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LICADHO

CAMBODIAN LEAGUE FOR THE PROMOTION AND DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

#16, Street 99, PO Box 499, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Tel: (855) 23 727 102/216 602 • Fax: (855) 23 727 102/217 626 • Email: contact@licadho-cambodia.org

The 23 men detained in Correctional Centre 3 and Kampong Cham Prison, Kampong Cham Province

Arrested on January 2 and January 3, 2014

In December 2013 garment workers in Cambodia went on strike to demand an increase in the monthly minimum wage to \$160 per month. The strike continued every day into the new year, with increasing numbers of workers joining the protests.

On January 2, 2014, tensions escalated as striking garment workers from factories close to South Korean/U.S.-owned Yakjin factory in Phnom Penh gathered to urge other workers to join the strike. Special Command Unit 911 was quickly mobilized to suppress the garment factory worker demonstration, brandishing knives, metal pipes, slingshots, batons and AK-47 rifles to intimidate and injure strikers. Ten people were arrested on January 2, including Vorn Pao, President of IDEA (Independent Democracy of Informal Economy Association), Theng Savoeun, Coordinator of CCFC (Coalition of Cambodian Farmer Community), Chan Puthisak, community leader from Boeung Kak Lake, and Sokun Sombath Piseth, staff member at CLaRi-Cambodia (Center for Labor Rights of Cambodia). On January 3, all ten appeared before Phnom Penh Municipal Court charged under Criminal Code Articles 218 and 411 (intentional violence with aggravating circumstances and intentional damage with aggravating circumstances).

That same day, January 3, 2014, mixed security forces (hereafter referred to as 'security forces') used live ammunition to clear striking workers in front of Canadia Industrial Park on Veng Sreng Road, resulting in at least four civilian deaths and 38 injuries requiring hospitalization, including 25 who suffered bullet wounds. Thirteen more men were arrested during the clashes and charged on 4 January under Criminal Code Articles 218 and 411. Three men were additionally charged with Criminal Code Article 502 and Traffic Law Article 78 (Insult addressed to a public official acting in their official capacity and blocking public traffic).

Those arrested and charged over the course of the two days were sent to Correctional Centre 3 (CC3) in Kampong Cham province. One, a minor, was later transferred to Kampong Cham prison. Subsequent to being charged, all 23 were held incommunicado until January 8. Some had been severely beaten and denied access to adequate medical care. All 23 men face up to 6 months of pre-trial detention and up to 5 years' imprisonment as well as fines from \$0.25 - \$5,525.

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Provincial Offices: Battambang: (053) 952 828 • Banteay Meanchey: (054) 958 861 • Koh Kong (035) 936 116 • Kampong Cham (042) 941 464 • Kampong Chhnang (026) 988 637
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Vorn Pao

Address: Trapang Chhouk Village, Teuk Thla Commune, Sen Sok District, Phnom Penh

Age: 39

Marital status: Married with four sons (aged 15, 8, 6, 3)

Occupation: President of Independent Democracy of Informal Economy Association (IDEA)

Charges: January 3, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 2, 2014

Place of arrest: In front of Yakjin factory, National Road 4

“ Pao went to help those arrested in front of Yakjin factory...they wanted to arrest him because he is a leader. They caught him and he was beaten unconscious...the police poured water on his face to make him conscious to continue to beat him” (Pao’s wife)

Pao lives with his wife in Phnom Penh and his sons live with their aunt in Pao’s hometown where they go to school. His wife describes him as an “*ideal husband*” who loves his family. He is active in promoting labor rights, human rights, working with grassroots groups and promoting social justice.

Pao went to the demonstrations at National Road 4 on January 2 when he received a phone call about three people being arrested. Pao and his wife tried to negotiate with the security forces to stop the violence and to ask for those arrested to be released. He also called the United Nations’ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights staff for their assistance. As security forces and demonstrators continued to clash, throwing stones and water bottles at each other, Pao and his wife became separated on different sides of the road. The security forces tried to detain Pao twice. The first time he escaped; soon after, the security forces finally arrested him, severely beating him in the process. Pao has been suffering from a serious wound (ten stitches) on his head as well as from surgery he underwent in late 2013. During his arrest the security forces battered him on the wound from the surgery causing him severe pain and bruises.

When Pao’s sons asked: “*When will he be released?*” his wife tried to explain to them that: “*He was arrested because he tried to do something for the country, he is innocent and the things he does are for the sake of justice. Please don’t be disappointed with your father*”. Pao’s wife hopes and believes that their sons will understand.



Theng Savoeun

Address: Chhuok Sar Village, Chheu Teal Commune, Svay Chrum District, Svay Rieng

Age: 24

Marital status: Engaged

Occupation: Coordinator of Coalition of Cambodian Farmer Community (CCFC)

Charges: January 3, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 2, 2014

Place of arrest: In front of Yakjin factory, National Road 4

“People don’t want to be rich, they [the demonstrators] just want to have a decent life. He was arrested for the benefit of justice, to bring justice to the people” (Savoeun’s older brother)

Savoeun comes from Svay Rieng province where his mother and father still live. He is the second of four children, with two brothers and one sister.

Savoeun came to Phnom Penh in 2008 to study and holds a diploma in law. Since 2008, he worked with several unions and NGOs until he founded CCFC where he is now a coordinator. Savoeun has always been interested in social work and has been engaged in different networks and groups since high school. Savoeun is particularly interested in advocacy and has often joined forums and debates to mobilise farmers and develop networks.

His older brother, who has visited Savoeun in prison, says he has become very weak and thin. Before the demonstrations, Savoeun was on medication for health problems. According to his brother, when he was arrested he did not have any medication with him and at the time of the first prison visit his condition was so severe that he could not eat properly. Savoeun’s brother also adds that he had a serious wound on his head from the violence when he was arrested.



Chan Puthisak

Address: Boeung Kak Village, Sras Chak Commune, Daun Penh District, Phnom Penh

Age: 40

Marital Status: Married with one daughter (aged 9)

Occupation: Community leader from Boeung Kak Lake, Glasscutter

Charges: January 3, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 2, 2014

Place of arrest: In front of Yakjin factory, National Road 4

“Where is my dad? When will he be released?” (Puthisak’s daughter)

Puthisak is married and is father to a nine-year-old daughter who is in grade three at school. His daughter asks about him every day, wanting her father to return home. His wife asks for help to get him released as he “*only works for justice* [increased wages]”. She has a small shop which provides the family with some income whilst Puthisak is in prison.

Puthisak is a key community representative from Boeung Kak Lake who took the lead when 15 Boueng Kak Lake representatives were imprisoned in mid 2012. He is very important to his community, especially while they continue to suffer abuse and persecution by authorities. He also works as a glasscutter to support his family.

His wife describes Puthisak as a very caring and popular person who always helps people in need. When there are issues to deal with he mobilises the community to plan and discuss solutions. His wife says he should be released immediately as he only attended the demonstration to support justice for garment workers. His family misses him greatly.

**Sokun Sombath Piseth**

Address: Russey Village, Steung Meanchey Commune, Meanchey District, Phnom Penh

Age: 31

Marital status: Married with one son (aged 3)

Occupation: Labor union networking officer at Center for Labor Rights of Cambodia (CLaRi-Cambodia)

Charges: January 3, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 2, 2014

Place of arrest: In front of Yakjin factory, National Road 4

“We want him home...back with his family where he can get medical treatment” (Piseth’s mother)

Piseth comes from a family of four children, and has one brother and two sisters. Piseth himself is married and has a three year old son. His wife now lives with Piseth’s parents as she cannot support their family whilst he is in prison. She works as a garment factory worker close to where they usually live.

Piseth is a labor union networking officer for CLaRi-Cambodia. Previously, he worked for the public telecommunication company Telecom Cambodia. Piseth is known as a very helpful and inquisitive man who is very good with information technology.

Piseth’s mother says that he was severely beaten and lost several of his belongings during the time of his arrest. She also says the security forces crushed his hand and dislocated one of his fingers. When Piseth’s mother visited him in prison he had a very swollen hand and his body was covered with bruises. His family wants him out of prison so that he can receive adequate medical treatment for his injuries.

**Bou Sarith**

Address: Russey Village, Steung Meanchey Commune, Meanchey District, Phnom Penh

Age: 27

Marital status: Single

Occupation: Garment worker¹

Charges: January 4, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 502 (Insult addressed to Public Official Acting in their Official Capacity), Traffic Law Act. 78 (Blocking Public Traffic)

Possible prison sentence: 1 day-5 years

Possible fines: 0.25-5,525 USD

Date of arrest: January 3, 2014

Place of arrest: Near Canadia Industrial Park, Veng Sreng Road

“Please do not worry”

(Sarith to his mother when she visited him in the prison)

Sarith lives with his mother and two of his siblings who are still at school. Sarith helps to support the family by working in a garment factory. He has two other siblings who are married and live with their families.

Sarith left school at an early age (between grade three and four) and started working to support his family. *“He works very hard to support his family, so he is not married yet”*, his mother says. He does not have much free time, but when he does, he likes to play football.

According to his family, Sarith was not involved in the demonstrations, but on the evening of January 3, he had gone on his bicycle to see the demonstrations with his friend. His friend managed to escape on the bicycle, but Sarith was violently arrested. If it had not been for Sarith’s friend who went to tell his family, they believe, they would not have known about his arrest for several days. Sarith had a lot of bruises on his face when his family visited him in prison.

¹ He used to work at Nan Jing factory but has recently changed and cannot remember the name of the new factory.

**Chea Sarath**

Address: Trapang Thleung Village, Choam Chao Commune, Posen Chey District, Phnom Penh

Age: 34

Marital status: Married with two children (aged 5 and 3)

Occupation: Moto-taxi driver

Charges: January 4, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 502 (Insult addressed to Public Official Acting in their Official Capacity), Traffic Law Act. 78 (Blocking Public Traffic)

Possible prison sentence: 1 day-5 years

Possible fines: 0.25-5,525 USD

Date of arrest: January 3, 2014

Place of arrest: Near Canadia Industrial Park, Veng Sreng Road

“I did not tell our children about his arrest. When our children ask me about him, I tell them their father goes to work far away. I want him to be released soon. Our children ask about him every day and they really need him” (Sarath’s wife)

Sarath is married and has two children, a five year old son and a three year old daughter. He is a moto-taxi driver in Phnom Penh and his wife is a garment factory worker. Their children are currently staying with Sarath’s mother in Kien Svay District because his wife works long hours and does not have time to take care of them.

Sarath’s wife says that he is a good husband and that they get along well with each other. Since his arrest, his wife has been very worried and cannot sleep well.

Sarath was on his way home on his motorbike and was arrested when he had almost reached their home, his wife said. At the time of arrest he lost several of his belongings, including his motorbike, his identification card, his phone, his helmet and some money. After his wife visited him in prison she said: *“He seems fine, but his wrists still hurt because of the handcuffs”*.

His wife wants to see him released soon. Their children often ask about him but his wife thinks that it is better for them not to know that he is prison.

**Chhim Thoeun**

Address: Ampil Village, Ampil Commune, Romeas Haek District, Svay Rieng

Age: 26

Marital status: Single

Occupation: Garment worker at Yakjin factory

Charges: January 3, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 2, 2014

Place of arrest: In front of Yakjin factory, National Road 4

"I want my brother to be released soon. He is innocent. He just joined the demonstration for a wage increase" (Thoeun's older brother)

Thoeun has worked for Yakjin garment factory for less than a year. His sister is also a garment worker there. Thoeun has not lived in Phnom Penh for long and is not very familiar with the city. In his spare time he usually stays at home or at his neighbours' house. When Thoeun was arrested he had just returned from his hometown where he had been helping his family harvest rice.

On January 2, Thoeun's brother heard he went to join other garment workers at the demonstration after being told the factory was closed. He later went home but decided to return and was arrested when he was on his way back to the demonstration.

When his family visited him in prison Thoeun told them he was severely beaten, kicked and dragged away by security forces at the arrest. He also told them that he is suffering from a lot of pain. His family says his body was swollen and covered in bruises and he had a wound on his face.

**Cho Eun Yong**

Address: Kourk Roveang Village, Pra Lay Commune, Steung Saen District, Kampong Thom

Age: 23

Marital status: Single

Occupation: Garment worker at Fuling factory

Charges: January 4, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 3, 2014

Place of arrest: Near Canadia Industrial Park, Veng Sreng Road

“Please help and release my son...he is innocent...he did not join the demonstration” (Yong’s mother)

Yong comes from a family with nine members: mother, father, and his three brothers and three sisters. His parents and one of his brothers are farmers. Before Yong started to work in the garment industry he also used to work as a farmer. Yong has worked at Fuling garment factory for less than a year. Two of his sisters also work in the garment industry.

Yong left school at grade four to start working. Yong’s mother says he is a good son and that he never causes problems for his family. He has always kept himself busy with farming, and now he is working long hours at the garment factory to support his family. Whenever he has some free time he likes to go fishing and have coffee with friends.

Yong was arrested when he was resting with his sisters after lunch. His sisters say security forces came into the room and tried to arrest him. When his sisters tried to stop them, they were pushed away. Yong was dragged out of the room, seriously beaten, including with electric batons on his head and face, and taken away. He still shows signs of bruising on his face.

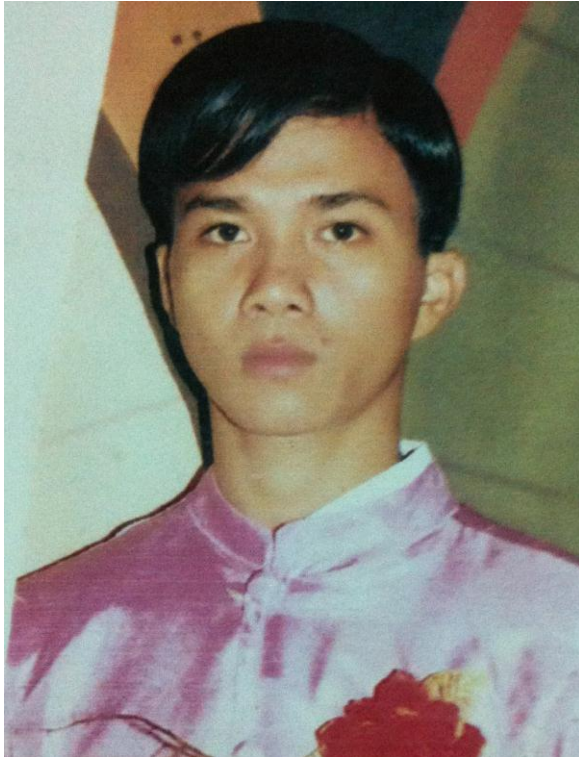
**Heng Roatha****Address:** Bakong Village, Tbseng Commune, Kampong Svay District, Kampong Thom**Age:** 22**Marital status:** Single**Occupation:** Garment worker at YVP factory (building 5B), Canadia Industrial Park**Charges:** January 4, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)**Possible prison sentence:** 2-5 years**Possible fines:** 1000-5000 USD**Date of arrest:** January 3, 2014**Place of arrest:** Near Canadia Industrial Park, Veng Sreng Road

"We can't afford to visit him in prison, please help us to get him released as we don't know what to do"
(Roatha's oldest sister)

Roatha is the youngest in his family and lives with two of his three older sisters, the oldest and the youngest. The middle sister works in Thailand and cannot afford to come to Phnom Penh to help her family in seeking his release. Roatha's parents are dead so his older sisters work hard to keep the family together. They are devastated that he is now in prison.

Roatha left school at grade 11 to start working at the garment factory. During his free time he plays volleyball. He is a gentle young man who likes joking with people; he is considerate and would never do anything to provoke other people.

Roatha's sisters are very worried about their brother and don't know what to do. Roatha's sisters say that when they visited him in prison he suffered from severe headaches and eye pain resulting from the violent arrest when he was dragged down from the third floor of a building. His sisters want to help him but they have very little money and cannot visit him regularly. Roatha's sisters ask for help to have him released.

**Hoeun Da**

Address: Russey Tvea Village, Prey Khnes Commune, Mesang District, Prey Veng

Age: 29

Marital status: Married with one son (aged 6)

Occupation: Garment worker at Hong Sin factory²

Charges: January 4, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 3, 2014

Place of arrest: Near Canadia Industrial Park, Veng Sreng Road

“When he was arrested no one knew where he was, we spent days searching for him. His wife was devastated and everyone cried” (Da’s mother)

Da is married and has one son who is six years old. Da and his wife both work as garment workers at Hong Sin factory in Phnom Penh. Da’s mother describes him as: *“a good son who never creates problems”* and says he has always worked hard to support his family. Da has been a garment worker for many years but can still not afford to buy a house as the wage only sustains their current living standards and they are unable to save any money.

When Da was arrested none of his family members knew where he had been taken. They spent several days searching for him and Da’s wife was devastated. They had lost all hope when, with help from NGOs, they found that he had been taken to CC3 prison.

When Da’s mother, son and wife went to see him in prison, his head was swollen and he had a lot of bruises under the arms and on the legs from the violence during his arrest. At that time Da could not walk properly because of the pain in his legs. His family wants him released and returned to his family immediately.

² Name of factory is translated from Khmer.



Lorn San

Address: Ta Mom Village, Mororom Commune, Thpong District, Kampong Speu

Age: 20

Marital status: Married

Occupation: Garment worker at Sky Nice factory

Charges: January 3, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 2, 2014

Place of arrest: In front of Yakjin factory, National Road 4

“He was not involved in the clashes, he did not do anything wrong. Please release him soon” (San’s wife)

San and his wife are both garment workers at Sky Nice factory. His wife has worked in the factory for several years but San has only worked there for less than a year. He is known as a very helpful man and he usually helps his wife with household duties such as washing and cleaning. When he has free time he likes to go fishing.

According to San’s wife, he was arrested when he and his wife, together with some other garment workers, went to see the demonstration. When chaos erupted, San and his wife tried to escape by running away, holding each other’s hands. San’s wife fell down and was beaten and as San stopped to help her he was himself beaten and arrested. His wife tried to appeal to the security forces not to use violence but they threatened to kill her if she stayed.

When San’s family visited him in prison he had many bruises on his body from being beaten with iron bars and he had a lot of pain in his mouth. His wife is very worried and wishes to see him released soon as he did not do anything wrong.

**Mam Piseth**

Address: Pongro Village, Pongro Commune, Baray District, Kampong Thom

Age: 23

Marital status: Single

Occupation: Garment worker at YVP factory (building 5B), Canadia Industrial Park

Charges: January 4, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 3, 2014

Place of arrest: Near Canadia Industrial Park, Veng Sreng Road

“Please help us get my son and the other 22 people released. My son did not do anything wrong” (Piseth’s father)

Piseth has three siblings, two of whom are also garment workers. His father works as a teacher. Because Piseth’s family is very poor, he left school at grade 11 to start working to support his youngest sister who is still in grade eight in school. Piseth started working for the garment factory at Canadia Industrial Park about three months ago. *“We only demand a wage increase because we want to have a decent life, not to harass the government”*, Piseth’s father says.

According to his family, Piseth was arrested when he tried to leave the factory together with a group of other garment workers and the security forces came to disperse them. While the other garment workers ran away, Piseth attempted to get his motorbike to return home when security forces caught him. During his arrest he was kicked and beaten.

Piseth was suffering a lot from the violent arrest when his family visited him in prison. He had ear pain and difficulties breathing and sleeping, but his condition is now better. Piseth’s father says he is much thinner than before he was arrested.

**Nakry Vanda**

Address: Daung Khveth Village, Veal Pun Commune, Thpong District, Kampong Speu

Age: 19

Marital status: Single

Occupation: Garment worker at Hon Va factory

Charges: January 3, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 2, 2014

Place of arrest: In front of Yakjin factory, National Road 4

"[I] hope to see justice for my cousin as he only attended the demonstrations because of the low wages...it is necessary to raise the wages" (Vanda's cousin)

Vanda comes from Kampong Speu province and has a mother and a sister. Vanda has been working as a garment worker at Hon Va factory for two years. Vanda's cousin describes Vanda as a *"gentle guy who never had problems before"*.

Vanda attended the demonstrations to call for a living wage for garment factory workers. When Vanda was arrested he and his cousin Reth Roatha had just dropped their sisters at the garment factory. On their way home they stopped at a market to buy food and were both arrested. According to his cousin, Vanda would never use violence. At the time of arrest he was beaten by security forces and people in plain clothes

When Vanda's mother heard about his arrest she immediately went to Phnom Penh on a motorbike to see her son. She was involved in a traffic accident along the way and broke her leg. She is now recovering but because of her condition she is not able to visit Vanda in prison. Vanda's cousin expresses his concern for both Vanda and his mother and hopes to see justice for Vanda.

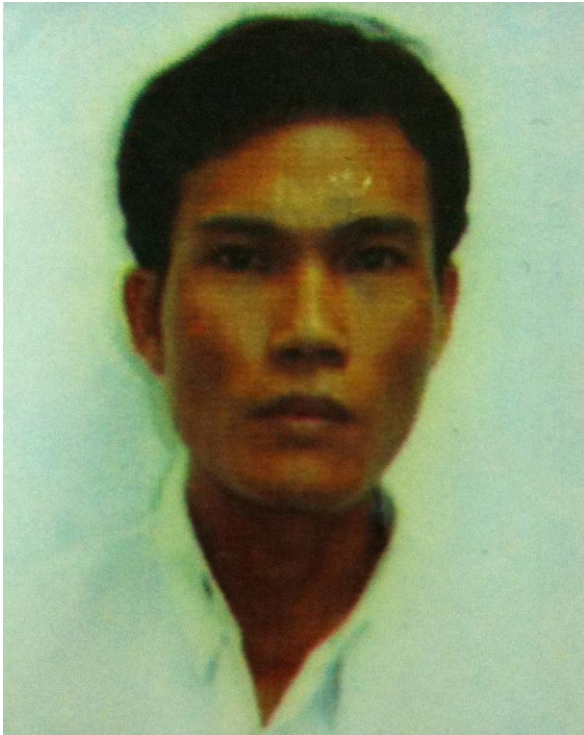
**Nem Sokhuon****Address:** Thnong Village, Svay Ang Commune, Svay Chrum District, Svay Rieng**Age:** 23**Marital status:** Single**Occupation:** Unemployed**Charges:** January 4, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)**Possible prison sentence:** 2-5 years**Possible fines:** 1000-5000 USD**Date of arrest:** January 3, 2014**Place of arrest:** Near Canadia Industrial Park, Veng Sreng Road

*“Sokhuon didn’t want to tell our mother about his condition, but he looked thinner and very weak”
(Sokhuon’s older brother)*

Sokhuon comes from Svay Rieng where his mother and father still live. He has one older brother, who works in a bakery, one brother who is becoming a monk and a younger sister who is still in school. Sokhuon’s brother describes him as a good man who would never cause any problems: *“He just focuses on his work”*.

According to his family, Sokhuon was not active in the demonstrations but on January 3, he and his brother went to see the demonstrators. When the suppression started Sokhuon’s brother wanted to go home but Sokhuon stayed to film what was happening. When the security forces came, Sokhuon kept filming and they arrested him. His brother says he heard from their mother that he was beaten unconscious when he was arrested.

When Sokhuon was arrested, all his neighbours and friends cried, feeling helpless. His family wants him released because he was only trying to make a video. According to his brother: *“He is innocent, I was there...I saw him and know that he only tried to make a video”*.

**Pang Vanny**

Address: Ba Prey Village, Prek Changkran Commune, Sithor Kandal District, Prey Veng

Age: 38

Marital status: Single

Occupation: Garment worker at Suntex factory

Charges: January 4, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 3, 2014

Place of arrest: Near Canadia Industrial Park, Veng Sreng Road

“He was beaten, tortured like an animal, and he was not even involved” (Vanny’s younger brother)

Vanny comes from a large family and has eight siblings. His younger brother describes him as the responsible brother. Vanny is a garment worker at Suntex factory and three of his siblings are also garment workers. Vanny works hard to support his younger siblings who are still in school. He is known as a very disciplined and responsible worker, and popular in both Phnom Penh where he has lived the last 10 years and in his hometown in Prey Veng.

When Vanny was arrested, he was at home in his room that he rented in a large house close to the Canadia Industrial Park, his brother says. People who were trying to escape the chaos sought protection in his house. Vanny’s sisters tried to stop the security forces from entering the house but they responded with insults and violence. When Vanny tried to explain to the security forces that he was not involved in the demonstrations they arrested him.

Vanny was beaten severely both during the arrest and whilst being taken to prison. When his family visited him in prison his brother says he had very swollen eyes and could not see clearly. He also had a lot of bruises all over his body. His siblings want justice for their brother, as they say he was not involved in the clashes.



Phang Tren

Address: Posen Snay Village, Sro Yov Commune, Steung Sen District, Kampong Thom

Age: 24

Marital status: Divorced with two daughters (aged 2 and 1)

Occupation: Garment worker at Hongkong Yufeng factory (building 12), Canadia Industrial Park

Charges: January 4, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 3, 2014

Place of arrest: Near Canadia Industrial Park, Veng Sreng Road

“I just want to see him released soon” (Tren’s brother)

Tren comes from Kampong Thom and has two daughters, aged two and one. He has been working at the Hongkong Yufeng factory at Canadia Industrial Park for less than a year. Before this he worked as a fisherman.

When Tren was arrested his family says he was watching the demonstrations from the third floor of a building close to Canadia Industrial Park. The security forces entered the building and arrested him.

Tren’s family visited him in prison and at that time they saw a big wound on his head, but it seemed that Tren did not want to worry them so he did not talk about his condition. Tren’s family is very worried about him and want to see him released soon.



Poang Sarath

Address: Mohaleap Village, Mohaleap Commune, Koh Sotin District, Kampong Cham

Age: 26

Marital status: Married with one son (newborn)

Occupation: Private security guard at S.D. Holiday Hotel

Charges: January 4, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 3, 2014

Place of arrest: Near Canadia Industrial Park, Veng Sreng Road

“I want him released soon. He did not join the demonstration, he is just a private security guard and he was beaten and put in prison” (Sarath’s wife)

Sarath is married and his first son was born just a few days before his arrest. Sarath works as a night-shift private security guard at S.D. Holiday Hotel and rents a room near Canadia Industrial Park. Sarath’s wife works as a tailor in one of the shops close to the room they rent. His wife is currently staying with her parents in Kampong Cham province so they can help with the newborn baby.

According to Sarath’s wife he was arrested when he was asleep in his room. Several garment workers who were trying to escape the violence sought protection in his house, but security forces followed them and tried to enter Sarath’s room. When Sarath tried to keep them out they fired live bullets into the wall, kicked down the door and arrested him, his wife says.

Sarath was severely beaten when he was arrested. When his family visited him he was suffering from a lot of pain and had bruises on his abdomen, back and arms. Sarath was also bleeding from his upper lip. Sarath cries a lot when he thinks about his newborn son. His wife is really concerned about him and wants to see him released.



Reth Roatha

Address: Daung Khveth Village, Veal Pun Commune, Thpong District, Kampong Speu

Age: 24

Marital status: Single

Occupation: Driver at a rice mill in Thailand

Charges: January 3, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 2, 2014

Place of arrest: In front of Yakjin factory, National Road 4

“We want to see Roatha released and for him to return to his work in Thailand, but his release is most important” (Roatha’s mother)

Roatha comes from Kampong Speu province. His mother and father have two daughters and four sons, and Roatha is the oldest. His sisters work in the garment industry. Roatha is a very active person who loves all kinds of sports, he especially enjoys playing football and volleyball in his free time.

Roatha works hard to support his family. He left school at grade nine to work as a farmer with his mother. Up until his arrest Roatha worked in Thailand at a rice mill.

Roatha was arrested when he was home for two days to visit his family in Cambodia. On January 2, he drove his sisters to work at their factory along with his cousin, Nakry Vanda. After dropping off their sisters they stopped at the market close to Yakjin factory to buy some food. There they were arrested and Roatha was beaten unconscious, his mother says. Roatha’s mother also says he had a lot of pain in his abdomen and shoulders when she was visiting him in prison, and that he had many bruises on his face from his arrest. His family is very worried and want to see him released so he can return to work.

**Ros Sophoan**

Address: Prey Phneak Village, Krasang Commune, Romeas Haek District, Svay Rieng

Age: 25

Marital status: Married with one child (newborn)

Occupation: Garment worker at Hai Yon factory³

Charges: January 4, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 3, 2014

Place of arrest: Near Canadia Industrial Park, Veng Sreng Road

*“We just want him back. When his wife gave birth to their baby she kept screaming for her husband”
(Sophoan’s sister-in-law)*

Sophoan comes from Svay Rieng. He and his wife were recently married. Both are garment workers but they work in different factories.

Two weeks after Sophoan was arrested, his wife gave birth to their first child in their home village. During the delivery, she was crying and kept screaming Sophoan’s name. Sophoan’s sister-in-law is looking after his wife and their newborn baby but she needs to return to work soon and will be unable to help. Sophoan’s wife is terrified about what will happen to Sophoan and worries about who will take care of her and the baby.

Sophoan had just returned from taking his wife back to their home village for the birth when he was arrested. He had gone back to Phnom Penh to collect his salary from Ming Yiak factory and he was arrested on his way to his rented room. Sophoan’s sister-in-law says that when he arrived at the factory there was chaos, and that Sophoan was severely beaten during the arrest and has several wounds. She is very worried as he seems traumatised from the arrest.

³ Name of factory is translated from Khmer.

**Ry Sinoun**

Address: Prey Thom Village, Neak Loeung Commune, Peam Ror District, Prey Veng

Age: 18

Marital status: Single

Occupation: Garment worker at Xing Long factory

Charges: January 4, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 3, 2014

Place of arrest: Near Canada Industrial Park, Veng Sreng Road

“I am really worried about him, he is in a lot of pain from the violence when he was arrested. His head, his back and his abdomen are very sore and he has a lot of bruises. His condition will just get worse if he stays in prison”(Sinoun’s mother)

Sinoun lives with his mother and his three younger sisters. When his father died he left school at grade six to support the family. Sinoun’s mother is very sick and cannot work anymore so Sinoun and one of his sisters are the only income earners in his family. Before Sinoun’s father died the family spent a lot of money on his medical treatment and now they also need to pay for treatment for his mother. Sinoun’s family is very worried about Sinoun and the family situation.

Sinoun was searching for a job to support his family for a long time, but it was not easy for him to find employment because of his young age. Sinoun was relieved when he got the job at Xing Long factory. Sinoun had only worked at Xing Long factory for three months before he was arrested.

According to Sinoun’s mother, he was arrested when he, his sister and his cousin, who are also garment workers, left the factory together on 3 January. Because of the chaos the three of them were separated. Sinoun fell down and the security forces forced him to the ground, stepped on his neck and arrested him. When his family met him in prison he was in a lot of pain.

**Teng Chanthy**

Address: Trapang Tonlop Village, Svay Chhuk Commune, Sami Meanchey District, Kampong Chhnang

Age: 21

Marital status: Single

Occupation: Truck driver and construction worker

Charges: January 3, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 2, 2014

Place of arrest: In front of Yakjin factory, National Road 4

“He had nothing to do with this, he just went to the factory to take some money to his sisters” (Chanthy’s father)

There are seven people in Chanty’s family. He is the youngest of five children and has four sisters. Two of his siblings are married and have moved out of the family home, Chanthy lives with the rest of his family in Phnom Penh.

His family say that Chanthy never drinks alcohol and never has problems with other people. His father also adds that he is afraid of violence. Chanthy always helps his family and supports them by driving trucks and building wedding tents.

Chanthy’s father says when Chanthy was arrested he and his cousin were on a motorbike on their way to see his sisters who work at Yakjin factory. In the chaos Chanthy got off the motorbike and tried to escape. His cousin managed to leave on the motorbike but Chanthy was slower on foot and was arrested by the security forces. His family wants justice for Chanthy and for him to be released as they say he was not involved in the demonstrations.

**Yon Sok Chea**

Address: Barach Village, Prey Knes Commune, Mesang District, Prey Veng

Age: 17

Marital status: Single

Occupation: Garment worker at E Khang factory⁴

Charges: January 4, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 502 (Insult addressed to Public Official Acting in their Official Capacity), Traffic Law Act. 78 (Blocking Public Traffic)

Possible prison sentence: 1 day-5 years

Possible fines: 0.25-5,525 USD

Date of arrest: January 3, 2014

Place of arrest: Near Canadia Industrial Park, Veng Sreng Road

“Chea started crying when he saw me, his hands were swollen and he has a lot of wounds on his back from being beaten with electric batons. They have also shaved his head” (Chea’s mother)

Chea is the middle of five children. Chea, his mother and two of his siblings work as garment workers. Chea has worked in the garment industry since he was 14 years old. He gives most of his salary to his family and rarely buys anything for himself. He works seven days a week and never has spare time.

Chea left school at grade four to start washing cars and motorbikes to support his family. He has been working in the garment factory since 2010. His mother did not want him to join the demonstrations but Chea felt it was important to protest for a wage increase. Chea’s mother says that when Chea was arrested he tried to talk to the security forces and explain that he was only there for the demonstration and had nothing to do with burning tires and stone throwing. The security forces did not want to listen to him and asked him why he didn’t stay at home if he had nothing to do with the violence. Then they arrested him. His family wants justice for Chea. *“The police did not give a warning before they started shooting, one man was shot in his stomach and one in his hand”*, his mother says.

On January 17, Chea was transferred to Kampong Cham prison after being held in CC3 together with the other 22 detained men. Recent X rays taken at Kampong Cham provincial hospital showed multiple fractures of his hand caused by beatings from the police on January 3.

⁴ Name of factory is translated from Khmer.

**Yong Sam On**

Address: Khlorok Village, Preah Khe Commune, Boseth District, Kampong Speu

Age: 31

Marital status: Married with one daughter (aged 6)

Occupation: Electrician at Sabrina factory

Charges: January 3, 2014 – Criminal Code Art. 218 (Intentional Violence with Aggravating Circumstances), Criminal Code Art. 411 (Intentional Damage with Aggravating Circumstances)

Possible prison sentence: 2-5 years

Possible fines: 1000-5000 USD

Date of arrest: January 2, 2014

Place of arrest: In front of Yakjin factory, National Road 4

" Our daughter cries and asks about her father. I try to tell her that he is busy with work. The garment factory has not paid him so he has not seen his daughter in a long time" (Sam On's wife)

Sam On is an electrician at one of the garment factories and his wife is a garment worker in another factory. Their daughter is six years old and attends pre-school in Kampong Speu province where she lives with her grandmother as Sam On and his wife work long days. Whenever they can, Sam On and his wife go to Kampong Speu to visit their daughter. They recently took a micro-credit loan to buy a house in their home village. His wife is worried that they might not be able to pay the loan back now that Sam On is in prison.

According to Sam On's wife his manager told him and his colleague to go and see the demonstration and report back so that the manager could decide whether to allow workers to join the demonstration or not. They went to the demonstration on a motorbike but when they saw the violence they left the motorbike and tried to escape. When they saw security forces destroy other motorbikes Sam On went back to find his and was beaten and arrested.

At the time when Sam On's family visited him in prison he was in a lot of pain because of the violence during his arrest. He also had many bruises on his body and he had problems sleeping, his family says. When his family asked how he was doing in CC3 prison he did not respond, his eyes just filled with tears.
