



មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា Cambodian Center for Human Rights

We work to
give
Cambodians
a voice

Promoting
human
rights and
democracy
in Cambodia

About Us

What we do

The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR) is a non-political, independent, non-governmental organization that works to promote and protect democracy and respect for human rights throughout Cambodia. Our focus is primarily on civil and political rights, although we work on a variety of interlinked human rights issues.

Why we do it

We believe that every Cambodian has the right to participate in democracy and to have their fundamental human rights respected. We work to give Cambodians a voice.

The CCHR's logo shows a white bird flying out of a circle of sky blue - this symbolizes Cambodia's claim for freedom.

History

The CCHR was founded in 2002 by Kem Sokha, Senator, current National Assembly Member and leader of the Human Rights Party. It was officially launched on 12 November 2002 to promote and protect democracy and human rights in Cambodia. During Kem Sokha's leadership, the CCHR became renowned for organizing regular public forums throughout Cambodia. In December 2006, Kem Sokha and other civil rights leaders were arrested and imprisoned for allegedly defaming the Cambodian government. They were released after a campaign led by Ou Virak, the CCHR's president since April 2007. Ou Virak is the founder of the Alliance for Freedom of Expression in Cambodia (AFEC), and in 2007



he won the Reebok Human Rights Award for his campaign to secure the release of Kem Sokha and the decriminalization of defamation.

Governance

The CCHR is governed according to our Constitution. We have a Board of Directors and a group of Counsellors – successful and influential individuals who have a passion for human rights and support our work. The CCHR is managed day to day by the Management Committee, which is chaired by our President. The CCHR's success is rooted in the hard work of our excellent staff.

Donors

The CCHR is deeply grateful to all of our donors and supporters, as without such assistance our work would not be possible.

Our key donors include USAID, the East West Management Institute, the Asia Foundation, the European Commission, the British Embassy and the Open Society Institute.



Support Us

We rely on international donors for the majority of our funding, and are eager also to form relationships with socially responsible businesses, academic institutions, professional bodies, and individuals interested in promoting and protecting democracy and human rights in Cambodia.

Please contact
rupertabbott@cchrcambodia.org

Our Units

Freedom of Expression

Through its recognition of international human rights instruments in Article 31 and expressly in Article 41, the Constitution of Cambodia provides for Freedom of Expression for all Cambodians.

The Freedom of Expression Unit works to make freedom of expression the norm in Cambodia, restriction the exception. Without freedom of expression - where space is provided for dialogue, criticism and new ideas - Cambodia's human rights problems will never be resolved.



Fair Trials

Our Fair Trials Unit works to encourage fairer trials in Cambodia to reflect constitutional guarantees and protections.

Land Rights

The Land Rights Unit works to discourage unlawful land-grabbing in Cambodia and to promote peaceful resolution where conflict does arise.

Democracy

The Constitution of Cambodia states that the country has united for 'the restoration of Cambodia into an "Island of Peace" based on a multi-party liberal democratic regime guaranteeing human rights, abiding by law, and having high responsibility for the nation's future destiny of moving toward perpetual progress, development, prosperity, and glory.

The Democracy Unit works to bring elected officials and political party representatives face to face with marginalized groups, with the objectives of holding these leaders accountable to their electorate and providing space for citizens to understand democracy, experience the democratic process, raise issues of concern relating to development, poverty and rights, and engage with political parties and polices to advocate for change.

Our Programs

Community Empowerment

Our Community Empowerment Program is designed to empower marginalized Cambodians at the grassroots level, enabling them to understand principles of democracy and human rights, giving them the voice and opportunities to air their concerns and advocate for change, and providing alternative mechanisms for conflict resolution.

Monitoring, Research, Documentation & Information

Through our Monitoring, Research, Documentation & Information Program we work with other NGOs to monitor human rights, research issues of concern, document our findings and provide information to Cambodians and other interested stakeholders on the human rights situation in Cambodia. We aim to encourage a more sophisticated and collaborative approach by civil society in Cambodia.

Advocacy

Our Advocacy Program is based on the solid foundations of our Community Empowerment Program and Monitoring, Research, Documentation & Information Program. The former enables communities to set the agenda for our advocacy. The latter provides us with the data and analysis with which to back this up. Based on these solid foundations, our Advocacy Program includes policy and legislation proposals, dialogue, report writing, lobbying and campaigning. Collaboration with other NGOs and engagement with all stakeholders including the government underlie the program.



CCHR staff are grouped into four specialist Units which reflect the scope of our work. These Units work through our three Programs.