



គណៈកម្មាធិការកម្រិតជាតិ ទៃ អង្គការសមាគមការពារសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា

CAMBODIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION COMMITTEE

ADHOC - BCV-CARAM Cambodia - CCPCR - CDP - CHHRA - CKIMHRDA - CJR-CSD - CWCC - GENEROUS - HROTP
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Statement

Human Rights Violation in the Managing Area of AIDS and Drugs Research Protection Organization in Kantuot Commune, Choam Ksan District, Preah Vihear Province

The Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC) condemned serious human rights violations affected 439 families of people living in Kantuot Commune, Choam Ksan District, Preah Vihear Province committed by the president of AIDS and Drugs Research Protection Organization and his subordinates.

The AIDS and Drugs Research Protection Organization was principally granted of 556 hectares of social land concession in 2007 by the Royal Government of Cambodia for distributing to poor villagers living in community. After this decision, this organization used the social land concession for sale, according to villagers affirmed that almost all of them had bought plots of land from the organization’s president with different prices depending on the land types. Moreover, this organization grabbed the land exceeding the size that provided by the Government and as a result this affected 57 families of people living in that area. The villagers, who have been currently living in this concession area, seem living now under the control of organization because that area is governed directly by the organization’s president and without any cooperation with the local authorities at all.

According to CHRAC’s investigative information showed that the organization at the moment does not have yet a clear structure and only about 10 families living with HIV living and no any drugs users were living the community. Now many people do not have farmland and are seriously facing food shortage and health problems; some villagers get diseases without medicines and medical care provided. Moreover, the organization’s staffs have continued to evict many people from their homes and land while at the same time committing many other forms of offenses such as threatening, rape, physical assault and physical torture. Although those actions were committed, no perpetrators have been subsequently arrested or prosecuted by the court of law. In other instances, the organization just reconciled with the victims and even did not inform the local authorities about these issues. Furthermore, if some villagers dared to demand for resolving these problems, the organization chief would file complaints against them back to Preah Vihear Provincial Court; and then this court would summon subsequently these villagers considering them as abusers instead. Also, the complaints that were made by villagers to the provincial court also leaked to the defendant(s), which could made them suffered again while at the same time the plaintiffs and witnesses were not properly protected.

CHRAC considers these offenses as serious violations of existing laws and human rights. Apart from this, it notes also that the irregularity in distributing plots of land and continued illegal uses of the social land concession is considered as a violation of trust and fraud of the Cambodian Government. Also, any accusations made by the provincial court without proper investigation affect fundamental human rights of the people.

CHRAC therefore would like to appeal to the Cambodian Government and other relevant institutions to take the following actions:

- The competent authorities, especially the Government who has granted social land concession to this organization, conducts proper monitoring on how it uses and distributes the land in order to avoid any opportunists taking advantage from this business.
- The Government postpones this social land concession temporarily up until all land disputes are resolved properly.
- Allowing 57 families of people, the land owners, to use their lands that have been living prior to the organization's encroachment.
- The competent authority conducts investigating into all human rights violations committed in the managing areas of the organization and bring the perpetrators to trial so as to render justice for the victims.
- Take urgent measures to prevent any illegal uses of guns and explosion equipments in the controlled areas of this organization in order to prevent the people safety from being intimidated by the organization's agents.
- Return this controlled area to the state (as this area is currently controlled by the organization).
- The Preah Vihear Provincial Court stops summoning the villagers to the court, which make them fearful and wasting time for making their living.
- The authority provincial or government provides emergency relief for affected families living in that area, particularly women and children who are affected and have no support.

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