

## LICADHO PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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## Know Your Rights

### Freedom of Movement

- The police do not have the right to stop you from traveling within your province or to Phnom Penh to file complaints to government institutions, the National Assembly or NGOs

- Local authorities have no right to demand that you inform them before you attend meetings or travel out of your area

### Freedom of Expression

- You have the right to complain about the police, local authorities and the government
- You have the right to speak and write about what you think
- The police, authorities and the government do not have the right to stop you from speaking out

### Freedom of Assembly & Association

- You have the right to peacefully gather to express opinions and voice your concerns
- You have the right to join or form a group or union

### If Your Rights Are Violated

- Remain calm
- Don't react using violence
- Inform the authorities you know your rights
- Contact NGOs for assistance
- Document the time, place and basic details of the incident
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# International Human Rights Day December 10, 2008

## 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



*We All Need Freedom  
and Justice!*



FRIENDS OF DECEMBER 10

## Freedom of Movement

You have the right to come and go as you wish within your country.

### Rights at Risk

The right to free movement, is critical to protect other basic rights. Without freedom of movement, an individual cannot exercise their **right to expression, assembly or association.**

### The Situation in Cambodia

**June 2008.** For two weeks soldiers from military gade 31 seal off all roads leading to Chey Sena village Taken commune, Chhuk district, Kampot, refusing to allow resident villagers and NGO workers access. The village was involved in a land dispute after provincial authorities claim the land had been sold to a private company.

**June 2008.** Commune police and local authorities attempt to block villagers of Krang Skir commune, Toeuk Pos district, Kompong Chhang province who were traveling to Phnom Penh to lodge land grabbing complaints. 43 villagers were able to travel to Phnom Penh after evading the authorities.

**October 2008.** Ethnic minority Phnong villagers from Mondulkiri province are told by local authorities to register their travel outside the province with the commune chief. The villagers are traveling to Ratankiri province to join a demonstration on land grabbing. Local authorities claim their actions are for the safety of the villagers while NGOs and villagers accuse them of intimidation.

### Rights Guaranteed in the Constitution

**Article 40:** Citizens' freedom to travel, far and near, and legal settlement shall be respected. Khmer citizens shall have the right to travel and settle abroad and return to the country.

## Freedom of Expression and Speech

You have the right to think what you want, and to say what you like, and nobody should stop you from doing so. You should be able to share your ideas.

### Rights at Risk

Freedom of expression is essential to **democracy and public participation.** Citizens cannot exercise their **right to vote** effectively or take part in political affairs if they do not have free access to information and are not able to express their views freely.

### The Situation in Cambodia

**April 2008.** Radio Free Asia (RFA) Journalist Lem Piseth was forced to flee the country to Thailand after death threats were made against him. Since early April 2008, Lem Piseth had been investigating a drug trafficking and murder case with alleged links to high ranking officials.

**25 May 2008.** FM 105.25 (Angkor Ratha) a local radio station in Kratie, which had only broadcasted for 13 days, was shut down by the Minister of Information because it sold air time to political parties. Currently it is still closed.

**8 June 2008.** Moneakseka Khmer editor-in-chief Dam Sith, who was also an SRP candidate in the national election, was arrested on charges of defamation and disinformation. He was released on bail one week later.

**11 July 2008.** Khim Sambor, journalist for pro-opposition newspaper Moneaseka Khmer newspaper, and his son, Khat Sarinpheata, were shot dead at 7pm near the Olympic Stadium by two unidentified men on a moto. The killers have not been arrested.

### Rights Guaranteed in the Constitution

**Article 41:** Khmer citizens shall have freedom of expression, press, and assembly. No one shall exercise this right to infringe upon the rights of others, to affect the good traditions of the society, to violate public law and order and national security.

## Freedom of Assembly and Association

You have the right to organize peaceful meetings or to take part in meetings in a peaceful way. It is wrong for authorities to stop someone from joining or forming a group.

### Rights at Risk

The right to form groups, to join trade unions and **organize and to assemble together** with the aim of **addressing issues of common concern** is a human right. It is an important way citizens can **influence** the governments and leaders.

### The Situation in Cambodia

**15 January 2008.** 300 workers in the Khmer Youth Union working at the Cambodia Apparel Industry Ltd Kompong Speu province held a non-violent strike to complain about violations of labor rights and the dismissal of 78 probation workers and three union leaders. When the workers attempted to block the factory and prevent the export of products, police arrived at the factory, carrying shields and batons, to disperse the demonstrators.

**6 February 2008.** 11 factory workers are injured and five hospitalized after a police attempt to crackdown on a strike outside the Kingsland Garment factory, Phnom Penh. Workers had been on strike since 11 January demanding respect for the labor law and the reinstatement of 19 union representatives fired in June 2007.

**17 August 2008.** An attempted peaceful gathering over the Preah Vihear temple dispute by factory workers. More than 50 intervention police confronted the 100 workers and teachers and stopped them from marching on the street. Police violently pushed people, as well as destroying banners and confiscating Cambodian flags.

### Rights Guaranteed in the Constitution

**Article 42:** Khmer Citizens shall have the right to establish associations and political parties. These rights shall be determined by law. Khmer citizens may take part in mass organizations for mutual benefit to promote national achievement and social order.