

Joint Statement
of Civil Society Organizations Involved in Promoting Women's Rights in Cambodia
on the Case of "Ms. Khom Chandaraty" aka "Srey Mom"
Phnom Penh, April 9, 2016

We, members of CSOs involved in promoting women's rights in Cambodia as named below, are very concerned on persistent occurrence of gender-based violence including the recent case of "Ms. Khom Chandaraty" aka "Srey Mom", which social media and some local media have broadcasting her private life in great length. Currently, Srey Mom is summoned by the Phnom Penh Court on two separate criminal charges: False Testimony and on Prostitution on March 18, 2016.

In this case, we reserve our rights not to interpret the alleged voice recording between H.E. Kem Sokha and Srey Mom as true or not. However, we believe that:

1. The interference and dissemination on Ms. Srey Mom has violated her human rights based on the signatory of Cambodia as state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) article 17, stated "...No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his/her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honor and reputation..." Further, the Cambodian Constitution, as the supreme law of the country, article 40 states: "... the right to privacy of resident and to the secrecy of correspondence by mail, telegram, fax, telex, and telephone shall be guaranteed..." Moreover, as the signatory of the Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against women, required that state party take all necessary measures to fight against all forms of discrimination against women and ensure that all women can enjoy their rights based on all the conventions and human rights laws.
2. The summon against Ms. Srey Mom for False testimony and Prostitution, from the Cambodian Court is a baseless accusation.
3. The above legal action against Ms. Srey Mom has violated her reputation and human dignity. This situation has resulted in her being victim of losing her job, living in fear, compromise her personal safety because of this case involves with a leading politician from the opposition party.

Based on the above reasons, we conclude that this situation is of our concern of a high profile case uses woman as an object for political gain. This situation has created public fear, insecurity on our own private life as a citizen of this country (recording voice over private conversation) and will further weaken the trust of citizen on the judicial system in Cambodia and further damages the social fabric of our society.

We appeal to:

1. The Cambodian government must guaranty the respect and protection of women rights with the commitment to take effective actions to immediately stop any violations and

threats on individual rights of women and punish any individual, who defamed, threatened and produced baseless accusation so it will be shown as a precedent to a repeat in the future.

2. At the same time, the independent court institution should use its power and duty correctly to guarantee the application of law and render justice to all equally and with transparency.
3. All involved individuals in this case must take responsibility immediately and stop using women as an object of political gain.

For more information, please contact:

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NGOs and Networks taking part in issuing this statement:

1. ADHOC
2. JASS SEA
3. SILAKA
4. Committee to Promote Women in Politics (CPWP)
5. Committee for Free and Fair Election in Cambodia (COMFREL)
6. Cambodian Young Women Empowerment Network (CYWEN)
7. Strie Khmer (SK)
8. Bantheay Srei (BS)
9. Teang Thaut Association (STT)
10. Building Community Voices (BCV)
11. Community Legal Education Center (CLEC)
12. Independent Democracy of Informal Economy Association (IDEA)
13. Coalition of Cambodian Farmer Community (CCFC)
14. Center for Alliance of Labor and Human Rights (CENTRAL)
15. Equitable Cambodia (EC)
16. Khmer Youth Association (KYA)
17. Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC)
18. Gender and Development Network (GADNet)
19. Cambodian Men's Network (CMN)
20. Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR)