

11 September 2020

Cambodia: Human rights defender Mean Prommony arrested

On 6 September 2020, human rights defender **Mean Prommony** was arrested by police in Phnom Penh, ahead of his planned participation in a peaceful assembly at Freedom Park the following day. On the same day as his arrest, the defender was taken to the Phnom Penh Court, where he was charged with “incitement to commit a felony or cause social unrest”. He is currently being detained at the Phnom Penh Correctional Center (CC) 1.

Mean Prommony is a human rights defender and the vice-president of the Khmer Student Intelligent League Association (KSILA). The group works on mobilising and building capacity, to increase students’ participation in social development, good government, and sustainable use of natural resources. He has been an active voice, especially amongst youth in the country, raising awareness on social injustices and human rights issues.

On 6 September 2020, Phnom Penh police arrested human rights defender Mean Prommony over his plans to participate in a peaceful assembly that was due to take place the following day at Freedom Park in Phnom Penh. The demonstration was to call for the release of [imprisoned](#) human rights defender [Rong Chhun](#), as well as [imprisoned](#) members of Khmer Thavarak, [Hun Vannak](#) and [Chhoeun Daravy](#). Mean Prommony was presented before the Phnom Penh Court on the same day, where he was charged with “incitement to commit a felony or cause social unrest” and later sent to pre-trial detention in Phnom Penh’s CC 1.

This arrest comes against the backdrop of rising Government intolerance towards defenders in the country. In the past several days, there has been a crackdown on public gatherings, with several human rights defenders currently detained. Front Line Defenders has issued multiple [appeals](#) condemning judicial harassment of defenders and urging the Cambodian authorities to release the those detained without sufficient legal basis and [cease](#) the targeting of human rights movements.

Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned by the progressively hostile environment in which human rights defenders carry out their work in Cambodia. Particularly concerning is the Government’s treatment of defenders and the curtailing of their fundamental rights and freedoms, including freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Front Line Defenders condemns the arrest of Mean Prommony, as it believes he is being targeted for his legitimate and peaceful work in the protection of human rights.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Cambodia to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Mean Prommony, and drop the charges against him, as it is believed that that he is being targeted solely as a result of his legitimate and peaceful work in the defence of human rights;
2. Ensure that the treatment of Mean Prommony, while in detention, adheres to the conditions set out in the ‘Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment’, adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988;

3. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Cambodia are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals, and free of all restrictions including police and judicial harassment.

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