



គណៈកម្មាធិការរក្សាសិទ្ធិមនុស្ស នៃ អង្គការសហគមន៍ការពារសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា

CAMBODIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION COMMITTEE

ADHOC - CARAM Cambodia - CCPCR - CDP - CHHRA - CKIMHRDA - CSD - CWCC - GENEROUS - HROTP- IDA
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STATEMENT

**NGOs Support Journalists’ Open Letter Requesting King’s Amnesty for
Mr. Hang Chakra, Editor-in-Chief of Khmer Mchas Srok Newspaper**

December 18, 2009

The Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC), a coalition of 21 NGO members, expresses its appreciation and support to the open letter dated December 14, 2009 that was put forward by representatives of journalist clubs, NGOs and other media institutions to the King of the Kingdom of Cambodia for granting an amnesty for Mr. Hang Chakra, editor-in-chief of Khmer Mchas Srok Newspaper.

Mr. Hang Chakra was sentenced by the Phnom Penh Municipality Court to one year in prison and 9 million Riel on June 22, 2009 because of “*defamation and misinformation*”. Until now, he has been serving his sentence at Prey Sar prison.

CHRAC is of the opinion that the freedom of expression, as exercised by Mr. Hang Chakra, has not affected the national order and social security. We urge that the penalty imposed on him after a judgment on his exercise on the freedom of expression on national issues should be granted amnesty by our King.

According to a letter issued by journalist clubs, we are aware that Mr. Hang Chakra is currently in a bad health condition that requires better care and treatment. Apart from this, he is also the important person who helps maintain the living of his whole family.

CHRAC therefore appeals to Ministry of Justice and the Royal Government of Cambodia to legally process the case by requesting to the King to grant him amnesty so that the journalist can be released freely and return back to live with his family as normal.

For more information, please contact:

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