three LICADHO staff.

2 people jailed for taking part in a peaceful Black Monday gathering.

Over 500,000 people took to the streets for Kem Ley's funeral.

\$1,407 Average amount of compensation paid to rape victims in cases investigated by LICADHO in return for dropping the criminal complaint against the perpetrator.

7 rape cases in which LICADHO confirmed that compensation was negotiated by police or other authority figures.

Nearly 10,000 families affected by newly-investigated land conflicts.

3 laws which restrict workers' rights passed or drafted.

7,873,194 people registered to vote during for the 2017 and 2018 commune and national elections of an estimated 9,700,000 people eligible to vote (according to 2015 UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs data).

MONITORING & PROTECTION



Representatives from four communities affected by land grabbing submit a petition in Sre Ambel District, Koh Kong province, 25 March 2016

Rights abuses in Cambodia are widespread, perpetrated by both the state and private interests, as the country's infamous levels of corruption and impunity are compounded by a judiciary obedient to the ruling elite. Cambodia continues to suffer from endemic land conflicts, impacting on a growing number of families. Women in Cambodia experience high levels of physical and sexual violence. Despite the severity of the issue, there is a shortage of all kinds of services for victims of rape and domestic violence, with law enforcement being particularly inadequate.

As elections approach, political tensions have engendered the suppression of fundamental freedoms and a sharp uptick in the number of political prisoners as the government seeks to shut down any form of dissent.

LICADHO's Human Rights Monitoring Project (HRMP), which documents and investigates cases of human rights abuse, acts as the first port of call for the majority of LICADHO's clients. It works in conjunction with LICADHO's other offices to provide a holistic service for those seeking justice and in need of help.

Cases come to LICADHO from a variety of sources, including direct requests from victims or victims' relatives, referrals by other NGOs, and media reports. In their investigations LICADHO's monitors gather evidence,

interview victims and witnesses, offer paralegal advice and, if requested by clients, conduct interventions to relevant authorities. LICADHO's monitoring team also works closely with the Social Work office to provide social support such as food, clothing and transport money to victims of human rights abuses. Victims in need are referred to LICADHO's doctors and lawyers, or to other organisations that provide such services. Information provided from monitors on the ground informs accurate and up-to-date advocacy on cases and issues.

Human Rights Monitoring Project - Civil and Political Rights



9,610

Families affected in land grabbing cases newly investigated by LICADHO in 2016.

79

Cases resolved that were investigated in 2016.

107

Victims of human trafficking repatriated from China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia and Thailand with assistance from LICADHO.



Still from video footage captured by LICADHO monitor showing the beating of community representative Chan Puthisak, 10 October 2016

Victims of human rights abuses can sometimes become reluctant to pursue justice, either through fear or because a deal has been struck between the victim and perpetrator of a rights abuse. While LICADHO's over-riding philosophy is based in respecting the wants and needs of clients, LICADHO monitors endeavour to strengthen rule of law by striving for just case outcomes that reflect Cambodian law and international standards.

CASES AND INTERVENTIONS

Over 2016, LICADHO's monitors investigated 386 new cases. The most common violations documented by monitors were of threats, harassment and intimidation (123 violations), land grabbing and/or forced evictions (114 violations), and obstruction to freedom of expression or assembly (73 violations), and human trafficking (61 violations). Notably, the number of investigated cases involving obstruction to freedom of expression and/or assembly more than doubled in 2016 compared to 2015 (27 violations), reflecting the government's crackdown on dissent throughout the year. 2016 saw voter registration take place across the country before Cambodians go to the polls next year; throughout the registration process, LICADHO monitors conducted field investigations into different provinces to confirm and document illegal voter registration and other methods of influencing election outcomes.

Land grabbing remains one of the key sources of human rights abuses in Cambodia. All 114 cases of land grabbing and/or forced eviction that were newly investigated in 2016 involve state actors or private companies. LICADHO does not usually document land conflicts without any kind of state involvement. In 73 of these cases, multiple families were affected, totalling 9,610 families – a similar number to the 10,579 families newly-documented as being affected by land grabs in 2015.

With 114 new land rights cases investigated this year, and the majority of the previously investigated land conflicts remaining unresolved, communities often have no choice but to turn to public protest seeking resolutions. Violations against fundamental freedoms continued to increase this year particularly in the context of land rights protesters – countless protests against land grabs have been broken up by police and para-police, often violently. To address this issue, LICADHO has maintained its focus on investigating and documenting land grabbing while supporting peaceful public actions by grassroots communities through both monitoring and advocacy.

The trafficking of people overseas for labour purposes and sexual exploitation also remains a serious concern in Cambodia, and combating human trafficking is a core part of LICADHO's HRMP. The 61 trafficking cases investigated by LICADHO remained approximately level to those investigated in 2015. These involved 41

cases of labour trafficking and 20 cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

There are a number of reasons for the ongoing high numbers of trafficking cases. A lack of local job opportunities and, often, abusive working conditions lead to people more vulnerable to traffickers promising good jobs for real money overseas. The dysfunctional legal system means that when traffickers are identified, or when victims of rights abuses come forward to accuse their traffickers, the legal system is neither willing nor able to provide redress.

A major source of labour trafficking cases comes from women trafficked overseas to work as domestic workers. In December 2015, the government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Malaysia relating to sending

domestic workers overseas. With similar MoUs signed with Saudi Arabia and Qatar in February and May, respectively, this is set to continue. Following a similar trend to previous years, many of the sexual exploitation cases involved women trafficked to China for forced or arranged marriages.

LICADHO's monitoring team assisted with the repatriation of 107 Cambodians (24 female; 83 male) who had been trafficked to five different countries – China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Thailand.

BEARING WITNESS

One key role of LICADHO's monitors is to document and monitor public events, including community pro-



Land rights activists pass a group of anti-demonstration police at Freedom Park in central Phnom Penh, 10 December 2016

tests, union strikes and court hearings. As well as mediating between authorities and protesters, LICADHO's monitors have a difficult and important role in documenting human rights abuses during such gatherings. In a country where authorities have very little respect for freedom of assembly, public gatherings can often turn violent. When this happens, it is important that LICADHO's frontline monitors bear witness, recording and documenting violations. LICADHO monitors were deployed for 344 such observations during 2016.

As the Cambodian government shows increasing intolerance to freedoms of assembly and expression, LICADHO's monitors continue to record cases of community forums being shut down and peaceful gatherings suppressed. Violence against peaceful protesters remained an ongoing feature of the year. For example, on 4 April, at least two trade unionists were injured as a peaceful gathering near Cambodia's National Assembly to protest the draft Trade Union Law (TUL), due to be passed that day, was violently broken up by authorities. Police standing nearby did nothing to stop the violence inflicted on unionists by para-police wielding weapons.

Throughout the year, gatherings were not only shut

down but actively prevented from happening to begin with – high-level authorities, from the military to the Prime Minister himself, threatened groups with arrest and imprisonment should they dare to gather.

LICADHO's monitoring work was also made more difficult this year by a government increasingly blurring the line between civil society and political opposition. As fractious political tensions led to heightened rhetoric and actions taken by authorities against human rights defenders, the risks faced by LICADHO's monitors in the field have correspondingly increased. For example, LICADHO's Monitoring Manager was badly beaten in a targeted attack by para-police while monitoring a peaceful march through Phnom Penh to celebrate World Habitat Day, despite wearing an human rights monitoring vest and open ID.

Such dangers can be mitigated, however, by the cooperation LICADHO monitors enjoy with NGO partners both in Phnom Penh and the provinces, allowing them to share information for more effective monitoring and increasing the safety of all parties. LICADHO's case monitoring also benefits from relationships with local Khmer and English-language journalists, which allows for effective information-sharing and leads to more effective advocacy.

Supporting the Struggle for Resolutions to Cambodia's Land Conflicts

In December 2015, a land dispute emerged between 65 families in Takeo and two former soldiers who lived across the provincial border in Phnom Penh. Earlier in the year, authorities had demarcated the land at the request of the two men – but in doing so had taken 915 hectares of the families' land. On December 25, 2015, the two former soldiers brought bulldozers to clear the land. They claimed to have bought it in 1997.

Throughout 2016, the 65 families living on the wrongly-demarcated land filed complaints to local and provincial authorities with the help of LICADHO monitors, requesting that the administrative border be renewed. The provincial governor pledged to find a solution – but only in three months. Time was running out for the villagers, so in August, LICADHO monitors assisted community representatives to file a complaint with the Ministry of Land Management in Phnom Penh. This time, the response was slightly quicker – the Ministry agreed to organise a team to seek a solution in the next two weeks. By the end of August, a mixed committee of officials, both local and national, visited the site to re-demarcate the land – this time in the favour of the villagers. However, the story is not yet over – the villagers have to receive land titles before they are truly secure on their land. Throughout the process, LICADHO's monitors provided paralegal advice to the villagers on filing complaints, assisting the representatives to submit their complaints to the relevant stakeholders.

LICADHO also offered practical advice to the villagers on how to elect effective representatives able to seek solutions with relevant institutions.

Bringing Them Home: Arbitrary Detention of Migrant Workers

In January, two brothers were trafficked from Kampot province to Laos, to work on a hydropower dam for Sinohydro Mining Company, which has a significant presence in Cambodia. The brothers were brought to Laos by a trafficking broker, who promised them decent salaries with which to support their families back in Kampot, and safe working conditions. The trafficker took their papers.

Once the brothers began work, they discovered that contrary to the trafficker's claims, conditions were dire and payments were virtually non-existent. In October, another man working on their construction and sharing living quarters site suffered an accident due to unsafe working conditions. With no access to medical care, he died after one week. Authorities were reluctant to take any action against his powerful employers. With no papers, and widespread discrimination against migrant workers, the two brothers were easy scapegoats. Despite a total lack of evidence against them, and plenty of witnesses to the man's accident, they were arrested and detained the following day. On November 11, their families came to LICADHO for help. LICADHO monitors approached the Cambodian embassy in Laos, but embassy staff were unwilling or unable to assist. LICADHO then contacted the Cambodian Ambassador directly, who pledged to intervene personally. Less than a week later – on 23 November – the two brothers were released from detention and repatriated back to Cambodia, facilitated by the Cambodian embassy working in coordination with LICADHO monitors.



LICADHO's women's rights monitoring project investigates cases of domestic and sexual violence against women. Similar to the Human Rights Monitoring Project, cases come to LICADHO from a variety of sources including direct requests from victims or victims' relatives, referrals by other NGOs, and media reports. As part of their investigations LICADHO's specialist women's and children's rights monitors:

- Interview victims and witnesses and record the facts of each case;
- Contact the police and prosecutors to ensure investigations are carried out;
- Provide legal services to clients or refer them to other organisations that provide such services, and provide first aid and basic material support;
- Refer clients to shelters where necessary and follow up cases with authorities with the aim of ensuring that all steps are taken to investigate and prosecute the perpetrator.

The support that LICADHO provides to its clients is essential given Cambodia's poorly-resourced, poorly-trained and corrupt police and judiciary, and in the context of a patriarchal culture which does not treat cases of violence against women with the seriousness they deserve.

CASES AND INTERVENTION

From January to December 2016 LICADHO investigated 150 cases involving women aged 18 and over. 92 were cases of domestic violence and 54 were cases of rape.

In most cases of domestic violence, women experience violence for many years without reporting it to anyone. In the majority of cases which are reported, the outcome is that the women drop the case and continue living with their abusive husbands. It is therefore quite rare for a case to end with a criminal conviction for the violent husband. However, in some cases it does happen, particularly if the

victim has sufficient support.

In recent years LICADHO has consistently advocated for improvements in how cases of rape are managed by the justice system. It is still the case that many perpetrators walk free, often as a result of corruption, and when cases do result in a conviction, sentences are often inappropriately low. However, LICADHO, in partnership with other organisations can achieve some good outcomes for clients.

TACKLING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In one case which LICADHO investigated in 2016, a woman had been experiencing violence from her husband for the past three years. He beat her when she was pregnant, tried to strangle her and burned her with cigarettes. She had never reported this to the police.

In March 2016 her husband attacked her with a knife causing serious injuries. Blood loss made her lose consciousness, and she had to go to hospital for treatment. A neighbour called the police who arrested the husband. LICADHO received information about the case from the victim's family and immediately went to investigate, and to provide some food and other essential supplies to the victim. LICADHO collected evidence from the victim and other witnesses about the history of violence and wrote a letter to the investigation judge in the case setting out this evidence.

This kind of intervention is vital in Cambodia because the police and judiciary rarely take steps to properly investigate cases of domestic violence. On 14 June 2016, the perpetrator was convicted of domestic violence and sentenced to two years in prison.

This two-year sentence is the lowest applicable for domestic violence but this case is a notable success as, unusually, no part of the sentence was suspended. The case itself was completed, from investigation to conviction, in under three months.

Rare Justice for Victims of Rape

In a case that began in November 2015, a 20-year-old deaf, blind and mute woman was raped by a neighbour. LICADHO investigated the case together with partner NGO Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC). LICADHO provided the victim with food and other material support, medical treatment and also accompanied her to a rape examination. CWCC provided legal representation and in March 2016, the perpetrator was convicted of rape with aggravating circumstances and sentenced to seven years in prison.

The case was not only dealt with swiftly by the courts but the sentence was also appropriate under Cambodian law because the judge noted the victim's disability and accordingly made a finding that there were aggravating circumstances. This is unusual as most judges ignore the articles of the Criminal Code covering aggravating circumstances. This demonstrates the importance for the victim of having a legal representative in court who can advocate for their best interests.



A LICADHO monitor interviews a rape victim and her mother, 2016

It can often be difficult to secure prosecutions in child rape cases because of under-resourced policing and corruption throughout the judicial system.

Child Rape

In one case dating from March 2016, a ten-year-old girl was raped several times by her father. She didn't tell anyone as he had threatened he would kill her if she did. Eventually her mother noticed that she was very upset and unable to eat and she spoke to her daughter about what had happened. The mother filed a complaint to the police who arrested the victim's father on the same day. LICADHO's monitor read about the case in the newspaper and contacted the victim's mother. LICADHO helped the victim and her family with material support and accompanied her for a rape examination. Another NGO provided her with a lawyer and in November 2016 the perpetrator was tried and found guilty of rape, and sentenced to seven years in prison.

LICADHO's children's rights monitoring project investigates a range of abuses of children including rape, physical assault and child labour. As with women's rights cases, LICADHO's monitors provide basic material support and medical services to victims. They also provide legal services and support the victims' families through the legal process.

LICADHO investigated 226 cases of child rights violations in 2016. Rape is by far the most common form of child rights violation investigated by LICADHO and between January and December 2016 LICADHO investigated 199 rape cases, including seven gang rape cases. Owing to under-resourced policing and corruption throughout the judicial system, it can often be difficult to secure prosecutions. However, in some cases it is possible to achieve some justice for victims.

Cambodia's justice system is endemically corrupt and deeply politicized. The judiciary, including prosecutors and lawyers, are often compromised, with courts regularly used as a repressive political tool or to advance private interests. Respect for fair trial rights is vanishingly rare, particularly in political cases. Misuse of the justice system resulted in scores of political prisoners jailed in 2016, and activists are increasingly targeted under spurious legal charges.



Grassroots groups protest unjust imprisonment outside the Municipal Court in Phnom Penh, 1 May 2016

The Human Rights Legal Project (HRLP) seeks to provide high-quality legal services to LICADHO clients in Phnom Penh and across the 13 provinces in which LICADHO operates. It supports clients in land-grabbing cases, represents human rights defenders and victims in rape cases, and also provides legal services in further “special cases” determined to fall within LICADHO’s mandate.

The legal team works to uphold the rule of law and fair trial rights for all clients and resist the politicization of the Cambodian justice system. In the run-up to the 2017 commune election and 2018 national election, civil society and human rights defenders are facing rapidly increasing oppression and punishment for their legitimate activities. LICADHO lawyers fight for clients to be able to freely exercise their rights and freedoms without fear of punishment or reprisal.

CASES AND INTERVENTION

Over 2016, LICADHO assisted a total of 66 clients (39

male and 27 female) in a total of 23 new cases. LICADHO lawyers represented clients in 14 new land grabbing cases (39 male clients and 16 female clients); two new HRD cases (three female clients); five new rape cases (six female clients including five minors); and two special cases (two female clients). These clients benefited from the full spectrum of high-quality legal services LICADHO lawyers provide at every stage of the court process. LICADHO lawyers provide such services free of charge to victims of human rights abuses; protecting clients’ civil rights and building clients’ understanding of legal procedures and making any required interventions.

Of these newly opened cases, four were closed during 2016, with a positive resolution for two clients (one land grabbing case and one rape case in which a custodial sentence was applied to the perpetrator).

During this period, the legal project also monitored 15 high-profile hearings at every level of the justice system, both in Phnom Penh and one province (Koh Kong), record-

ing the compliance of proceedings with fair trial rights. Compliance was generally found to be extremely low.

Through such legal services, LICADHO's legal clients benefit from immediate assistance when faced with summonses or interviews with the authorities, building their confidence to make their cases and assert their rights despite the intimidating context. Legal intervention by LICADHO lawyers also increases accountability within the criminal justice system and prevents impunity for violations of fair trial rights.

The continuous involvement of LICADHO lawyers at every stage of a case means there is also opportunity to gradually increase the legal knowledge of clients, allowing them to take ownership of their cases and claim their rights. This approach is often beneficial to the communities of LICADHO clients, as legal clients share their newfound knowledge and experience. Such knowledge-sharing helps build a longer term base of rights-aware individuals and communities who are confident and willing to challenge impunity and rights violations. Continuous

contact with imprisoned clients builds confidence of detainees, keeping them fully informed of developments in their cases and preventing isolation.

Consistent contact means lawyers are able to draw on the support of other LICADHO teams, including mobilizing advocacy to draw attention to particular legal cases, for their clients.

The legal team coordinates closely with the Monitoring Office to investigate, find evidence and interview witnesses. LICADHO lawyers respond rapidly to cases forwarded by the Monitoring Office in order to provide maximum assistance to their clients at each stage of the legal process: submitting evidence and witness statements when they are received; petitioning the prosecutor and investigating judge to dismiss cases when no inculpatory evidence exists; and representing the interests of clients through criminal defendants or as plaintiffs at first instance courts, the Court of Appeal, and Supreme Court as necessary.

LICADHO's lawyers also work in partnership with other

Securing Justice for Victims of Land Conflicts

LICADHO represented two clients who were victims of land grabbing in a case involving a local district-level environment official and 10 military police officers. The two clients, Dy Chan and his son Chan Sophy, occupied two hectares of land and, in a dispute ongoing since 1988, were subsequently accused by local district environment official Ou Sothea and 10 members of the military police of illegally clearing state forest inside a wildlife sanctuary. Both men were summonsed for questioning by the investigating judge in May 2014 and subsequently charged under Article 97(6) of the Forestry Law (illegal clearance and occupation of state forest). On 26 August 2016 LICADHO lawyers represented both land grabbing victims at trial, highlighting the lack of evidence against them and asserting their rights. Following the trial hearing the judge announced that all charges against the men had been dropped and that Ou Sothea had withdrawn his complaint and agreed to provide both victims with certificates of ownership over the disputed land.

Freeing Political Prisoners

One key impact of LICADHO legal representation was the release of the three human rights defenders from environmental NGO Mother Nature. LICADHO lawyers represented three defendants in what was widely regarded to be a politically-motivated case punishing the men for their strong activism in the face of state repression and unlawful and environmentally harmful business practices in Koh Kong. The three clients – Sim Samnang, 28; Try Sovikea, 24; and Sun Mala, 22 – had been detained since August 2015 after being charged with “threatening to cause damage, defacement or destruction followed by an order” after a peaceful protest boarded sand barges allegedly conducting unlawful sand dredging near the Andoung Teuk bridge, Botum Sakor district, Koh Kong.

The three were detained on 17 August 2015 and remained in detention prior to their trial. LICADHO lawyers made numerous attempts to secure their release on bail, however, due to the politically-motivated nature of the case, the courts denied each attempt. LICADHO lawyers visited their clients on a regular basis, providing advice and moral support to the three over the course of over ten months of detention. The three were unlawfully over-detained – resulting in a strong legal challenge by LICADHO lawyers to expedite their trial.

At trial on 27 June 2016, LICADHO lawyers, working with partner lawyers from other NGOs, gave strong representation – highlighting the lack of evidence against their clients and challenging the judge repeatedly where he was in violation of fair trial rights. While the three were eventually convicted, LICADHO lawyers secured a major positive result as the sentence passed was suspended – meaning the three avoided spending a significant additional amount of time imprisoned in poor conditions. LICADHO lawyers accompanied their clients at their release and to subsequent celebrations where the three were reunited with their families. As a consequence of this intervention, the three continued their activities as human rights defenders throughout the remainder of 2016 and their communities were encouraged to make strong displays of solidarity.

organisations to co-defend clients in high-profile cases. This strategic approach allows lawyers from different organisations to provide strong cooperative legal representation, reduces pressure on individual lawyers and minimizes direct confrontation with the opposing parties. LICADHO also seeks to work with partner NGOs, UN agencies, the international community and other stakeholders, in an effort to discourage the court officials from unnecessarily detaining clients or engaging in corrupt or abusive activities. Throughout 2016 there was an intensification of politically-abusive use of the criminal justice system, a trend that has directly impacted on LICADHO clients, especially human rights defenders. In a number of cases LICADHO's legal project has cooperated with and shared information with donor countries or foreign em-

bassies.

In many cases, legal support is also accompanied by social and medical services provided by LICADHO, as well as monitoring and investigation. LICADHO also builds advocacy campaigns (when appropriate or requested by clients) to support the work of the lawyers and their clients. Through this broad range of legal services and advocacy, more people understand LICADHO's work and their own rights. As NGO and community partners gain a stronger understanding of LICADHO's legal services – and as activists are increasingly targeted under bogus legal charges – the need for LICADHO's legal services has dramatically increased.



Supporters wait outside Koh Kong Court during the trial of three Mother Nature activists, 27 June 2016

Medical Project and Social Work Project



In Cambodia, human rights abuses are pervasive and vastly impact on the well-being of individuals, families and communities. Human rights activists frequently risk injury by security forces and imprisoned human rights defenders suffer from terrible living conditions, impacting on their health. Much of the country still struggles with severe poverty, and the free public services to help the poor are virtually non-existent. The healthcare system and social work services are basic and lacking substance, leaving those victims of human rights abuse with no access to service and no support from the state.

5,668

victims of human rights abuses, received food and material assistance by the Social Work Project.

540

cases where assistance was provided.

50

imprisoned HRDs, activists and opposition members received social assistance and treatment.

LICADHO's medical and social work teams ensure much-needed physical, medical and material support for human rights defenders and those affected by human rights violations, and provides services where the system is deficient. Such support helps victims of human rights abuses to regain their strength to continue their pursuit of justice.

Throughout 2016, peaceful protestors and human rights defenders remained tenacious, continuing their efforts despite a barrage of critical government rhetoric backed up with violence, judicial harassment, and spurious imprisonment. However, in a time of growing repression, this increasingly led to physical and judicial backlash from a government determined to shut down dissent.

LICADHO's provision of social and medical care in these situations ensured that the vital work of those trying to effect change could continue. Preventative care, such as checking for high blood pressure, significantly helped activists to manage their health in the midst of their stressful and highly-pressured work.



Capital Tours bus drivers receive medical assistance from LICADHO, 6 February 2016

SOCIAL WORK PROJECT

LICADHO's Social Work Project bridges the gap created by the woeful lack of government support for the most vulnerable by providing short-term assistance to victims of human rights violations and families, with the level of support assessed for all recipients to determine the extent and nature of which services are required. LICADHO offers essential material support, including food, water, shelter, phone cards, and counselling services, alleviating the burdens faced by thousands of Cambodians.

In 2016, LICADHO's Social Work Project provided food and material assistance across 15 provinces to 5,668 victims of human rights abuses, including 2,946 women, in 540 cases. Assistance provided by LICADHO in land-grabbing cases covered 4,276 victims, representing 987 families across 22 communities. The assistance provided by LICADHO ensured that victims and their families could focus on defending their human rights. As well as land-grabbing cases, LICADHO social workers provided assistance to, among others, 122 victims of rape, 103 victims of human trafficking and 51 people subject to illegal arrest and detention. Often, these cases are referred to the social workers by LICADHO's monitors on the ground.

In a year in which the number of political prisoners shot up to figures not seen in decades, families of human rights defenders in jail faced loss, uncertainty and worry about the well-being of their unjustly imprisoned relatives.

To assuage this, the Social Work Project provided assistance to 50 imprisoned human rights defenders, activists, workers and opposition supporters and officials. Support included food supplies and – if needed – money, to pay for family visits to prison and to ensure that the families' children were able to continue to attend school. This assistance provided to the families of prisoners can be crucial in alleviating some of the stress and financial gaps caused by the temporary loss of a family's breadwinner.

Human rights defenders and activists supported by

LICADHO in this way included seven land rights activists, four environmental and forestry activists, four detained human rights staffers and a detained NEC deputy-general, among others, as well as 16 incarcerated opposition supporters and officials.

Another crucial role of LICADHO's Social Work Project is to support communities and other grassroots groups in their own advocacy. To this end, LICADHO's social workers provided financial and material support to 20 peaceful community-led protests, gatherings and strikes in Phnom Penh and the provinces in the form of food and material assistance, as well as transport support.

In the long term, assistance from the Social Work Project, especially in the form of income generation grants and livelihood support schemes, can have a lasting impact and a sustained benefit for recipient families and individuals, allowing victims of human rights abuse to turn their lives around and continue to fight for their rights.



Food assistance to victims of land grabbing in Battambang province, 6 June 2016

Strengthening Community Advocacy with Material Support

In 2007, Tan Bien company was awarded an ELC in Kraya commune, Kampong Thom province, affecting 1,362 families. Many families fled Kraya commune during the dispute, while 602 families were forcefully resettled some distance from their old homes. Eventually, they received small plots of residential land in what are today the villages of Sen Serei and Serei Mongkul. Although provincial authorities also promised to compensate each the 602 families with one hectare of farmland through a Social Land Concession (SLC), it was 2014 before the majority of villagers received the long-awaited land. At the end of that year, a businessman started to bulldoze land in the SLC – encroaching on the farmland of many families. The businessman claimed to have permission from local authorities to clear 100 ha in the area overlapping with the SLC, although the families have usage rights to the land. The communities immediately began attempts to get their land back, or at least be awarded compensation from the businessman.

In 2016, LICADHO's Social Work Project provided food and material assistance to 135 families (614 individuals, including 331 female and 283 male) in Sen Serei and Serei Mongkul communities. By having some of their basic material needs taken care of by LICADHO, the communities were then able to concentrate their efforts on getting back their farmland, continuing an advocacy campaign with local and provincial authorities.

MEDICAL PROJECT

The healthcare system in Cambodia is extremely limited, even for those able to afford the services. Many Cambodians, particularly the poor, do not have access to adequate medical treatment due to the lack of properly trained doctors and medical clinics. Victims of human rights abuses are often exposed to situations which have negative physical and psychological impacts.

LICADHO remains the only human rights organisation in Cambodia with a medical team that works to complement its monitoring, legal and advocacy projects. The free medical services provided to victims of human rights abuses include those in prisons, to communities affected by land grabbing and evictions, to human rights defenders and those on-the-ground participating in protests and demonstrations. LICADHO's medical team are able to alleviate problems such as injuries at protests and illness suffered by those exposed to poor health environments due to forced evictions.

During 2016 the medical team provided 10,564 medical consultations to victims of human rights violations, including 4,100 to female patients and 6,464 to male patients. Working on the frontline of protest, LICADHO's medical team gave consultations and provided treatment to 102 peaceful protesters (68 female and 34 male patients) over the course of the year during 10 protests and other campaign actions.

Cambodia's prisons are severely underfunded and insufficient medical treatment is provided by the state. A key aspect of LICADHO's Medical Project is to carry out regular prison visits to provide essential medical treatment to inmates and prison staff. However, owing to limitations placed on the medical team's access to prisons by the General Department of Prisons (GDP), the medical office was prevented from visiting detainees in almost all prisons for much of the first half of the reporting period, and was unable to provide them with medical treatment or check up on their health conditions except for in emergency situations.

In the second half of 2016 access to prisons was reinstated and LICADHO's medical team conducted 173 visits to nine prisons, providing a total of 5,287 medical consultations to inmates and guards. LICADHO's medical office works in conjunction with the legal office to provide ongoing assistance to five imprisoned human rights defenders including four ADHOC and one NEC staff. One of the activists, Tep Vanny, has remained in pre-trial detention in CC2 prison since August 2016 where she is held for charges relating to a protest held by Boeung Kak Lake Community in 2013 in front of the Prime Minister's house. The medical team intervened at early stages of Tep Vanny's custody and make regular visits for support, treatment and encouragement.

The medical office also conducted 112 visits to several relocation sites and communities affected by land grabbing, providing a total number of 4,274 medical consultations. Members of these communities often suffer from poor health as a result of persistent poverty due to loss of land and income.

2016 was the first full year using LICADHO's new custom-built patient database, which allows doctors to accurately and systematically document the medical history of patients and their families. This resulted in more accurate diagnoses and treatments, and is particularly effective for preventative care. After two decades of working with human rights defenders, it is clear that efforts to provide comprehensive preventative care, such as checking for high blood pressure, significantly helps activists to manage their health in the midst of their stressful and highly-pressured work. This has already been seen in, for example, members of Boeung Kak Lake community who have been diagnosed with high blood pressure owing to repeated documented health checks. Through such diagnoses, LICADHO is able to manage the health of human rights defenders before they become unmanageably sick.

5,287

Medical consultations conducted within nine prisons

4,274

Medical consultation conducted by LICADHO's medical office to communities affected by land grabbing and evictions.

Treating Human Rights Defenders

On 10 October, during a peaceful World Habitat Day protest, two human rights defenders – LICADHO's Monitoring Manager Am Sam Ath and Boeung Kak Lake representative Chan Puthisak – were badly beaten by Daun Penh para-police. One journalist was also beaten. Sam Ath was punched repeatedly in the face, head and neck. LICADHO's medical team were on site to provide immediate trauma treatment to all three men, who were in severe pain.

Afterwards, doctors brought Am Sam Ath and Chan Puthisak back to LICADHO's office for a more detailed examination. They provided Sam Ath, whose face was swollen from punches, with painkillers, and cleaned his injuries. A week after, the medical team followed up on his injuries and found he still suffered chronic pain in his jaw as a consequence of the incident. LICADHO doctors accompanied Sam Ath to visit a specialist orthopedic surgeon in Bangkok for treatment in early 2017. Chan Puthisak, who also suffered swellings from his beating, was similarly treated with painkillers. He was completely recovered within two weeks.

Both of them were able to return to their work with a minimum of time and no extra cost owing to their treatment.

PRISON PROJECT



Prison populations are among the most marginalised groups in the country, with prison conditions that are uniformly bleak. Cambodia's jails are vastly overcrowded and notorious for pervasive corruption. Legal rights of inmates are routinely violated – instances of unlawful over-detention are rampant. A quarter of prisoners have not yet been to trial, and pre-trial detainees are often held in even worse conditions than convicted prisoners.

LICADHO's prison researchers monitor conditions in 18 prisons across the country and identify and intervene in cases of rights abuses and ill-treatment taking place inside the prisons. The Prison Project regularly engages with prison authorities and relevant governing and legal institutions. Through this dialogue, the Prison Project raises awareness about the legal framework of prisoner rights so that institutional practices can be gradually improved – particularly with regard to vulnerable prisoners such as children, women or political prisoners.

The first six months of 2016 continued to be challenging for the Prison Project as LICADHO's access to the majority of prisons continued to be denied. Only prison researchers in three provinces were able to enter prisons and interview clients. During this period, prison researchers utilised alternative methods of monitoring of prisoners' rights and prison conditions such as interviewing families of prisoners, interviewing released prisoners and trial monitoring.

In July 2016, LICADHO's access to the prisons was reinstated; however, increasing restrictions were placed on prison researchers. Many prisons were reluctant to cooperate by providing prison researchers with the names of new and released prisoners, forcing researchers to lean more on media reports about people who were arrested and sent to prison.

The main role of the prison project is to interview detainees and intervene with relevant authorities if necessary. Over 2016, LICADHO's prison monitors interviewed 1,086 adult prisoners in total (346 female and 740 male), including 658 imprisoned minors (46 girls and 658 boys). Prison monitors also gathered information through interviews with detainees' families, interviewing 24 such families throughout the year. To gain further valuable information about life in Cambodia's prisons, monitors also interviewed 83 released prisoners (24 female and 59 male) after they had been released from incarceration.

With information gained from interviews, LICADHO's prison monitors are able to intervene in various ways, including referring detainees to hospital in cases of illnesses or facilitating medical care from LICADHO's doctors or other partners. 842 detainees received such interventions in 2016. 54 detainees were provided with legal advice, usually relating to over-detention – which remains a widespread problem in Cambodia's prisons. In cases of violations to legal rights, LICADHO's interventions in-

clude submitting formal letters of complaint to prison directors and trial judges. As a result of LICADHO's interventions in 2016, violations of the legal rights of at least 33 inmates were successfully addressed, including those of inmates held in over-detention or beyond the legal limit of pre-trial detention. Three inmates finally had their appeals heard by the Court of Appeal as a direct result of LICADHO's interventions.

Interviews also revealed that 71 people had been subject to torture, the majority at the hands of other detainees. In these cases, LICADHO researchers intervened to the relevant prison directors with an oral complaint, and follow-up checks. In the cases where detainees had been



An imprisoned human rights defender meets his daughter at Supreme Court, 30 November 2016

tortured by prison officials, LICADHO submitted a formal complaint to the prison director and relevant trial judge. In some cases, researchers also refer tortured detainees to LICADHO's medical team.

LICADHO's Prison Project works in close cooperation with the Social Work team, providing social services and food to prisoners of limited means who do not have families to visit them. Extra support is provided to human rights defenders and pregnant women and children living in prison, including assisting with family visits and facilitating access to medical and legal services. When Prison researchers receive information about a prisoner in need of medical assistance, particularly if the prisoner is a pregnant woman, a child living in prison or human rights defender, they provide information LICADHO's medical team. The Prison Project also assisted children whose par-

ents were behind bars, either by placing them with partner organisations or by facilitating their visits with parents.

LICADHO works with many partner organisations within Cambodia's prison system in order to gain access to legal and psycho social services for prisoners and released prisoners as well as education, food and materials. LICADHO attends the Prison Partners Consultative Meeting and coordinates in particular with CARITAS, SIPAR, Mlop Tapang, International Committee of the Red Cross, Mith Samlanh, Il Nodo, Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation, This Life Cambodia, Prison Fellowship Cambodia, International Bridge to Justice, and Amade.

The Prison Project helped celebrate two days in particular this year: International Women's Day and International Children's Day. On 8 March LICADHO visited 338 female inmates in several prisons, organizing special activities and providing food and entertainment. On 1 June LICADHO visited 398 children across seven Cambodian prisons, bringing gifts, food, entertainment and engaging in songs and dance for the children's amusement. Speeches were given on both days to mark the importance of the celebrations and the value of both women's and children's rights.

TRIAL MONITORING

In 2016, LICADHO's Prison Project started systematic trial monitoring. Since March 2016, researchers in LICADHO's Phnom Penh and provincial offices have attended and monitored 285 trials, involving 441 defendants, in 15 courts across the country to verify that the legal rights of detainees are respected and that defendants receive a fair trial. Such monitoring allows LICADHO a more comprehensive insight into the experiences of prisoners as they go through the justice system, which was previously covered less extensively through in-prison interviews. Throughout the 283 trials, monitors recorded 14 people who had not been informed of their right to a lawyer, and 18 people who had not even been told what charge they faced. At least 13 people had been over-detained.

The presence of trial monitors can dissuade judges from using threats and means of intimidation against detainees, as they are aware that their actions will not go unnoticed. Consultations with Prison Project researchers can also help prisoners and their relatives receive important information about the legal process, including the steps that they must take to file appeals, lodge complaints or how they can participate in the court proceedings. While LICADHO was denied access to prisons for part of the year, court monitoring also offered an opportunity to work with court officials to find details of cases – previously, researchers would work directly with prison officials for this information.

Tackling Endemic Over-Detention

On 24 March 2016, LICADHO received a complaint from the father of a 16-year-old boy who had been detained on Veng Sreng Street on 28 February and charged with illegal possession of a weapon four days later. His father explained that the police had filed a report incorrectly stating the child was 18 years old, and sent him to CC1 prison – which is supposed to hold solely adult men – on 4 March.

The maximum pre-trial detention limit for a 16-year-old for a misdemeanour such as this is four months. Cambodia is notorious for holding inmates in unlawful over-detention before their cases go to trial, and, as the boy had been wrongfully charged as an adult, he was at even more serious risk of this. LICADHO's researchers took immediate action to prevent this from happening, submitting an intervention letter to the Phnom Penh court on March 30 asking for immediate action on the case under Cambodia's laws relating to the age of criminal responsibility. After multiple follow-ups by LICADHO's researcher, the trial went ahead on August 5 where the boy was sentenced to two years in jail with sixteen months suspended. Ty Rith was released from CC1 prison on 4 November. Although the boy was held in pre-trial detention for one month longer than is legal, this would certainly have been longer had LICADHO not intervened.

LICADHO consistently works to ensure the law is upheld correctly, people are informed of their rights, and that police and legal authorities are better informed of prisoners' rights.

ADVOCATING FOR FOR A BETTER CAMBODIA



Communities gather in support as Tep Vanny is questioned inside the Municipal Court in Phnom Penh, 8 September 2016

As democratic space becomes an increasingly rare commodity, people-driven advocacy becomes even more vital in effecting real change. Campaigns which emerge from the grassroots, complemented by specialised reports targeting policy-makers, manifest in accessible advocacy which can reach hundreds and thousands of people – locally, nationally and internationally – ensuring that the human rights concerns of Cambodia’s people can be shared to a wider stage.

Throughout the past year, LICADHO’s advocacy continued to pressure policy-makers to uphold human rights, and our advocacy team has continued to support grassroots communities and groups to continue their fight for justice in an increasingly repressive environment.

LICADHO’s advocacy programme, informed by our colleagues collecting information on the ground, strives to highlight injustice, change policy, raise awareness and support movements for human rights through targeted advocacy from the grassroots to multilateral institutions. Our country-wide network stretches via our Phnom Penh

offices and 13 provincial offices to reach communities, groups and individuals across Cambodia.

Cambodia’s rising internet penetration has meant that there is an unprecedented opportunity for the country to share information, raise awareness and build movements for change: in the midst of Cambodia’s social media boom, LICADHO’s advocacy is a key source of information for community representatives and members of other grassroots groups as our photos, news items and updates can be shared widely in seconds.



The advocacy team uses a range of methods to promote and propagate human rights, drawn from accurate, on-the-spot information from colleagues on the ground – from the production of written and audio-visual materials to direct contact with those in positions of influence. For example, LICADHO continues to produce policy and issue briefings for international stakeholders including embassies, development partners and governments.

LICADHO also releases periodic issue reports and briefing papers backed up by extensive research from our filed monitors. In 2016, the scope of these reports covered repressive laws, violence against women and child labour and debt bondage in Cambodia's brick factories.

THE REPRESSION BEHIND THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAW

2015 and the first six months of 2016 have seen the enactment of a raft of authoritarian and widely-condemned laws. Civil society, including LICADHO, continued an ongoing campaign against them. Notably, in March, LICADHO published a briefing paper which analysed the Telecommunications Law's most egregious provisions – which, among others, allow the government to secretly intrude into the private lives of individuals, destroy evidence before criminal trials, and seize control of the entire telecoms industry if arbitrarily deemed warranted.

The briefing paper served as a follow-up to LICADHO's 2015 report *Going Offline? The Threat to Cambodia's Newfound Internet Freedoms*, which warned that the then-draft Telecommunications Law would entrench state powers to control the very architecture of the internet as well online expression.

ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In November 2015 LICADHO published a report on the treatment of rape in the Cambodian justice system. In 2016, LICADHO continued its advocacy work on the topic, including with a follow-up report. This report was based on rape cases investigated by LICADHO in 2015 and had similar findings to the first report regarding the numerous flaws in the prosecution of rape cases in Cambodia.

When the report was published, LICADHO organised two call-in shows on WMC radio to discuss the findings of the report and to hear from a rape victim and the father of a child rape victim. In the following days the report was also covered by Radio Free Asia and Radio France International as well many newspapers and news websites. The two radio shows have also been made available as an audio book on the LICADHO website. Whilst there have been few improvements to the treatment of rape in the justice system so far, this kind of advocacy work has increased the level of debate on the topic.

In April 2016, LICADHO submitted an application to

the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, seeking an inquiry into the issues raised in the rape report. Cambodia is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Woman and its optional protocol, which allows individuals to take cases of discrimination to the committee and, in cases where violations of the convention are serious and systematic, to ask the committee to conduct an inquiry. Cambodia ratified the optional protocol in January 2011 and our application is the first to make use of its provisions. The CEDAW process can be long; however, we have heard that the Committee is actively considering our submission with a view to undertaking an inquiry. We will continue to follow up the application and seek further opportunities for advocacy on the issues covered by the report.

SHEDDING LIGHT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CAMBODIA'S BRICK FACTORIES

In December 2016, LICADHO published a report on debt bondage and child labour in Cambodia's brick factories. The report was based on an investigation focusing on the country's main centre of brick production to the north of Phnom Penh. LICADHO interviewed around 50 adult and child workers in different factories and found that the



Children working in a brick factory, 24 March 2015

vast majority of workers were in debt to the factory's owners for amounts of up to \$6,000. The factory owners secure the loans against a promise from the workers that they will work in the factory until the loan is repaid. However, pay in factories is so low that workers struggle to earn enough to subsist let alone pay back their debt and many end up taking more loans from the factory owners. Due to the debt and the system of payment by piece, many of the workers have no choice but to put their children to work.

The report also covered the hazardous working conditions in brick factories and gives examples of severe injuries to brick factory workers, in particular children who have lost arms in brick factory machinery. It found that as a consequence of their total dependence on the factory owners and their fear of reprisals, workers are unwilling

to challenge their conditions or their treatment, and that despite persistent breaches of the criminal and civil law on the part of brick factory owners, the authorities responsible for enforcing the law take no steps to do so.

The report concluded by making recommendations to the Cambodian governments, and foreign governments and investors to take steps to eliminate the practices of debt bondage and child labour from Cambodia's brick factories. It received substantial media coverage in Cambodian media. It was also covered by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. LICADHO is continuing to conduct advocacy on this issue by raising it with international NGOs, unions, embassies and international business representatives.

Spreading the word



As well as producing in-depth briefing papers on critical issues, LICADHO's publications include short Flash News items which highlight notable human rights events, such as trials or protests, particularly those which take place in the provinces and as such may be less covered by traditional media. LICADHO also publishes longer media statements released both singly and jointly with other like-minded civil society groups. All its publications are released in Khmer and English.

LICADHO significantly improved the accessibility and reach of its online advocacy materials in 2016. Over the year, LICADHO's website had 154,491 unique visitors, compared to 94,452 in 2015.

Its online materials are gaining significant traction over social media outlets such as Twitter and Facebook, particularly in Khmer.

The volume of references to LICADHO's written materials, as well as the countless times LICADHO staff are quoted in the national press or invited to speak on national radio, is testament to LICADHO's reputation for accuracy and depth of knowledge, enabling LICADHO to strengthen its position as Cambodia's leading evidence-based advocacy group. This is made possible by close communication between all offices, including our monitors, doctors, lawyers and social workers on the ground, and our advocacy and documentation teams who relay the information to a wider audience.

For example, documentation of newly investigated conflicts by LICADHO's monitors also served our national and international advocacy on land rights. LICADHO also continued its on-going campaign surrounding representative cases, such as the sugar concessions, to advocate for a positive resolution of the conflicts for the victims and seek a broader impact on land policies. LICADHO also took part in the ongoing civil society campaign exposing corruption in the sand dredging sector as well as its impact on affected communities. The campaign has been able to pressure the government into announcing a moratorium

on sand dredging, which by the end of the year appears to be respected in Koh Kong province.

In the past year, LICADHO's advocacy and campaign outputs have been covered in a variety of national and international media outlets, including the Guardian, Al Jazeera, the Independent and Deutsche Welle. Groups such as the International Transport Workers' Federation and IFEX. Media outlets also used LICADHO footage and information, including maps and graphics.

LICADHO helps to ensure that the voices of all Cambodians are heard and responded to by those in power. Its advocacy program creates space in which grassroots groups at the heart of driving forward real change in Cambodia can express themselves with confidence, in the knowledge that the full support of LICADHO stands behind them.

GOING VIRAL

A video taken by monitors at the scene of the violence against Capitol Tours bus drivers in early February was



Still from the video clip showing the attack on Capitol Tours bus drivers, 6 February 2016

cleaned and edited for clarity by LICADHO's video's team. The 50-second clip was shocking and clearly showed a helmeted man wielding a hammer, using it to smash a fallen protester on the back and head. The video was shared on

Facebook in both Khmer and English very soon after the event, and the footage went viral: it was viewed 137,000 times. English-language newspaper the Cambodia Daily embedded the footage in an article about the violence. The International Transport Workers' Federation used the video in a statement joining the International Trade Union Confederation in writing to the Cambodian government to express outrage over the violent attacks, joining a wave of international condemnation. The video helped to fuel a union and grassroots group-led boycott of both Capitol Tours and Cambodia for Confederation Development Association (CCDA), the government-organised union responsible for the violence. The boycott was joined by countless civil society groups and gained significant coverage in national press.

Taking human rights concerns overseas, LICADHO continued to advocate for the rights of Cambodians to foreign governments, development partners, the UN, and EU policy-makers. In March, LICADHO, with international human rights federation FIDH and Cambodian rights group ADHOC, released a statement and timeline ahead of a crucial human rights dialogue between the EU and Cambodia. In August, LICADHO released another joint statement –

ment expressing their deep concern at Cambodia's human rights backsliding, particularly with regards to political process and fundamental freedoms. Addressing the council in Geneva, the UN special rapporteur on human rights in Cambodia also criticized the government for politicizing the courts. Both statements drew the ire of the Cambodian government, which responded with a defensive statement of its own.

ADVOCATING FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS




The past year has seen an unprecedented spike in the number of political prisoners in Cambodia. In response, LICADHO's advocacy team has used all available methods to highlight these cases, often in collaboration with local and international partners. LICADHO also focused efforts on lobbying to embassies, development partners and multilateral institutions to share information and raise awareness on political prisoners.

Shortly after four colleagues from fellow human rights NGO ADHOC and one election official were jailed in May, LICADHO launched a new webpage – 'Cambodia's Political Prisoners' – highlighting the alarming uptick in the number of political prisoners incarcerated inside Cambodia's

CAMBODIA'S POLITICAL PRISONERS

Political prisoner count: 27
(Click on individual photos for details of charges)

[Share on Facebook](#) [Tweet It](#)

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  <p>Tep Vanny, 35 Boeung Kak land activist Sentenced to 2.5 years in prison Detained for 196 days (since Aug. 15, 2016) See details...</p> |  <p>Lim Mony, 60 ADHOC senior investigator, women and children's rights section Detained for 305 days (since Apr. 28, 2016) See details...</p> |  <p>Nay Vanda, 42 ADHOC deputy head of human rights section Detained for 305 days (since Apr. 28, 2016) See details...</p> |  <p>Ny Chariya, 54 National Election Committee deputy secretary-general Detained for 305 days (since Apr. 28, 2016) See details...</p> |
|---|--|---|--|

LICADHO's Political Prisoners webpage, at the end of 2016

this time to the UN's Human Rights Council ahead of its 33rd session – on Cambodia's deteriorating human rights situation. There were tangible results: the EU delegation released a statement that was significantly stronger than its previous ones, calling for 'a halt to the judicial harassment of the acting leader of the opposition and representatives of civil society organisations'. At the UN Human Rights Council in September, 39 states endorsed a state-

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jails. It swiftly drew the ire of the government who threatened LICADHO with closure, arguing that it appeared to violate provisions in LANGO that require political neutrality.

LICADHO was also involved in drafting a joint submission to the UN's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on the five human rights defenders detained in April. The submission to the WAGD resulted in a ruling by the group in December that the detentions of the five is indeed arbi-

trary, in part owing to discrimination against them based on their status as human rights defenders.

One week after the five were jailed, supporters from grassroots groups, unions, NGOs and other civil society launched the Black Monday campaign, which LICADHO has supported throughout. This, too, was met with severe censure from the government. The first Black Monday gathering, outside CC2 prison, resulted in eight detentions, including of three LICADHO staff. Since then, gatherings have resulted in 36 detentions and two convictions. Despite these threats and intimidation, civil society – grassroots groups in particular – has continued to steadfastly call for the release of the five political prisoners, and mourn the death of human rights.

TAKING THE CAMPAIGNS OVERSEAS

LICADHO's numerous trips overseas in 2016 allowed the organisation and its staff not only to raise awareness abroad and to forge new connections, but also to learn new strategies and tips to use in its work back in-country.

In April, four Cambodians including LICADHO's Director participated, networked and received security and digital trainings during the annual Civil Rights Defenders conference, a gathering of over 160 human rights defenders from 35 countries in Stockholm, Sweden. A further two days were spent in the capital raising human rights issues and challenges – including attacks against HRDs, restrictions on fundamental freedoms, labour abuses, land grabbing and harmful legislation– with Cambodians living in Sweden, media and NGOs and the former human rights Ambassador to Cambodia.

Back in Scandinavia, LICADHO's Director participated in the annual Oslo Freedom Forum – a gathering of over 230 human rights defenders, heads of state, journalists, policymakers, authors, artists and students in Oslo, Norway – in May. Following the conference, two days of meetings were held with the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of assembly and association, representatives from four technology companies, representatives from Norwegian People's Aid, Sanitet, Clean Clothes Campaign, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amnesty Norway, and the Norwegian Human Rights Foundation to discuss Cambodia's woeful human rights situation.

LICADHO's Director then spent four days in June in Stockholm, Sweden to continue advocating on key human rights issues, including Cambodian political prisoners, with heads of Diakonia, Civil Rights Defenders, Forum Syd, and a former UN Special Rapporteur on Cambodia. Further advocacy meetings also covered labour and union issues in Cambodia – notably, such meetings included representatives from brands such as H&M, as well as labour initiatives including Clean Clothes Campaign and Ethical Trade Initiative.

Back in Europe in November, LICADHO's Deputy Director of Advocacy travelled to Brussels, Belgium; Berlin, Germany; Copenhagen, Denmark and Malmo and Stockholm in Sweden as well as follow-up on advo-

Cambodians were trained on how to respond to interrogations - a skill which looks set to become ever more necessary in the current repressive climate

cacy meetings earlier in the year and share information and lobby on the human rights and political situations. Shortly after, LICADHO's Deputy Director joined 15 civil society representatives from South and North America, Asia, Europe and Australia to provide input and case examples on the impact of civil society for the final report by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Maina Kiai.

LICADHO took a more hands-on trip in June, when seven Cambodians, including two senior LICADHO staff and LICADHO's Director, travelled to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to learn from Malaysian civil society and key actors on strategies and methods used to build social movements and increase public engagement in human rights issues. The week-long exchange learning trip included meetings with lawyers, environmental activists, journalists, anti-corruption NGO staff, organisers of Coalition for Free and Fair Elections (Bersih) gatherings and members of the opposition parties. During the trip, the group of Cambodians were trained on how to respond to interrogations - a skill which looks set to become ever more necessary in the current repressive climate. Later in 2016, eight Cambodians including seven senior LICADHO staff returned to Malaysia from November 14-21 to follow up with Malaysian activists, networks and organisations in planning, implementation and follow up of Bersih rally in Kuala Lumpur.

Two LICADHO staff travelled to Sri Lanka in November for a conference focused on Asian human rights defenders organised by regional membership group FORUM-Asia. The conference allowed LICADHO to learn from and share tactics with Sri Lankan human rights defenders as well as others tackling similar land rights issues, repressive laws and lack of access to justice throughout the region, as well as build on and strengthen its regional network of human rights groups. LICADHO's Monitoring Manager, who had recently been subject to an unprovoked attack by security guards, was also able to privately meet and discuss his case first-hand with Michel Forst, the UN Special Rapporteur for human rights defenders.



One of LICADHO's most crucial roles in helping to effect real change in Cambodia is through supporting grassroots initiatives, at the local and national level, for communities and groups to claim their own rights. Such support takes many forms – from supporting grassroots protests, to training community members in safe and effective smartphone communication, to building and sustaining awareness and interest in local cases and issues.

In Cambodia's increasingly repressive environment, it is vital that civil society maintains its strength and courage to speak out against attacks on human rights and democracy. The services LICADHO provides – such as protection and legal aid to threatened human rights defenders and activists, medical support to victims of human rights abuses, and amplifying grassroots advocacy – to support such activism is ever more crucial.



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The Cambodian government recently adopted the Law on Telecommunications, which allows authorities to monitor communications between people deemed a 'threat'. This could cover land activists, human rights workers, unionists and other people speaking up on behalf of others. To help avoid such risks, LICADHO's advocacy has helped train grassroots activists in various provinces in secure and effective communication. This has enabled activists to share information about human rights abuses in their communities safely, easily and widely.

Encouragingly, one noticeable trend in 2016 was that grassroots groups increasingly initiated their own creative advocacy efforts, drafted their own petitions – and identified correct targets for such petitions – and organised their own communities, often without significant financial support from LICADHO. This ensures that communities have full ownership over their own advocacy, and that campaigns are sustainable.

One reason for this is that community networks, supported by LICADHO, allow for communities to cooperate with each other and share advocacy experience and knowledge. For example, Boeung Kak Lake community, whose campaign to save their land has stretched back years, regularly shares their experience and organises joint advocacy efforts with other land communities, such as Lor Peang and Chikor Leu communities battling land disputes relating to sugar plantations in Kampong Speu.

SUPPORTING PEACEFUL PROTESTS

On 11 January, land activists from Poipet's railway community in Banteay Meanchey, continued a series of protests against a railway project which has affected almost 1,000 families in Poipet and Phasar Kandal commune. One of the activists, Chheng Bunhak, was arrested and charged with incitement following a similar such protest on 14 December.

On 8 March, International Women's Day, LICADHO planned a bicycle rally in Phnom Penh, starting at the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) and ending nine kilometres away at the National Assembly, to celebrate the day and to draw attention to violations of women's rights in Cambodia, including the issue of impunity for violence against women. As about 200 people – including participants from land communities, youth groups and NGOs – gathered at MoWA for the rally, the group was joined by gatherings of women garment workers from local garment factories. The rally was curtailed by authorities under the ludicrous pretext of it 'blocking traffic'. Participants subsequently delivered roses to the authorities blocking the bicycle ride from going ahead.



International Women's Day celebrations in Phnom Penh, 8 March 2016

On March 25, about 300 people from Koh Kong province marched to submit petitions to their district governors protesting land grabbing by sugar producers. The communities delivered the petitions to the district governors demanding their support in an ongoing land conflict with Thai company KSL, majority owner of Koh Kong Plantation Co and Koh Kong Sugar Co. The conflict with KSL relates to the land grabbing of over 900 hectares of land and the loss of livelihoods for local families after the company, at the time co-owned by CPP Senator Ly Yong Phat, were granted adjacent land concessions for the two

subsidiary companies totalling almost 20,000 hectares. The communities have been actively protesting the land grabs by the sugar company since the dispute began in 2006.

- On 1 May, International Labour Day, over 1,400 work-ers mobilized around Phnom Penh to celebrate. More than 600 people from unions, associations and other groups gathered at the Olympic Stadium to call for better respect of workers' rights and freedom of association. At the National Assembly, another 800 people also gathered to celebrate. Some participants also protested the ongoing detention of five human rights defenders, at that time de-tained in the office of Cambodia's Anti-Corruption Unit.

- On 3 August, over 200 people from 18 communi-ties engaged in land disputes in Sihanoukville province assembled outside the Sihanoukville governor's office. The group requested a meeting with Prime Minister Hun Sen, who at the time was on a weeks-long trip visiting various provinces around the country, in the hopes that he might intervene and bring an end to their land conflict. 17 community representatives met with deputy governor Chhit Seng Nhuon, although were unable to meet with the Prime Minister.

- On 14 September, representatives from Boeung Kak Lake delivered petitions to the World Bank and the embassy of the Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia – calling for intervention to secure a resolution for the community's remaining land conflict, the release of detained activist Tep Vanny and the dropping of charges against all members of the Boeung Kak Lake community. They were met by a group of about 30 para-police, who pushed them away from the World Bank building. Despite this, the community representatives were able to deliver the petitions and both institutions pledged to follow-up on the concerns therein.

- For International Human Rights Day, hundreds of communities, grassroots groups, unions and youth networks came together to celebrate the day and call to action. In 35 events organised by Friends of December 10 across 17 provinces and Phnom Penh, 11,000 people celebrated human rights and spoke out against injustice. LICADHO is a member of Friends of December 10 and was heavily involved throughout the planning process, contributing administrative resources and providing meeting rooms. LICADHO also sent monitors and medical to the events. LICADHO's advocacy, including a joint statement, photos and short news items ensured that information could be distributed quickly and accurately.



A woman and her baby from Koh Kong provinces join a protest in Phnom Penh against land grabbing, 21 December 2016



Kem Ley's funeral procession in Phnom Penh, 24 July 2016

MONITORING KEM LEY'S FUNERAL PROCESSION

One of the most significant political events of the year was the assassination, in broad daylight, of political analyst Kem Ley. His murder on 10 July shocked the nation – and at the same time, brought a groundswell of reaction.

He was shot dead in a petrol station café in central Phnom Penh. Within minutes, a growing number of people gathered outside the petrol station where his body remained before thousands began a procession marching across the city to bring him to Wat Chas pagoda, on across the city, in the afternoon. By the time they reached the pagoda, about seven kilometres away, the march had swelled to around 5,000 people, including monks and local communities.

Prior to his death, Kem Ley was in the middle of his “100 Nights” campaign, in which he travelled across the country, staying with Khmer families in rural areas and documenting the multitude of issues faced by Cambodians. Before he was killed, Kem Ley had just completed the nineteenth visit of his campaign. The murder also came just days after Kem Ley spoke on a radio talk show on popular broadcaster Radio Free Asia about a recent report from London-based international organisation Global Witness.

The day before his funeral, on 24 July, Phnom Penh City Hall published a letter stating that because of the risk that mourners could incite unrest amongst the wider public and because of the possibility that extremist groups may infiltrate the procession, they planned to deploy 1,450 police and 250 military police to ensure public safety. The day itself was heavily policed.

LICADHO monitors maintained a presence the entire 90km-long procession, documenting and interviewing its participants, and watching for any violence. There was none: despite the heavy police presence both on the day and in the run-up to the funeral, with tanks rolled into the streets of Phnom Penh, participants numbered in the hundreds of thousands, lining the road and marching alongside Kem Ley's body as it was brought to his final resting place.

LICADHO's advocacy team livestreamed the event, using photos and videos sent from both LICADHO monitors and participants in the march. The livestream proved a popular and effective way of communicating the event with over 6,300 unique visitors. It was published simultaneously in English and Khmer, and not only disseminated on-the-spot information but provided context in terms of Kem Ley's life, death and the wider implication on Cambodia's politics.

APPENDICES AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

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LICADHO ADMINISTRATION

LICADHO STAFF

At the end of December 2016, LICADHO employed 111 staff (43 women and 68 men) including two interns, six disabled staff (four women and two men), and six foreign consultants (four women and two men). LICADHO also recruited four new members of staff (two women and two men). A further 13 staff members either transferred to another office, or were promoted.

During the year, 26 staff members resigned. Reasons for their resignation varied from new employment, to family commitments, to new study.

COMMUNICATION

Over 2016, LICADHO received 3,220 clients (1,740 women and 1,480 men), and 1,344 visitors (585 women and 759 men). LICADHO dispatched 998 letters to various institutions, including letters of interventions and invitations to events. In return, the organisation received 1,251 letters from partner NGOs, government institutions and other stakeholders to its various offices.

INTERNAL MEETINGS

- The Management team met at least once per month to discuss/solve the internal issues and challenges such as taxation, staff reflection and self-care, annual events such as International Human Rights Day, internal policies and staffing changes. In a tumultuous year, LICADHO's Management Team also met several times to discuss the precarious political situation and its bigly impact on the organisation.
- Provincial coordinators met in Phnom Penh for 1-2 days for a total of eight times over the year to discuss key issues, submit reports and obtain funds.
- All Phnom Penh staff participated in meetings to discuss sensitive issues such as the funding situation, arrest of human rights defender colleagues from ADHOC and the NEC, and ongoing campaigns.
- All staff participated in the annual retreat in Kep from June 13-15 to build relationships and for the announcement of Mr. Thav Kimsan as LICADHO's new Director.

EVENT ORGANISING

In 2016, the Administration and Human Resource Office co-organised the following events in cooperation with other project offices, including distributing campaign materials, food and care packages:

- International Children Rights Day
- International Women Rights Day
- International Labour day
- Campaigns to release human rights defenders, including Black Monday
- World Habitat Day
- International Human Rights Day
- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
- World Day Against Child Labour

LICADHO'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| Name | Position | Contact |
|--------------------|-------------|--|
| An Nan | Board Chair | orn_nan@yahoo.com, Tel: 012 994 812 |
| Manfred Hornung | Member | Manfred.Hornung@th.boell.org, Tel: +66 (0) 83 755 5400 |
| John Lowrie | Member | lowriejohn@gmail.com, Tel: 012 931 301 |
| Dr. Pung Chhiv Kek | Member | president@licadho-cambodia.org, Tel: 012 802 506 |

LICADHO

PROMOTING CLIENT EMPOWERMENT & WELL-BEING



LICADHO treats all clients with respect and dignity. LICADHO encourages them to believe in their abilities and stand up for their rights.



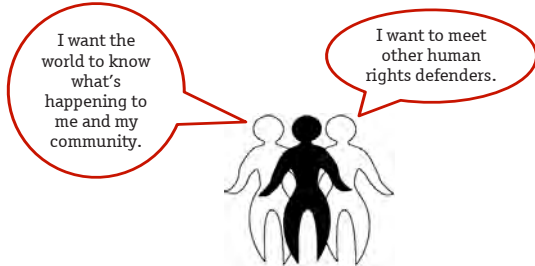
LICADHO provides legal services, informs people about their rights, and prepares them for court hearings. LICADHO visits human rights defenders in prison and provides them with care packages and support for their families.



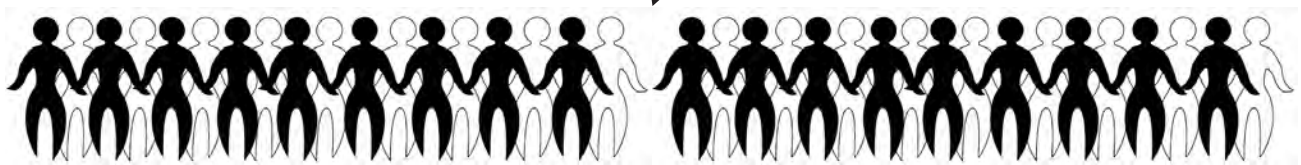
LICADHO provides on-site emergency medical services and ongoing care. LICADHO provides social work services to affected families and supports them with household expenses and their children's education.



LICADHO provides meeting spaces and supports the production of materials and audiovisual resources for joint campaign work.

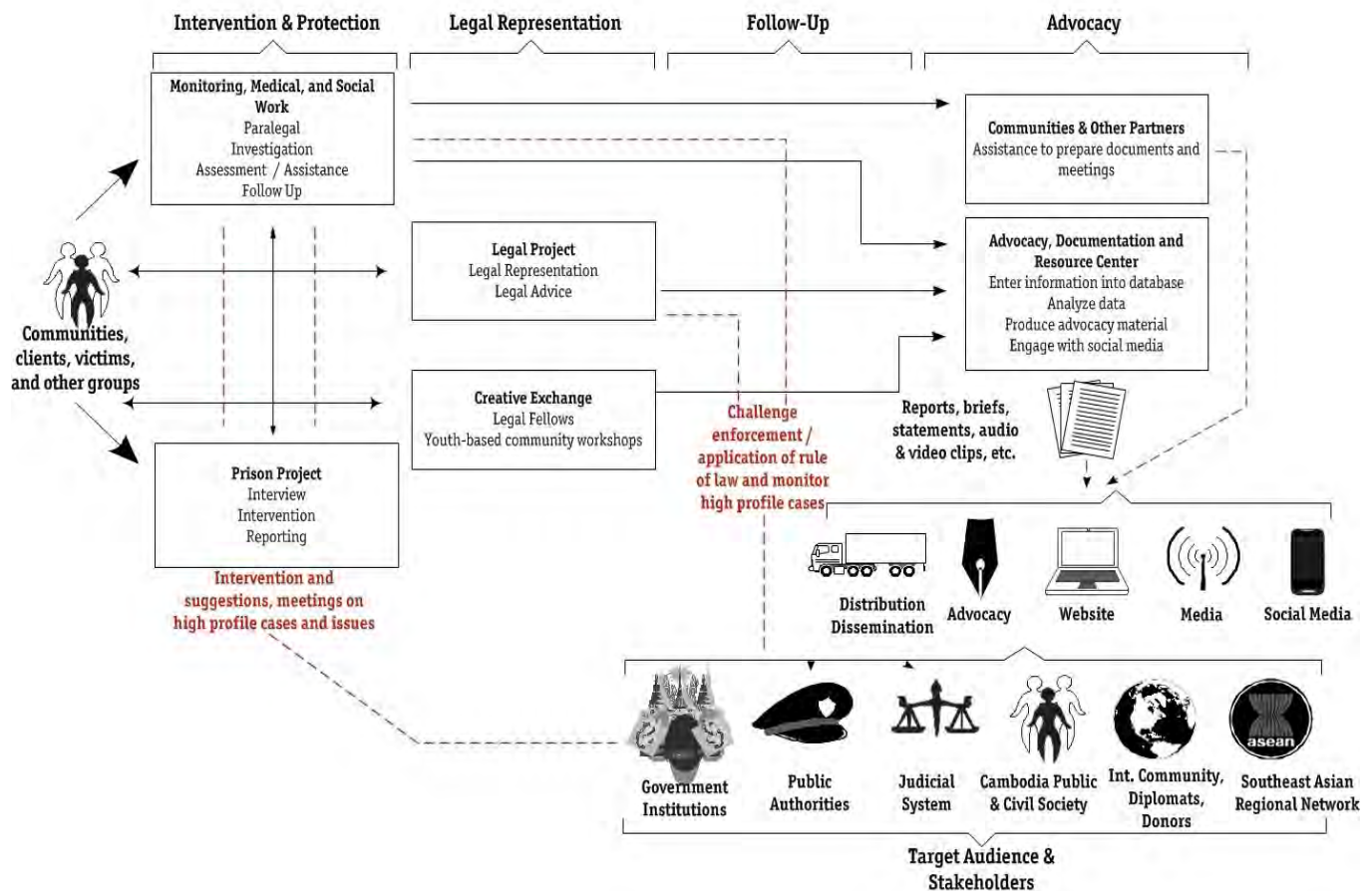


LICADHO provides networking opportunities for community activists and facilitates meetings with the media, UN and international actors. LICADHO accompanies human rights defenders abroad to meet international civil society and lobby governments.



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

LICADHO PROGRAM FLOWCHART



LICADHO'S VISION

For all people in Cambodia to live in a peaceful society that values and protects human rights, democracy and social justice.

APPENDIX 1: PUBLICATIONS

JANUARY 2016

Audio Book: Unite against Impunity for Rape in Cambodia Radio Show,

January 11, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/media/index.php?id=27&c=1>

Document: Joint Letter to US Secretary of State John F. Kerry

January 25, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=212>

FEBRUARY 2016

Video: Protesting Bus Drivers Beaten by Armed Thugs in Cambodia

February 6, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/video.php?perm=63>

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Civil Society Strongly Condemns Violence Against Demonstrating Bus Drivers

February 6, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=398>

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): CSOs Declare Support for Mother Nature and Condemn Crackdown Against the Organization

February 15, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=399>

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Boycott of Capitol Tours Following Brutal Suppression of Trade Union Activity Grows as 50 Civil Society Groups Declare Support

February 23

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=400>

MARCH 2016

Audio Book: Getting Away With It: The Treatment of Rape in Cambodia's Justice System

March 7, 2016

http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/collection/34/getting_away_with_rape_2016

Video: LICADHO's Medical Team Pays Tribute to Valued Partner

March 28, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/video.php?perm=64>

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): New Law on Telecommunications: A Legislative Attack on Individuals' Rights and Freedoms

March 31, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=401>

Briefing Paper: Cambodia's Law on Telecommunications: A Legal Analysis

March 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=214>

Briefing Paper: Getting Away With It: The Treatment of Rape in Cambodia's Justice System

March 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=213>

APRIL 2016

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Cambodia: EU must demand an end to persecution of opposition during human rights dialogue

April 29, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=403>

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): CSOs call upon authorities to immediately cease harassment of human rights defenders

April 29, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=402>

Briefing: Timeline of harassment of opposition MPs, members, and supporters

April, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=215>

MAY 2016

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Civil Society Condemns Charging of Human Rights Defenders

MAY 2, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=404>

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Civil Society Condemns Escalating Intimidation of Human Rights Defenders

May 10, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=405>

JUNE 2016

Article: Prey Speu Detention Center Should be Shut for Good

June 8, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/articles/20160608/147/index.html>

JULY 2016

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Cambodian Civil Society Condemns Outrageous Murder of Political Analyst Kem Ley

July 11, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=406>

Live Stream: Dr. Kem Ley's Funeral Procession

July 24, 2016

http://stream.licadho-cambodia.org/kem_ley_funeral_procession/

AUGUST 2016

Document: Open Letter: Call on the Human Rights Council to Adopt a Resolution Addressing Cambodia's Gravely Deteriorating Human Rights Situation

August 18, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=216>

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Legal Proceedings Against Equitable Cambodia Staff Members

August 22, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=408>

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Civil Society Calls for Immediate Release of Boeung Kak Lake Activists

August 18, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=407>

SEPTEMBER 2016

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Open Letter: Civil Society Condemns Conviction of Human Rights Defender Ny Chakrya

September 22, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=409>

OCTOBER 2016

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): World Habitat Day Marred by Brutal Beatings of Human Rights Defenders

October 10, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=410>

Document: Joint Open Letter: Seeking Clarification Regarding Sand Exports

October 31, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=219>

Photo Album: Dr. Kem Ley's 100 Day Funeral Procession

October 17, 2016

http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view_photo.php?cat=71

NOVEMBER 2016

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Civil Society Deeply Concerned by Actions Taken to Disrupt, Prevent and Halt Voter Registration Campaigns During Water Festival

November 25, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=412>

Briefing: Getting Away With It – 2016 Update

November 28, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=220>

DECEMBER 2016

Photo Album: Built on Slavery: Debt Bondage and Child Labour in Cambodia's Brick Factories

December 2, 2016

http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view_photo.php?cat=72

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Built on Slavery: Debt Bondage and Child Labour in Cambodia's Brick Factories

December 2, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=411>

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Thousands Celebrating International Human Rights Day across Cambodia

December 6, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=413>

Photo Album: Justice 2016: Celebrating International Human Rights Day Across Cambodia

December 13, 2016

http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/album/view_photo.php?cat=73

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): Civil Society Condemns Upholding of Conviction of Human Rights Defender Ny Chakrya

December 15, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=414>

Media Statement (and Audio Clip in Khmer): In Landmark Decision, UN Body Declares the Detention of Five Human Rights Defenders Arbitrary

December 18, 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=415>

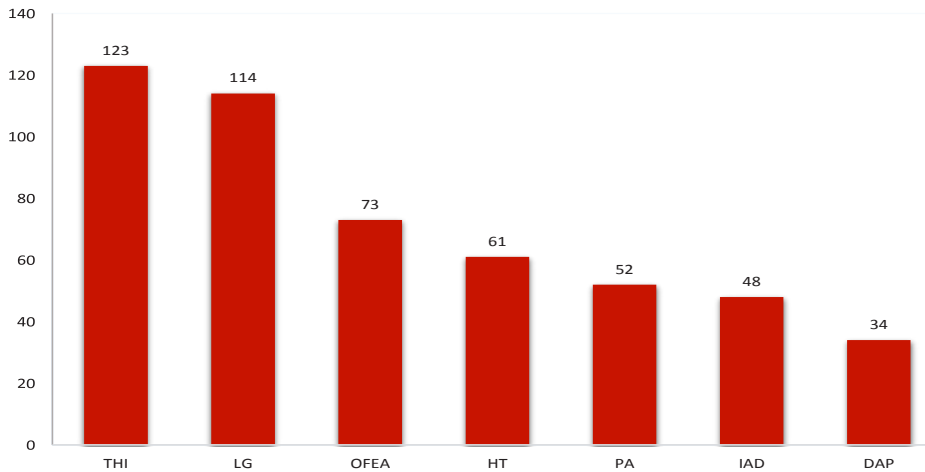
Report: Built on Slavery: Debt Bondage and Child Labour in Cambodia's Brick Factories

December 2016

<http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports.php?perm=221>

APPENDIX 2: MONITORING PROJECT STATISTICS

Most common violation investigated by the Human Rights Monitoring Project (January to December 2016)



THI: Threats, Harassment, and Intimidation

LG: Land Grabbing

OFEA: Obstruction to Freedom of Expression / Assembly

HT: Human Trafficking

PA: Physical Assault

IAD: Illegal Arrest, Detention

DAP: Destruction / Illegal Appropriation Of Property

Land grabbing (LG) and forced eviction (FE) cases newly investigated by LICADHO from January to December 2016

(including all cases featuring state-involvement and affecting multiple families)

| | LG & FE Cases | Families Affected | Families Evicted | Cases Involving Land Concession | Cases Involving Military |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| B. MEANCHEY | 10 | 151 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| BATTAMBANG | 2 | 135 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| K. CHAM | 1 | 172 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| K. CHHNANG | 7 | 1,211 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| K. SPEU | 6 | 172 | 64 | 4 | 3 |
| K. THOM | 9 | 604 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| KAMPOT | 7 | 970 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| KOH KONG | 2 | 360 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| PHNOM PENH | 2 | 1,343 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PURSAT | 3 | 97 | 73 | 1 | 1 |
| RATANAKIRI | 7 | 3,098 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| SIEM REAP | 5 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SIHANOUKVILLE | 4 | 100 | 31 | 0 | 1 |
| SVAY RIENG | 2 | 156 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| KANDAL | 1 | 71 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TAKEO | 2 | 202 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TBONG KHMUM | 3 | 735 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 73 | 9,610 | 171 | 12 | 15 |

Challenges & Lessons Learned

In a year of heightened political tensions, LICADHO's field monitors faced increasing threats to their safety and security whilst doing their work. In the most extreme example, LICADHO's Monitoring Manager was subject to violence by para-police while monitoring a peaceful protest.

Interventions can take a long time to come to fruition. As well as general bureaucratic sluggishness, local officials are often unable to take decisions without authority of higher-placed party officials.

Sometime, clients are given money by perpetrators to not only withdraw their complaints. In extreme cases, clients can be co-opted by perpetrators to act against the interests of their communities. In other cases, victims and witnesses are reluctant to pursue justice out of fear.

Owing to a heavy workload, there was often not sufficient time for experienced monitors to train new provincial monitors in investigating and analyzing cases, documentation and follow-up. To mitigate this, Phnom Penh monitors held regular meetings to discuss work and activity plans to share with provincial monitors. Experienced monitors and provincial coordinators held a monthly meeting about key human rights and administrative issues, including staff security, and Phnom Penh staff continued to review cases sent by provincial monitors for feedback.

There remains serious challenges in terms of staff resources.

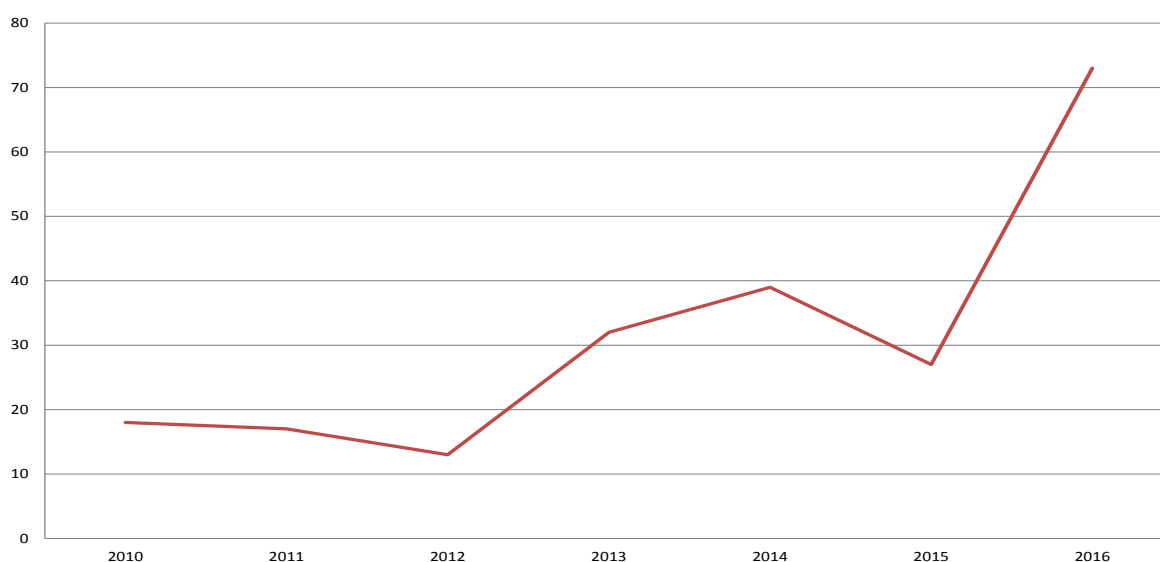
Status of human rights monitoring cases investigated from January to December 2016

| Case type | Total cases | Cases pending | | | | Cases resolved | |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| | | Sent to court | Charged by prosecutor | Authorities | Land commission | Resolved | Unresolved |
| Killing | 11 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Attempted killing | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mob killing | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Attempted mob killing | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Death threat | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Torture | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Physical assault | 47 | 9 | 11 | 21 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Threats or intimidation | 31 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 8 | 5 |
| Illegal arrest/detention | 18 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Trafficking - labour | 41 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 21 | 0 |
| Trafficking - sexual | 20 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| OFEA* | 61 | 2 | 2 | 24 | 0 | 18 | 15 |
| DAP** | 7 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Land grabbing | 101 | 11 | 2 | 47 | 36 | 5 | |
| Forced eviction | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Failure to prosecute etc | 6 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Special case | 15 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| Signboard interference | 7 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Irregular Voter Registration | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Vote Buying | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 386 | 43 | 27 | 97 | 36 | 79 | 28 |

*OFEA Obstruction to freedom of expression/assembly

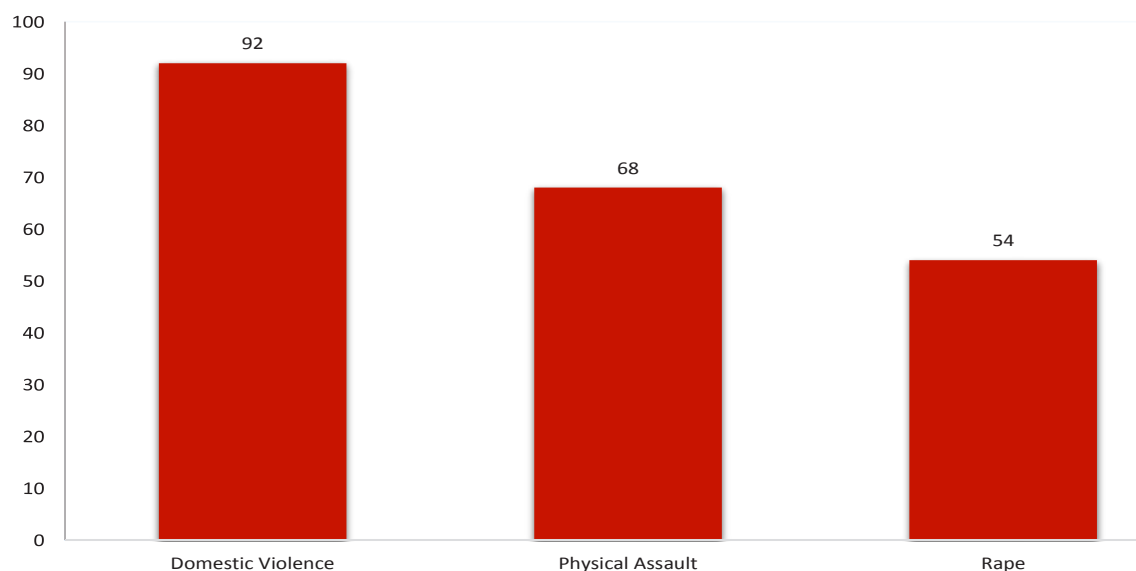
**DAP Destruction/illegal appropriation of property

Cases involving obstruction to freedom of expression/assembly investigated by LICADHO 2010-2016



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

Most common violations investigated by the Women's Rights Monitoring Project from January to December 2016



Women's rights cases opened from January to December 2016 pending with authorities

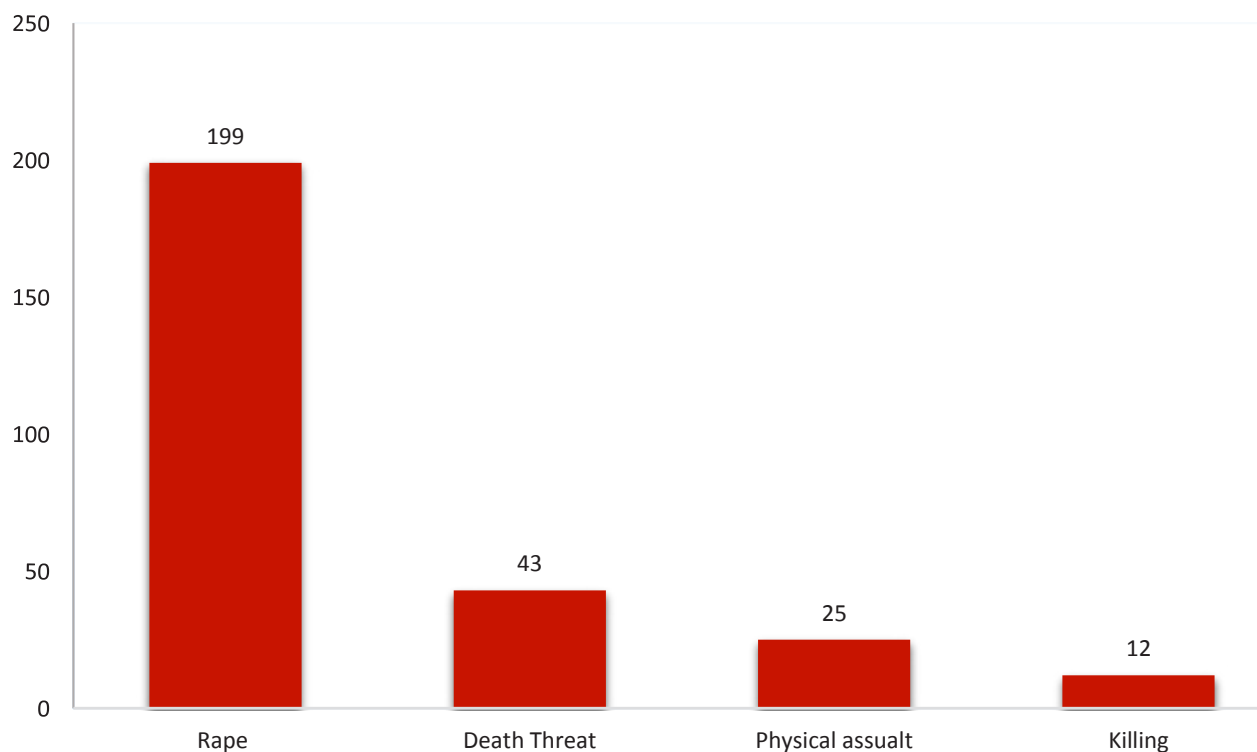
| Type | Police | In Court Process | | | | Total |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| | | Suspect escaped | Suspect arrested | Under investigation | Suspect released on bail | |
| Domestic violence | 5 | 5 | 33 | 31 | 1 | 75 |
| Rape | 5 | 1 | 30 | 6 | 1 | 43 |
| Indecent assault | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Acid attack | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Trafficking - sexual | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 10 | 7 | 67 | 37 | 2 | 123 |

Challenges & Lessons Learned

The Cambodian justice system is complex and beset by corruption. By themselves, victims of violence find it very difficult to navigate and frequently come under pressure to drop criminal complaints and accept financial compensation. For this reason it is very important for victims to have good legal representation. LICADHO has a small legal team that covers all human rights and women's and children's rights cases, therefore it is only able to provide legal representation in a very small number of women's and children's rights cases each year.

Because donor funding for legal aid is scarce, very few partner organisations are able to provide lawyers. This means that the vast majority of our clients will be without legal representation in the future making it much less likely that they will continue with their cases until trial.

Most common violations investigated by the Children's Rights Monitoring Project from January to December 2016



Children's rights cases opened from January to December 2016 pending with authorities

| Case | Police | Suspect escaped | In court process | | No action | Total |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------|------------|
| | | | Suspect arrested | Suspect released on bail | | |
| Rape/ Attempted Rape | 3 | 28 | 145 | 5 | 10 | 191 |
| Indecent Assault | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Killing | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Attempted Killing | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Sex Trafficking | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Trafficking by Labor | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Trafficking by Adoption | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Physical Assault | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Child Domestic Violence | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Child Domestic Work | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Case | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Total | 11 | 31 | 155 | 5 | 13 | 215 |

APPENDIX 4: LEGAL AND PRISON STATISTICS

New cases opened by Legal Project (January to December 2016)

| New case type | No. of cases | Male clients | Female clients | Total clients | No. of new cases closed |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Land grabbing | 14 | 39 | 16 | 55 | 1 |
| Human rights defender | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Special case | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Rape | 5 | 0 | 6 (including 5 minors) | 6 | 2 |
| Total | 23 | 39 | 27 | 66 | 4 |

Challenges & Lessons Learned

This year, lawyers have faced increasing challenges due to a 50% reduction in capacity as two long-serving LICADHO lawyers left the organisation. This has required a shift in focus to ensure high-quality in a smaller number of cases managed by two LICADHO lawyers.

Additionally, provincial work has again been inhibited by access limited access to LICADHO transport. LICADHO lawyers lose vital working hours if travelling to the provinces on public transport as client confidentiality and risk for both the lawyer and the client prevents them from openly continuing casework around third parties. In LICADHO cars, lawyers are able to freely contact clients and work for the duration of their journey, something that is vital now that capacity has been reduced. The limitations of public transport also mean it is often expensive and difficult to reach clients in remote locations; this is a common issue in land grabbing cases in the provinces.

External challenges include an increased politicization of the Cambodian justice system as the authorities seek to clamp down on all dissent in the build-up to the 2017 commune election and 2018 national election. This has manifested in increasing politically-motivated prosecution of human rights defenders, rule of law violations and procedurally-flawed trials and increasing confrontation with the judiciary.

LICADHO has made efforts to recruit new lawyers to increase the capacity of the legal team. Additionally, LICADHO has successfully gained Bar-accreditation for a paralegal to perform vital court and client work, increasing the capacity of lawyers to focus on upcoming trials. This accreditation is innovative for the Cambodian legal system and this highly-successful trial demonstrates non-lawyer personnel can contribute vital legal expertise to casework.

Regarding transport, this remains a consistent issue, however, the legal team has made efforts to coordinate with other teams within LICADHO, including the Social Work and Monitoring teams in order to effectively pool resources.

LICADHO will maintain efforts to recruit a lawyer to increase the capacity of the legal team, particularly in trial work, and to also renew the accreditation of the paralegal. Considering the increasing likelihood of protests and crackdowns associated with the upcoming elections, LICADHO lawyers have also introduced “lawyer human rights monitor” jackets – identifying LICADHO lawyers as on-site focal points for legal expertise on the defence of free expression, association and peaceful assembly. LICADHO lawyers will continue to collaborate with lawyers from partner organisations to minimize the risk to individual lawyers and reduce confrontation with judicial officials such as prosecutors, investigating judges and trial judges.

LICADHO lawyers will continue to collaborate internally to maximize access to safe and confidential transport to provincial locations.

List of high-profile legal clients of LICADHO (January - December 2016)

| Name of High Profile Prisoner | Category | Affiliated group | Number of Trials Monitored |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------|---|
| Tep Vanny | HRD/ Land activist | Boeung KakLake | Provided legal support in all four current political cases against Tep Vanny since 2011 |
| An Batham | Opposition youth group member | CNRP | Provided legal support since arrest in 2014; including court of first instance and ongoing appeal |
| Khin Chamroeun | Chief of opposition youth | CNRP | Provided legal support since arrest in 2014; including court of first instance and ongoing appeal |
| Neang Sokhon | Opposition district youth group leader | CNRP | Provided legal support since arrest in 2014; including court of first instance and ongoing appeal |
| San Kimheng | Opposition district youth group leader | CNRP | Provided legal support since arrest in 2014; including court of first instance and ongoing appeal |
| Ke Khim | Opposition supporter | CNRP | Provided legal support since arrest in 2014; including court of first instance and ongoing appeal |
| Sum Puthy | Opposition district council member | CNRP | Provided legal support since arrest in 2014; including court of first instance and ongoing appeal |
| Ouk Pich Samnang | Opposition supporter | CNRP | Case 1: Client was newly represented from appeal stage Case 2: Legal representation from outset of case in 2013. |
| San Mala | HRD/Environmental activist | Mother Nature | Ongoing legal representation from arrest in August 2015; court of first instance and appeal |
| Try Sovikea | HRD/Environmental activist | Mother Nature | Ongoing legal representation from arrest in August 2015; court of first instance and appeal |
| Sim Somnang | HRD/Environmental activist | Mother Nature | Ongoing legal representation from arrest in August 2015; court of first instance and appeal |

Challenges & Lessons Learned

After LICADHO's access to the prisons was reinstated, there were increasing restrictions placed on prison researchers. For example, prison researchers were no longer allowed to interview prisoners by themselves. Prison guards were always present during interviews so that there were issues with obtaining accurate information relating to sensitive subjects such as torture and other human rights violations.

It was extremely difficult to accurately monitor prisoners' rights and prison conditions and to obtain any information about prisoners. In Phnom Penh, there were difficulties in obtaining information about new prisoners and released prisoners. Even when families of prisoners directly contacted prison researchers to inform them that a family member was in prison, prison officials would not confirm this information. It also became difficult to interview released prisoners because prison officials refused to release information to prison researchers. This also made it difficult to assist released prisoners with access to psycho-social services, food and materials.

There is no car to go to the prison. Monitors and medical team get priority. It's more difficult to get access to the car and difficult to transport materials for the prisoners on a motorbike. For example, when a woman delivers a baby in hospital or when we need to transport materials to other prisoners. There is also not enough staff. The Prison Researchers cannot physically go to the prisons and courts more; however, there is a need to follow-up on cases.

If LICADHO is denied access to the prisons again, prison researchers will conduct the same activities as they did in the first half of 2016.

APPENDIX 5: SOCIAL WORK & MEDICAL PROJECT STATISTICS

Social work assistance by case type (Jan.-Dec. 2016)

| Case type | Number of clients (individuals) |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Rape (victims and family members) | 122 |
| Domestic violence | 122 |
| Victims of human trafficking | 103 |
| Illegal arrest | 51 |
| Land grabbing & forced eviction | 4,515 |
| Forced eviction | 215 |
| Prisoners | 101 |
| Vulnerable children and family members | 362 |
| Others | 67 |
| Total | 5,658 |

Food and material assistance to communities affected by land grabbing from January to December 2016

| No. | Community/Location | Province | Number of Families |
|-----|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Boeung Kak | Phnom Penh | 10 |
| 2 | Borei Keila | Phnom Penh | 10 |
| 3 | Chlong | Kratie | 26 |
| 4 | Rotanakmodol | Battambang | 20 |
| 5 | Bovel | Battambang | 65 |
| 6 | Sampaoloun | Battambang | 35 |
| 7 | Orchrouv | Bateay Meanchey | 51 |
| 8 | Malay | Bateay Meanchey | 56 |
| 9 | Romroul | Svay Rieng | 34 |
| 10 | Samaki Meanchey | Kamponng Chhnang | 7 |
| 11 | Lorpeang | Kamponng Chhnang | 30 |
| 12 | Krayea | Kampong Thom | 135 |
| 13 | Svayleur | Siem Reap | 61 |
| 14 | Banteay Srey | Siem Reap | 38 |
| 15 | Kampenh Chas | Sihanouk Vile | 24 |
| 16 | Botumsakor | Koh Kong | 20 |
| 17 | Kirisakor | Koh Kong | 10 |
| 18 | Phnom Srouch | Kampong Speu | 91 |
| 19 | Oral | Kampong Speu | 77 |
| 20 | Thpoung | Kampong Speu | 105 |
| 21 | Oyadav | Rattanakiri | 47 |
| 22 | Korkeo | Rattanakiri | 35 |
| | Total | | 987 |

Challenges & Lessons Learned

The major challenge faced by the Social Work Project continues to be that it is limited in the amount of long-term support it can provide to victims of human rights abuses. Tens of thousands of Cambodian families have lost their homes and livelihoods due to land grabbing in the past few years, making it one of the gravest social issues faced by the country. Due to the magnitude of the problem and the extent of the Social Work team's resources, it would be impossible for LICADHO to provide long-term, sustained assistance to all affected communities. That being said, the Social Work Project addresses this shortcoming by conducting rigorous assessments of victim's needs, referring victims to other organisations that are able to provide assistance, and by shifting its efforts towards endeavors focused on long-term self-sustainability, such as providing grants to victims to help launch small businesses.

Medical consultations & visits by location (Jan.-Dec. 2016)

| Location | Consultations | | | Visits |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| | Female | Male | Total | |
| Kampong Cham prison | 387 | 1,515 | 1,902 | 52 |
| Pursat prison | 145 | 1,141 | 1,286 | 28 |
| Phnom Bat resettlement community | 745 | 378 | 1,123 | 33 |
| Oudong resettlement community | 714 | 369 | 1,083 | 33 |
| LICADHO Office | 524 | 454 | 978 | 232 |
| Trapeang Anchang resettlement community | 226 | 433 | 659 | 19 |
| Tuol Sambo resettlement community | 475 | 201 | 676 | 19 |
| Senserei Mongkol community (Kp. Thom) | 307 | 211 | 518 | 5 |
| During protests and campaigns (different locations) | 68 | 34 | 102 | 10 |
| CC1 (Prey Sar) prison | 0 | 258 | 258 | 26 |
| CC2 (Prey Sar) prison | 128 | 9 | 137 | 17 |
| Lor Peang community (Kampong Chhnang) | 8 | 3 | 11 | 1 |
| Field visits (different locations) | 8 | 29 | 37 | 8 |
| Phnom Penh (PJ) prison | 25 | 54 | 79 | 12 |
| Oboengroung community (Kampong Thom) | 53 | 37 | 90 | 4 |
| Total | 4,100 | 6,464 | 10,564 | 537 |

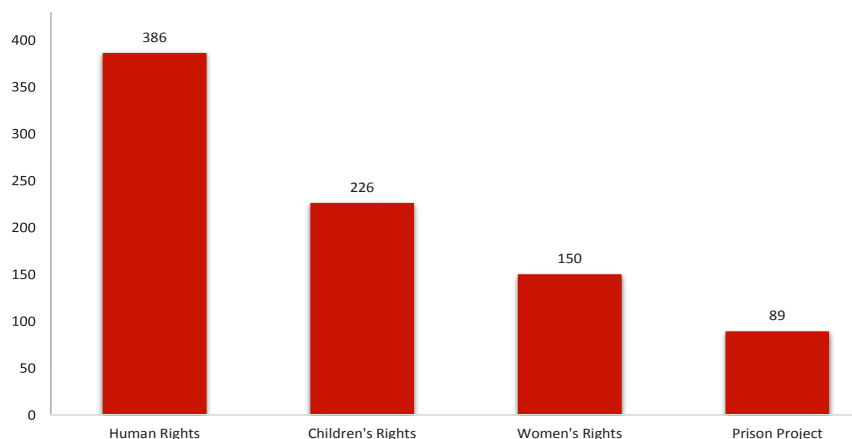
Challenges & Lessons Learned

The main challenge faced by the Medical Office during the first six months of 2016 was that the GDP had not yet reinstated permission for LICADHO doctors to give medical treatment to detainees in all the prisons to which they previously had access. The medical team was limited to just two prisons (Pursat and Kampong Cham) where prison directors had agreed to let them treat prisoners (by the end of the reporting period, access to Pursat was also revoked). This unjustified constraint on medical services from the GDP was a critical blow to the medical needs of detainees in Cambodian prisons, where unhygienic living conditions and various health risks make the provision of regular medical care imperative. The Medical Office continued to provide medical treatment where it had access and, in cooperation with the Prison Project, made requests to the GDP for renewed access. In an encouraging turn of events, a tentative agreement was reached with the GDP in late July, and the medical team hopes to resume its full activities in all Cambodian prisons in the next few months.

The Medical Office faces some internal challenges as it lacks specialized doctors who can offer specific treatments for all medical issues faced by its patients. Given that the government severely underfunds the health system, patients with severe ailments and medical issues, including for example cancer, often find themselves unable to afford hospital treatments. Consequently, LICADHO's doctors often find themselves forced to refer patients to hospitals or specialized clinics for diseases and injuries that they do not currently have the capacity to treat. In the future, the Medical Office will continue to search for medical specialists willing to take on the challenges and rewards that come with working in a human rights NGO.

APPENDIX 6: ADVOCACY AND DOCUMENTATION STATISTICS

Cases entered into central database from Jan. to Dec. 2016



LICADHO's Online Presence (Jan. to Dec. 2016)

LICADHO website:

- Total hits: 2,203,863 hits
- Total visits: 142,985 visits

Top five countries accessing LICADHO's website:

1. Cambodia
2. United States
3. Hong Kong
4. France
5. Vietnam

LICADHO Facebook

- Total reach: 1,105,677
- Total likes: 17,413
- Reach Peak: 407,319 due to the statement and the video clip shows thugs wearing helmets and wielding sticks and hammers savagely beating bus drivers and their supporters as they protested in Phnom Penh on February 6, 2016. The video went viral: it was shared 4,060 times and was viewed 137,000 times on Facebook.

LICADHO Twitter:

- 9,447 followers at the end of June

Challenges & Lessons Learned

LICADHO's advocacy takes place in the context of government structures and national institutions fully controlled by an entrenched ruling party. It remains highly challenging to determine the medium and long-term impact of advocacy in such a volatile, corrupt and unpredictable social, political and economic environment.

In May, LICADHO was threatened under LANGO after publishing a webpage highlighting some of Cambodia's political prisoners. LICADHO did not take the page down and will continue to publish strategic and accurate advocacy material.

For many vulnerable Cambodians, the only way to express disapproval or request solutions is through public protest. However, it remains dangerous to be a protestor in Cambodia. Countless peaceful gatherings were shut down by authorities, often violently, and materials seized. LICADHO continues to support peaceful protests, providing resources and/or publishing them on our website.

As money from China becomes more integral to Cambodia's economy, some of LICADHO's traditional advocacy targets – development partners and governments of donor countries – are becoming less influential in Cambodia policy. Nevertheless, such partners retain influence for now and are still receptive to LICADHO's advocacy efforts, so LICADHO will continue to engage in strategic advocacy.

Notable LICADHO appearances in international media (from Jan. to Dec. in 2016)

| Date | Source | Title of article | Link |
|------------|---|--|---|
| 18/1/2016 | Al Jazeera | Cambodia's mothers behind bars | http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/01/cambodia-mothers-bars-160114121403408.html |
| 12/2/2016 | International Transport Workers' Federation | ITF condemns arrests and beatings of transport workers in Cambodia | http://www.itfglobal.org/en/news-events/news/2016/february/itf-condemns-arrests-and- |
| 1/3/2016 | The Economist: Intelligence Unit | Hun Sen pledges redistribution of controversial agro-leases | http://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=523988436&Country=Cambodia&topic=Economy&subtopic=F_7 |
| 30/3/2016 | Yonhap News Agency (South Korea) | Cambodia, promoting private-profit prisons. . . "prisons for the rich," criticized | http://www.yonhapnews.co.kr/bulletin/2016/03/30/0200000000A_KR20160330122400084.HTML |
| 15/4/2016 | Global Voices | Cambodian Human Rights Group Criticizes Telecoms Law | https://advox.globalvoices.org/2016/04/15/cambodian-human-rights-group-criticizes-telecoms-law/ |
| 9/5/2016 | Associated Press Daily Mail Macau Daily Times | Cambodia police detain 8 at peaceful protest against arrests | http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3580810/Cambodian-police-detain-protesters-against-arrests.html |
| 19/5/2016 | Economy Watch | World Bank May Vote to Lift Punitive Ban on Funding to Cambodia | http://www.economywatch.com/news/World-Bank-May-Vote-to-Lift-Punitive-Ban-on-Funding-to-Cambodia0519.html |
| 1/6/2016 | Sveriges Radio | Svenskt bistånd kan bidra till förtryck i Kambodja | http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=83&artikel=6444344 |
| 8/6/2016 | Libération | La démocratie cambodgienne ne tient plus qu'à un fil | http://www.liberation.fr/planete/2016/06/08/la-democratie-cambodgienne-ne-tient-plus-qu-a-un-fil_1458216 |
| 7/7/2016 | Deutsche Welle | How Buddhist monks are battling deforestation in Cambodia | http://www.dw.com/en/how-buddhist-monks-are-battling-deforestation-in-cambodia/a-19386396 |
| 24/7/2016 | Al Jazeera | Cambodia: Thousands march in funeral of slain activist | http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/cambodia-thousands-march-funeral-slain-activist-160724082828093.html |
| 29/11/2016 | Thompson Reuters Foundation | Corruption and illegal cash deals hamper efforts to tackle rape in Cambodia | http://news.trust.org/item/20161129125833-qltgg/ |
| 5/12/2016 | ABC | Cambodian Government cannot find cases of brick factory slaves, child labour | http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-12-05/cambodian-government-cannot-find-cases-of-child-labour/8093914 |
| 25/12/2016 | Jakarta Post | Cambodia's explanation for killing of activist draws doubt | http://www.thejakartapost.com/seasia/2016/12/25/cambodias-explanation-for-killing-of-activist-draws-doubt-.html |