

RESTRICTIONS ON THE FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY IN CAMBODIA

A LICADHO Briefing paper
December 2005



សម្ព័ន្ធនៃការលើកកម្ពស់ការការពារសិទ្ធិមនុស្ស លីកាដូ

LICADHO

CAMBODIAN LEAGUE FOR THE PROMOTION
AND DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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

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

LICADHO pursues its activities through its six program offices:

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

For more information contact:

Dr. Kek Galabru, President
LICADHO (Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights)
#16, Street 99
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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

Introduction

The Cambodian government continues to maintain strict measures to suppress demonstrations or public gatherings of all kinds in the country. From January to November 2005, the authorities made attempts to prevent or disperse at least 40 public gatherings, including rallies and demonstrations, street marches, public discussion forums, labor strikes and protests over land disputes. Police and authorities have refused permission for public gatherings to be held, or otherwise tried to discourage them including by threatening to arrest participants, and have at times forcibly broken up gatherings.

The authorities' action represents a continuing crackdown on freedom of assembly and freedom of expression in Cambodia, which has been in place since the January 2003 anti-Thai riots in Phnom Penh. Authorities continue to cite public security as a reason why public gatherings should not occur. However, even peaceful gatherings by relatively small groups of people have been prevented or dispersed by the authorities. It is evident that the government is intent on limiting the public expression of grievances or concerns, or the airing of opinions on issues of national importance, even if that expression is peaceful.

Freedom of assembly and freedom of expression are the foundation of all human rights and a democratic society. These freedoms are particularly critical in a country such as Cambodia, where rule of law and government accountability is lacking. Members of the public often feel they cannot rely upon the courts or government authorities to redress legitimate grievances they have. When other attempts to have their complaints resolved have failed, a public protest is one of the few options left to them.

Land disputes were the reason for a significant number of the public gatherings which were repressed by authorities this year (18 out of the 40 cases in this briefing paper). Villagers continue to gather together to try to prevent evictions or to hold demonstrations against land concessions or land grabbing. Some travel to Phnom Penh from the provinces and attempt to rally outside the Prime Minister's house or the National Assembly, in an indication of their lack of faith in the ability of lower levels of government to resolve their problems. The authorities often try to intimidate or forcibly disperse land protests, in the provinces or in Phnom Penh. The occurrence of violence – most notably the shooting deaths of five villagers during a forced eviction this year in March in Poipet, Banteay Meanchey province – highlights the ongoing critical need for effective and fair mechanisms to peacefully resolve land disputes.

Other types of public gatherings which were suppressed by authorities this year include labor strikes or rallies by trade unions (nine out of 40 cases in this report).

Protests or rallies by political parties appear to have decreased this year, which could be seen as a reaction to the tense political climate since the lifting of the parliamentary immunity of opposition party MPs Sam Rainsy, Chea Poch and Cheam Channy in February. The authorities have been quick to suppress any politically-motivated gatherings, and with the self-imposed exile of Sam Rainsy, the jailing of Cheam Channy and the arrests of critics of the Vietnam-Cambodia border treaty in October, the voicing of political opinions on the streets has come to a virtual standstill.

The government's continuing erosion of the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly is in direct violation of Cambodia's Constitution which enshrines those rights. In any democracy, members of the public (whether they be opposition party activists or ordinary rural villagers) have the right to assemble in public to express opinions or voice their grievances. Public security and political stability does not justify the government's sweeping and routine denial of that right.

This briefing paper – which updates a November 2004 one on the same subject issued by the Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC) – aims to highlight the ongoing perilous state of fundamental freedoms in Cambodia. Based on newspaper reports and information from LICADHO and other NGOs, this briefing paper records 40 occasions between January-November 2005 in which authorities have denied permission or used intimidate or violence to stop public gatherings in Cambodia.

STATISTICS ON CASES IN THIS BRIEFING PAPER

Total reported gatherings & demonstrations restricted by the police & other authorities from January 2005 to November 2005	40
Gatherings & demonstrations in Phnom Penh	23
Gatherings & demonstrations in Phnom Penh organised by provincial residents who travelled to Phnom Penh	7
Land dispute gatherings & demonstrations	18
Labor strikes or trade union gatherings	9
Gatherings & demonstrations involving serious physical violence	16

GATHERINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN CAMBODIA CONTROLLED OR RESTRICTED BY VIOLENCE OR INTIMIDATION FROM THE POLICE AND AUTHORITIES SINCE JANUARY 2005

**January 1
2005**

*Ang Snuol
District,
Kandal Province*

Protest by taxi drivers against AZ Investment Co. Ltd dispersed by police¹

- Approximately 500 taxi drivers protested against the introduction by AZ investment Co. Ltd of tolls on vehicles traveling between Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville on National Route 4. They gathered at the west side of the toll-booth and used a loudspeaker during the rally.
- On the second day of peaceful protest, at least 200 traffic police, district police and military police armed with AK-47 rifles and electric batons dispersed the rally.
- Three protesters were injured, one with a serious head injury. Two drivers were arrested and detained in Kandal prison charged with the incitement of others to commit a criminal offence. The loudspeaker and a car were confiscated by the police.

**January 7
2005**

Phnom Penh

Khmer Front Party demonstration dispersed by police²

- Khmer Front Party members rallied in front of the National Assembly and raised banners to protest against the celebration of the 26th anniversary of Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia and overthrow of the Khmer Rouge regime.
- The demonstrators were violently dispersed by 50 to 60 police armed with batons, electric batons and rifles.
- Seven Khmer Front Party's members were beaten and arrested by the police. Taken to the Khan Daun Penh police station, they were questioned and forced to thumbprint a contract agreeing not to disturb the peace or discredit the nation's dignity in the future. They were then released.

**January 20
2005**

*Sangkat Toul
Commune,
Russey Keo
District,
Phnom Penh*

Free Trade Union of Workers President and representative for the Su Ton Fag Factory arrested³

- Chea Mony, president of the Free Trade Union of Workers of the Kingdom of Cambodia (FTUWKC), and Heng Sophoan, the FTUWKC representative for Su Ton Fag Factory, were arrested by police in front of the union's headquarter after a garment workers demonstration was dispersed by police.
- Approximately 300 workers from the factory attended the demonstration protesting against the dismissal of a factory worker and the beating of another worker by a factory security guard.

**January 29
2005**

Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR) forum participants searched by police⁴

- After a peaceful CCHR forum, speakers at the forum had their cars

*Cham Pou Von
Pagoda,
Chom Chao
Commune,
Dangkao
District,
Phnom Penh*

**Feb. 2
2005**

*Krakor District,
Pursat Province*

stopped and searched by police at several locations on National Road 4.

- The police told the speakers that they had information that opposition party leader Sam Rainsy had hidden weapons in his car. The police searches found no such weapons.

Pheapimex protest broken up by police⁵

- Police dispersed more than 50 villagers protesting against a Pheapimex company land concession. Villagers were not able to meet with any Pheapimex's representatives to express their concerns.

**Feb. 7
2005**

*Snuol District,
Kratie Province*

Kratie forestry activists ordered to stop protests by district governor⁶

- The governor of Kratie Province's Snuol District ordered villagers to stop lobbying against forest land clearing, advising them that they did were not officially registered as a forestry activist group.
- The villagers' repeated efforts to formerly register with the authorities as a group were rejected.

**Feb. 16
2005**

*Russei Keo
District,
Phnom Penh*

Police & factory workers clash during violent protest against Sam Han Garment factory⁷

- Approximately 1,000 factory workers protested in front of the Sam Han Garment Factory demanding that they receive four months' salary owed to them.
- The protestors were dispersed by approximately 60 policemen on their second day of protest after the demonstration turned violent when workers set a small fire at the factory gate, broke the windows of the guard house and entered the factory. Military police shot in the air and beat demonstrating workers.

**Feb. 23
2005**

*Russei Keo
District,
Phnom Penh*

Sam Han factory workers dispersed with tear gas and force⁸

- At least 700 workers blockaded the road in front of the Sam Han Garment Factory demanding their salaries after the company's closure.
- Hundreds of riot police dispersed the workers by using tear gas, electric batons and by shooting into the air.
- The intervention lasted 15 minutes with at least 18 people being assaulted by police; one man suffered a broken leg while fleeing. One worker was arrested and about 500 became sick because of the tear gas.
- Police said they were acting to protect the factory's property but protestors said they were attacked while demonstrating peacefully.

**March 3
2005**

*Phnom Penh
& Poy
Tamoung,
Sihanoukville*

**Sihanoukville families evicted by military police
after protesting in Phnom Penh⁹**

- Ninety-two families from Poy Tamoung in Sihanoukville camped in front of the Prime Minister's house near Independence Monument in Phnom Penh to protest over a land concession given to KT Pacific Group. One of the Prime Minister's counsellors asked the families to return to their village and to live temporarily on the conflicted land until an investigation committee report was released.
- The families returned to their village. Not daring to settle on the land in conflict, they decided instead to set up camp along the land's fences.
- A few days later, the families were violently evicted by military police. Electric batons were used and the villagers' tents were burned down. Two protestors were injured. The military police threatened the families with imprisonment if they continued to stay there.

**March 21
2005**

*Kbal Spean
Village,
Poipet
Commune,
O'Chrov
District,
Banteay
Meanchey
Province*

Five Poipet villagers killed by police during a forced eviction¹⁰

- About 170 heavily-armed police and military police opened fire with AK-47 rifles on 218 families in Kbal Spean village who were trying to stop their forced eviction.
- Dozens of the villagers who resisted the eviction were armed with knives, rocks and other crude weapons. The police apparently first started firing into the air but later fired directly into the crowd. Five villagers were killed, at least 14 were seriously injured, and 30 were temporarily detained.
- To date, no successful prosecutions have been brought for offences committed during the violent eviction.

**March 28
2005**

Phnom Penh

**Student Movement for Democracy (SMD) protest while Vietnamese
official visit to Cambodia prevented by police¹¹**

- Police raided the SMD office in Phnom Penh to stop a protest against a high-ranking Vietnamese official's visit to Cambodia. Students had planned to raise banners in front of the office regarding controversial Cambodian border issues.
- About 20 Toul Kork District policemen raided the office, confiscating the banners and threatening to jail the students. The police obstructed journalists and human rights workers attempting to monitor the event.

**April 27
2005**

Phnom Penh

Land protesters from Kampot told to return home¹²

- Forty-five families from Trapeang Veng Village, Trapeang Commune, Chumkiri District in Kampot Province rallied in front of the National Assembly in Phnom Penh and raised banners protesting the confiscation of land in their district.
- During the protest, a man claiming he was from the Prime Minister's

cabinet promised the families that he would visit their village to solve the land dispute. The villagers then decided to return home.

- No such representative from the Prime Minister's cabinet has since visited the village and the commune chief dismissed the village chief because he was believed to have led the villagers to protest in Phnom Penh.

**April 28
2005**

*Chamkar Ovleok
Village,
Kakab
Commune,
Dangkor
District,
Phnom Penh*

Workers' march to the National Assembly stopped¹³

- After striking for two days, more than 900 workers from In Kyung Garment Factory in Chamkar Ovleok Village marched to the National Assembly after the company director refused to meet with them.
- Immediately after starting to march, approximately 100 police and military police with riot shields, batons and rifles stopped the march. One worker was seriously beaten by the military police.
- The workers, fearing more police violence, cancelled the march and returned to protest in front of the factory.

**May 1
2005**

Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh authorities forbid unions and right groups from marching to celebrate International Labor Day¹⁴

- The Municipal Government rejected a request by trade unions to hold a march to mark Labor Day, citing security and traffic concerns. Instead, they were allowed to hold a rally at Wat Botum Park, which was attended by more than 3,000 people from trade unions, human rights groups and other organizations.
- On the same day, 60 people from two trade unions – which refused to participate in the Wat Botum rally because of the ban on marching – marched with Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) representatives from the FTUWKC office to the site where union leader Chea Vichea was murdered in 2004. They were able to march freely, but were closely monitored by 50 police carrying guns, batons and riot shields.

**May 6
2005**

Phnom Penh

Kompong Speu villagers demonstrating in front of the Prime Minister's House dispersed by police¹⁵

- Seventy-one people from Trapeang Kak Village, Toul Sala Commune, Boset District in Kompong Speu Province held a rally in front of the Prime Minister's house asking for his intervention in a land dispute. Police dispersed the rally.

**June 13
2005**

*Mol Village,
Dangkor
District,
Phnom Penh*

You Min factory workers holding a demonstration dispersed by riot police¹⁶

- On 12 June 2005, 1,500 workers from You Min Garment Factory decided to hold a one-week protest to demand the Korean factory owner observe the Cambodian Labor Law and pay the workers on a

regular payday.

- On the morning of June 13, the workers rallied in front of the factory, ready to march through Phnom Penh to the National Assembly, the Korean Embassy and the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- After having walked no more than 100 meters, the protest was dispersed by a large number of riot police. No one was injured. Some workers did manage to reach the Korean Embassy but no officials came out to meet them.

**June 17
2005**

*O'Reang
District,
Mondolkiri
Province*

Phnong hill tribe protest against a land concession dispersed by police¹⁷

- Eight hundred protesters from the Phnong Hill Tribe marched from their village to protect the land concession given to Chinese company Wuzhishan LS Group.
- About 40 police armed with water hoses confronted the demonstrators to try to prevent them entering the provincial town, even though the protest was peaceful. Six persons, including a woman carrying a baby, were injured by the water hoses.

**June 20
2005**

*Prey Nop
District,
Sihanoukville
Province*

Land dispute protest broken up by police in Sihanoukville¹⁸

- Villagers, fearing the loss of their land, began to demonstrate after Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) soldiers inspected and measured land occupied by them.
- Local authorities and RCAF soldiers armed with AK-47s and B-40 rockets broke up the protest by shooting bullets in the air and at a tree.
- Police arrested three people from the crowd and allegedly tortured them (as reported by the ADHOC human rights group).
- The deputy municipal military commander denied that RCAF soldiers had measured the land or fired their weapons to disperse the crowd.

**June 27
2005**

*O'Reang
District,
Mondolkiri
Province*

Phnong hill tribe villagers' blockade broken up by police¹⁹

- During the weekend of the 25-26 of June, 250 commune residents had organized themselves into three groups to block the main road and two other small roads to prevent Wuzhishan LS Group from transporting workers and planting pine tree seedlings on disputed land.
- Police armed with AK-47s ordered the protesters to remove their blockades. The provincial governor said the blockades were illegal and the villagers would be punished if they continued.

**July 1st
2005**

Phsa Deumkor

XSN Factory workers protest dispersed by police²⁰

- Around 50 workers from the XSN Factory protested in front of the Garment Manufacturers Association of Cambodia (GMAC) office to

*Village,
Toul Kork
District,
Kandal Province*

**July 1st
2005**

*Damnak Thom
Village,
Steung
Meanchey
Commune,
Meanchey
District, Phnom
Penh*

**July 5
2005**

*Spean Khpos
Village,
Kilometer 6
Commune,
Russey Keo
District
Phnom Penh*

**July 6
2005**

*Sala Lekpram
Village,
Kompong
Chhnang
Province*

**July 11
2005**

*O'Spean
Village,
Sen Monorom
District,
Mondolkiri
Province*

**July 25
2005**

*Prasat Sambor
District,
Kompong Thom
Province*

pressure their employer to pay compensation for their terminations.

- Police dispersed the crowd without violence and told the demonstrators to go and strike in front of the factory.

GW worker strike broken up by 100 riot police²¹

- Around 1000 workers from the GW Factory protested in front of the factory to highlight 13 demands for working condition improvement.
- Approximately 100 riot police broke up the protest. Some workers retaliated by throwing stones at the police. Police used tear gas and electric batons and shot into the air.
- Four riot police were injured, two vehicles destroyed and 19 workers arrested. The workers were released the next day.

32 families forcibly evicted by police from disputed land²²

- Police implemented a court's decision in a land dispute between Uknhea Ly Say Kheang, director of Cambodia Holding Cool Ltd and 32 families who occupied the land.
- Police, armed with rifles, batons and tear gas, evicted the families. During the eviction the families burned tires and held banners saying that their land rights had been violated.
- The families had occupied the 10 hectares of land since 1989.

Sala Lekpram Village protest dispersed by police²³

- A small group of villagers protested against the local forestry administration after it began prohibiting the passage of villagers over its property. The villagers were forced to cross five barbed wire fences to go from their homes to the main road.
- The protest lasted for 15 minutes before being dispersed by police.

Demonstrations prohibited during the King's visit to Mondolkiri²⁴

- Local authorities warned local villagers not to hold any protests around the time of a National Arbor Day ceremony, presided over by King Norodom Sihamoni, in Mondolkiri Province.
- Police confiscated a 500-signature petition from two community representatives, which they had intended to try to give to the King, as the representatives entered the ceremony site.
- About 100 people were forbidden to attend the ceremony because they had participated in a demonstration the week before.

Kompong Thom villagers intimidated into not protesting²⁵

- Prasat Sambor District authorities warned about 200 villagers not to protest over a land-grabbing dispute, or they would be arrested and jailed.

**July 28
2005**

Phnom Penh

Police forcibly removed Kompong Chhnang protesters²⁶

- On July 28, 106 people from Kosomak Village, Teuk Hauth Commune, Rolea Phea District, Kompong Chhnang Province, protested in Phnom Penh over a 290-hectare land dispute.
- On July 29, the villagers attempted to submit a complaint to the National Assembly but were beaten by police and forced into trucks which returned them to their village.
- On July 30, the villagers returned to Phnom Penh but armed police again forced them into trucks and sent them back home.

**July 28
2005**

Phnom Penh

People from Kratie Province threatened by municipal authority²⁷

- On July 28, 95 people representing 240 families from Trapeang Kranhoung Village, Thou II Commune, Snoul District in Kratie Province protested in Phnom Penh to seek intervention from the National Assembly and the Prime Minister. The villagers said that 11 square kilometers of their land along Road 14 was confiscated and burned by local forestry officials.
- On July 29, the villagers submitted their complaint to the National Assembly and the Prime Minister's cabinet.
- On July 30 the villagers decided to return home after being threatened by the municipal authority.

**August 6
2005**

*Angkor Borei
Market,
Takeo Province*

Market protest interrupted by police²⁸

- About 1,000 villagers and vendors protesting against a proposed market expansion were confronted by district and military police.
- Two women were shocked by electric batons and suffered slight injuries.
- The protesters, who were upset about a proposed market expansion which would force outdoor vendors to move their stalls nearer to the roadside, agreed to end the demonstration after a SRP lawmaker promised to take their concerns to provincial officials.
- On August 22, the Takeo Provincial Court issued a summons for three protestors to appear in court to answer allegations of defamation and intentional damage.

**August 10
2005**

*Kong Pisei
District,
Kampong Speu
province*

CCHR forum closed down by the police²⁹

- A CCHR public forum attended by approximately 1,000 people was closed down by the police after a group of about 40 people shouted pro-CPP slogans and gestured aggressively at the panel of speakers.
- The group reacted angrily a speaker stated that only a few Cambodians were rich while many were poor, and asked the crowd how many would consider themselves rich.
- The police described the scene as "chaos" and ordered the forum closed.

**August 16
2005**

Phnom Penh

Protesting army veterans dispersed³⁰

- Police dispersed a group of 110 people, representing 1,429 disabled and retired soldiers from Siem Reap, who had gathered in front of the Prime Minister's house claiming their salary had not been paid for two or three years.

**August 26
2005**

*Koki Village,
Okhna Heng
Commune, Prey
Nob District,
Sihanoukville*

Police attempted to cancel a CCHR meeting in Sihanoukville³¹

- A deputy commune chief and a village chief escorted by more than 20 police officers attempted to order the cancellation of a planned CCHR meeting in Koki Village.
- After negotiations the authorities granted permission for the meeting but the police kept a presence outside the meeting place.

**August 29
2005**

*Koki Village,
Okhna Heng
Commune, Prey
Nob District,
Sihanoukville*

**Sihanoukville municipality blasted out music to disrupt
CCHR meeting³²**

- Kem Sokha, president of CCHR, accused local authorities in Sihanoukville of blasting out modern Khmer music in an attempt to disrupt his private meeting with some 20 villagers.
- Local authorities had previously attempted to stop the meeting, and police had kept a presence outside the meeting.
- During the meeting, a neighbour turned on loud music after he said the village chief ordered him to. The chief said that he asked the neighbour to repair his loudspeakers.

**Sept. 11
2005**

*Bonla Saeth
Village,
Khmouch
Commune,
Russey Keo
District
Phnom Penh*

Sytany factory worker strike dispersed by local authorities³³

- Local authorities ordered approximately 200 Sytany factory workers, staging a strike outside of the factory to demand their monthly wages, to end the strike. The authorities claimed this was necessary to avoid violence.

**Sept. 15
2005**

Phnom Penh

Protesters from Kompong Speu dispersed by Phnom Penh police³⁴

- Police dispersed 71 villagers from Trapeang Kak Village, Borseth District in Kompong Speu Province who had gathered in front of the Prime Minister house in Phnom Penh.
- The villagers were protesting a land dispute and demanding the release of some of their representatives who had been arrested.

**Sept. 23
2005**

Phnom Penh

Land dispute protest dispersed by riot police³⁵

- One hundred people from Rong Chak Village, Russey Keo District in Phnom Penh gathered near the Prime Minister's house to protest against a land dispute in which their homes were destroyed by

authorities on Sept 9.

- More than 50 riot police carrying wooden batons, electric batons, shields and rifles broke up the protest.
- The police again dispersed the crowd after they attempted to gather in front of the Botum Vatey Pagoda and in front of the Prime Minister's house.
- A 54 year old woman, Kong Sok Neang, fainted after being pushed by the police.

**Sept. 27
2005**

*Toul Kok
District
Phnom Penh*

Five students arrested for attempting to stage a demonstration³⁶

- Twenty-seven students from the Student Movement for Democracy attempted to hold a peaceful demonstration against a proposed border treaty between Vietnam and Cambodia.
- About 50 armed officers, who were waiting outside about 10 meters from the SMD office, broke up the demonstration.
- Observers said they saw a police official punch one of the protesters in the eye, and hit another one on the leg with a baton.
- Five students were arrested and taken to Toul Kork police station, where they were instructed to thumbprint documents promising not to hold future demonstrations. They were later released.

**Sept. 30
2005**

Phnom Penh

SRP bid to hold ceremony at Toul Sleng Genocide Museum rejected by Government³⁷

- The Ministry of Culture rejected a request from the SRP to hold a Pchum Ben ceremony at the Toul Sleng Genocide Museum.
- Secretary of State In Siyontha said that the museum was an inappropriate place for anyone to hold a memorial because it is a site for tourists and others to learn about the Khmer Rouge regime. But SRP lawmaker Ho Vann alleged that the party's request was rejected for political reasons.

**October 9
2005**

Phnom Penh

SRP request to hold a public rally denied by Phnom Penh municipality³⁸

- Phnom Penh municipality denied a request by the SRP to hold a public rally at Phnom Penh International Airport to welcome the opposition leader Sam Rainsy upon his return to Cambodia.
- First deputy municipal governor Mam Bun Neang claimed the public gathering would endanger security and that the municipality would only allow the party to hold the gathering inside its party headquarters.
- However, the municipality subsequently agreed with a request by other groups who asked for permission to hold rallies against Sam Rainsy's return.

**Nov. 22
2005**

*O'Chum
District,
Ratanakiri
Province*

- No protests eventuated as Sam Rainsy did not return to Cambodia.

Ethic minority villagers in Ratanakiri threatened with jail by local authorities if they protested against land clearing³⁹

- Local authorities threatened to jail ethnic minority villagers in Ratanakiri Province if they protested land clearing activities that had destroyed more than 10 hectares of their cultivated crop fields.
- Deputy commune chief Chek Uok went door to door and threatened villagers with jail if they tried to stop any tractors from destroying their crops.
- O'Chum District governor Phou Kim Moeur said a person named Khit Sok Khay had the legal land title and had been allowed by the court to continue to clear the crops planted on the disputed land.

**Nov. 25
2005**

*Ampil Pram
Daem
Commune,
Bavel District,
Battambang
Province*

Protestors fired upon by soldiers during a land dispute in Battambang⁴⁰

- Eight soldiers from RCAF Brigade 53 fired shots at protesters during a land dispute.
- The dispute concerned tens of thousands of hectares of land contested by 1,656 families and RCAF Brigade 53 which blocked access to the land.
- Protester Soy Sokha, 43, was shot in the leg, while Chin Ret, 55, and Prak Chan, 36, were both shot in their hands. Prak Chan's injury required the amputation of his fingers. Another villager, Oeun Mao, 45, was arrested following the incident.
- According to a complaint about the incident filed by villagers with the Military Region 5 commander, 300 villagers were stopped by soldiers while attempting to visit their representative Chhea Ny. Chhea Ny had been illegally arrested on November 20 and detained by the military over the land dispute.
- The conflict apparently broke out when the soldiers stopped the crowd and demanded the arrest of Oeun Mao, who was in the crowd but the villagers blocked the soldiers' path to him.

¹ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, January 1, 2005, 'Taxi-drivers rallied against AZ Company'; Unpublished CCHR report January 5, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'.

² Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, January 7, 2005, 'Khmer Front Party was crackdown'; Unpublished CCHR report, January 7, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'.

³ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, January 20, 2005, 'Arrest of Chea Mony and Heng Sophon'; Unpublished CCHR report, January 7, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'.

⁴ Unpublished CCHR report, January 29, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'.

⁵ *The Cambodia Daily*, February 2, 2005, 'Police break up Pheapimex protest'; *Cambodge Soir*, February 2, 2005, 'Les villageois sont a bout'.

⁶ *The Cambodia Daily*, February 7, 2005, 'Forestry activist groups ordered to stop protests'.

⁷ *The Cambodia Daily*, February 16, 2005, 'Factory workers, police clash in violent protest'; *Cambodge Soir*, February 16, 2005, 'Les ouvriers a bout de patience, le gouvernement promet d'intervenir'.

⁸ *The Cambodia Daily*, February 23, 2005, 'Factory protest broken up by tear gas and force'; *Cambodge Soir*, February 23, 2005, 'Les policiers dispersent des ouvriers a coups de gaz lacrymogene et de tirs de sommation'.

- ⁹ *Cambodge Soir*, March 21, 2005, 'Tension avant le jugement du 4 avril'.
- ¹⁰ CHRAC report, August 2005, 'High price of land: the deadly eviction of Kbal Spean'; Unpublished CCHR report, March 21, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'; *The Cambodia Daily*, March 22, 2005, 'Police kill 5 Poipet protesters'; *Cambodge Soir*, March 22, 2005, 'La police abat cinq villageois a Poipet'.
- ¹¹ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, March 28, 2005, 'Cambodian students for democracy association'.
- ¹² Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, April 27, 2005, "45 families from Chumkiri, Kampot".
- ¹³ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, April 25-28, 'More than 900 workers from In Kyung strike'.
- ¹⁴ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, May 1, 2005, 'Free Trade Union marched to respect Chea Vichea's soul'; Unpublished CCHR report, May 1, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'; *The Cambodia Daily*, May 2, 2005, 'Unions, Rights groups celebrate May Day'.
- ¹⁵ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, June 6, 2005, 'Hostage because of land issue'.
- ¹⁶ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, June 13, 2005, "1500 workers from You Min"; Unpublished CCHR report, June 14, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'.
- ¹⁷ *The Cambodia Daily*, June 17, 2005, 'Police disperse Phnong hilltribe protesters'; *Cambodge Soir*, June 17, 2005, 'Une manifestation contre Wuzhishan réprimée par la police'.
- ¹⁸ *The Cambodia Daily*, July 1, 2005, 'Villagers: Weapons used to disperse protest'.
- ¹⁹ Unpublished CCHR report, June 24, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'.
- ²⁰ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, July 1, 2005, 'GMAC's demonstration becomes serious'.
- ²¹ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, July 1, 2005, 'Demonstration at GW garment factory'.
- ²² Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, July 6, 2005.
- ²³ *Cambodge Soir*, July 6, 2005, 'Les barbelés de la discorde'.
- ²⁴ *Cambodge Soir*, July 11, 2005, 'Le roi appelle à concilier développement et protection de l'environnement'.
- ²⁵ *The Cambodia Daily*, July 27, 2005, 'Villagers told land protest will land them in jail'.
- ²⁶ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, July 28, 2005, 'Land dispute from Kg Chhnang'; Unpublished CCHR report, August 1, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'.
- ²⁷ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, July 28, .005, Land dispute from Kratie
- ²⁸ Unpublished CCHR report, September 1, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'; *The Cambodia Daily*, August 9, 2005, 'Angkor Borei Residents rally against expansion'.
- ²⁹ Unpublished CCHR report, August 10, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'.
- ³⁰ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, August 15, 2005, 'Disability army and Veteran from Siem Reap'; Unpublished CCHR report, August 17, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'; Koh Santapheap newspaper of Aug 17, 2005.
- ³¹ Unpublished CCHR report, August 26, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'.
- ³² Unpublished CCHR report, August 29, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'.
- ³³ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, September 10, 2005, 'Workers strike at Sytany factory'.
- ³⁴ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, September 15, 2005, 'People from Kg Speu proposed to release the village chief'.
- ³⁵ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, September 23, 2005, 'Crackdown on demonstrators'.
- ³⁶ Unpublished LICADHO monitoring report, September 27, 2005, 'Demonstration on September 27'; Unpublished CCHR report, August 29, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'.
- ³⁷ *The Cambodia Daily*, October 1-2, 2005, 'Gov't rejects SRP bid to hold ceremony at S-21'.
- ³⁸ *The Cambodia Daily*, October 10, 2005, 'SRP denied request for leader's welcome rally'.
- Cambodge Soir*, October 10, 2005, 'Incompréhension face à la probable interdiction d'une manifestation pro Rainsy'.
- ³⁹ Unpublished CCHR report, November 23, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'; *The Cambodia Daily*, November 25, 2005, 'Ethnic minority villagers protest crop clearings'.
- ⁴⁰ Unpublished CCHR report, November 29, 2005, 'Compilation of the freedom of association cases'; *The Cambodia Daily*, November 29, 2005, 'Rights Workers: Soldiers Opened Fire at Protesters'.