



JOINT STATEMENT

Civil Society Expresses Concern on Situation of Land Dispute in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, 01 June 2010

We, the Coalitions of Civil Society Organizations which are composed of the Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC), The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGO Forum) and The Housing Rights Task Force (HRTF), would like to express our strong concerns about the current situation regarding land disputes in Cambodia. Most of those land dispute cases are still unresolved by resolution processes and existing law.

Recently, land disputes continue to increase by government development. Most land dispute cases involve companies including both local and foreign investment companies as well as wealthy and powerful people. They affect large number of families and are mostly disputed with companies who obtained an economic land concession. It's worth to note that in the past, land dispute cases usually involve dealing with violence and end up unresolved. Only few cases have been settled legally.

According to civil society's statistical analysis on land disputes occurring in 2008, 2009 and mid-year of 2010 we note that the figures of land disputes increased by 36.5% in 2009 compared to 2008 and in mid-year 2010, by 34.3% compared to 2009. Land dispute resolutions are seldom. In 2009, out of 236 cases which were reported, only 17.4% have been solved by a resolution process while 67.4% are still unresolved.

As the Coalitions of Civil Society Organizations, we do support the Royal Government which has paid attention to attract investment companies in order to contribute towards building the country through the provision of economic land concessions. However, at the same time, we would like to express our strong regret and our objections to unlawful Economic Land Concessions, human rights violations that affect people in large numbers and do not contribute to poverty reduction.

Therefore, the Coalition would like to make some recommendations to the Royal Government to take into consideration:

- 1- We are pleased to see the development plan which is participated from people in order to not affect to poor community.
- 2- Please resolve the land disputes by providing fair and proper compensation agreed by both parties.
- 3- Please strengthen the land dispute resolution mechanism through the functioning of jurisdiction authorities or agencies
- 4- Please stop arresting people due to land disputes
- 5- Please enable the competent and responsible authorities to solve the land dispute cases.
- 6- Please stop using the military or police forces to protect the company

Phnom Penh, June 01, 2010

Further information, please contact:

Mr. Hang Chhaya	Chairman of CHRAC/Executive Director of KID.	Tel: 012 865 910
Mr. Chan Soveth	Head of Monitoring section for Human Rights Program of ADHOC.	Tel: 016 937 591
Mr. Chhit Sam Ath	Executive Director of NGO Forum	Tel: 012 928 585
Mr. Sia Phearum	Secretariat Director of HRTF	Tel: 012 852 325