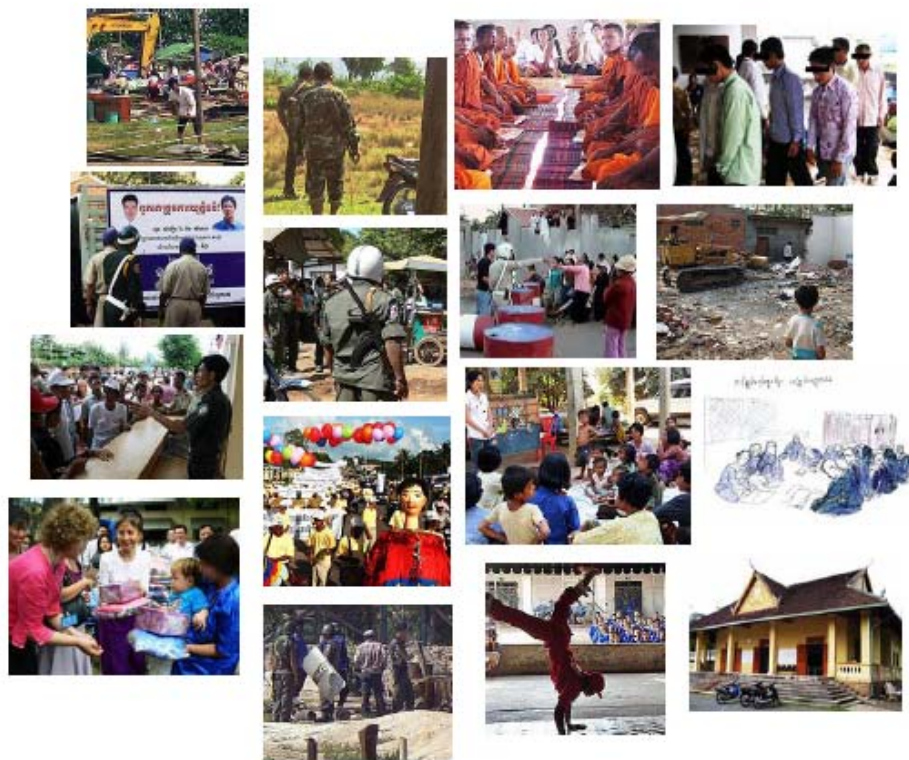


# LICADHO Annual Activity Report

## Promoting and Defending Human Rights in Cambodia

January – December 2007



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**LICADHO**

CAMBODIAN LEAGUE FOR THE PROMOTION  
AND DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

## Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO)

LICADHO is a national Cambodian human rights organization. Since its establishment in 1992, LICADHO has been at the forefront of efforts to protect civil and political and economic and social rights in Cambodia and to promote respect for them by the Cambodian government and institutions. Building on its past achievements, LICADHO continues to be an advocate for the Cambodian people and a monitor of the government through wide ranging human rights programs from its main office in Phnom Penh and 12 provincial offices.

LICADHO pursues its activities through its seven program offices:

- **The Monitoring Office** investigates human rights violations and assists victims in the legal process. Specially trained staff also monitor 18 prisons to assess prison conditions and ensure that pre-trial detainees have access to legal representation.
- **The Women's Rights Office** educates the public about women's rights, investigates women's rights violations and advocates for social and legal changes.
- **The Children's Rights Office** educates the public on children's rights, creates child protection networks at the grassroots level, and investigates children's rights violations.
- **The Project Against Torture Office** provides comprehensive rehabilitation services to victims of torture and conducts advocacy against torture.
- **The Medical Office** provides medical assistance to prisoners and prison officials in 18 prisons and provides medical care and referrals to hospitals for victims of human rights violations.
- **The Advocacy, Documentation and Resource Office** compiles case files into a central electronic database, so that accurate information can be easily accessed and analyzed.
- **The Human Rights Education Office** provides training courses to target groups such as government officials, students, monks and provides dissemination sessions to the general public.

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## Glossary

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>ADRO</b>    | Advocacy, Documentation and Resources Office                   |
| <b>CBA</b>     | Cambodian Bar Association                                      |
| <b>CAMBOW</b>  | Cambodian Committee for Women                                  |
| <b>CWCC</b>    | Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre                                |
| <b>CPG</b>     | Child Protection Groups  |
| <b>CRO</b>     | Children's Rights Office                                       |
| <b>CLEC</b>    | Community Legal Education Center                               |
| <b>ECCC</b>    | Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia               |
| <b>GAD</b>     | Gender and Development for Cambodia                            |
| <b>HRAC</b>    | Human Rights Action Committee                                  |
| <b>HREO</b>    | Human Rights Education Office                                  |
| <b>LAC</b>     | Legal Aid Cambodia   |
| <b>LICADHO</b> | Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights |
| <b>MO</b>      | Monitoring Office  |
| <b>NGO</b>     | Non-Governmental Organization                                  |
| <b>PAT</b>     | Project Against Torture  |
| <b>PADV</b>    | Project Against Domestic Violence                              |
| <b>UQAM</b>    | University of Quebec in Montreal                               |
| <b>WRO</b>     | Women's Rights Office  |

## Human Rights Situation 2007

The human rights situation in Cambodia had the capacity to improve and yet continued to deteriorate in 2007.

Of particular concern in 2007 was the increasing repression and restriction on people's democratic rights of freedom to expression and freedom of assembly. In addition, land-grabbing remained a significant problem, while other human rights abuses still remained highly problematic, such as problems with corruption, executive interference in the judiciary, impunity, and judicial incompetence, and lack of adequate protection for women from all forms of violence.

### **Land grabbing**

Land grabbing continues to be prevalent in Cambodia, with 98 new cases affecting more than 5,242 families reported to LICADHO in 2007. Powerful individuals and companies, often acting with the complicity of government and state officials, continue to displace poor and vulnerable communities. The biggest problems, affecting the most people, are companies illegally acquiring urban settlements for commercial development or illegally being granted economic concessions in rural areas for mining or large-scale farming. Both types of acquisitions are frequently accompanied by intimidation and violence, ranging from verbal threats and petty harassment to the deployment of armed forces to carry out forcible evictions.

Few families are fairly compensated for the loss of their land, and individuals or communities who try to stand up for their land and housing rights are often met with intimidation, violence or baseless criminal charges being filed against them. The latter, fuelled by corruption and official complicity in land-grabbing, is particularly common against community representatives as a way to frighten and weaken the resolve of their communities.

### **High profile land cases in 2007**

#### **Dey Krahorn, Phnom Penh**

In 2007, the construction company 7NG continued its efforts to evict the remaining families from the Dey Krahorn community in central Phnom Penh. The company, with the complicity of local authorities, waged a campaign of coercion, provocation and persecution against the families. Key methods used have included repeatedly trying to seal off the community (by building a fence around it or erecting roadblocks), instigating violence and other provocative acts against the villagers in a clear attempt to incite them to break the law themselves, and the filing of spurious criminal complaints against community representatives and members.

By year's end, at least 18 Dey Krahorn villagers - including seven community representatives - had criminal charges filed against them, based on complaints filed by 7NG or local authorities. In nearly all of the cases, no credible evidence was present to support the complaints. For example, in September a community representative was charged with robbery when a 7NG guard's phone dropped to the ground when he attempted to take a photo of the representative and a minor scuffle ensued.

Construction workers employed by 7NG repeatedly confronted villagers during the year, throwing rocks and provoking violent altercations. One of the most serious incidents was in August when over 100 military police and 100 construction workers armed with crowbars

and hatchets entered Dey Krahom to try to destroy several houses there. When residents tried to peacefully prevent this, police encouraged the construction workers to break through the villagers' lines.

By the end of the year, many of the families at Dey Krahom had – in the face of coercion and constant fear of eviction – decided to move out, accepting 7NG's offers of relocation to a new site 20km from Phnom Penh or financial compensation far below the market value of their land. More than 200 families, however, remained at Dey Krahom and continue to struggle to receive a fair deal for their prime riverside land.

#### **Ratanakkiri province (Keat Kolney)**

Keat Kolney, sister of the Minister of Finance and wife of the Secretary of State of Land Management, had civil and criminal complaints lodged against her by indigenous community members in Ratanakkiri province for allegedly illegally obtaining 500 hectares of land belonging to them. The purchase and sale of this land is forbidden under the 2001 Land Law, according to the community members' lawyers, from the NGOs CLEC and LAC. The villagers claimed that they thought they were giving 50 hectares away to a group of disabled soldiers affiliated with Prime Minister Hun Sen, but they were tricked into signing away the remaining 450 hectares. Keat Kolney in turn lodged a complaint against villagers and 10 CLEC and LAC lawyers representing the villagers.

#### **Koh Kong province (Chi Khor Leu & CPP senator Ly Yong Phat)**

In 2007, 250 villagers from Chi Khor Leu commune in Sre Ambil district of Koh Kong continued to try to resist encroachments on their farmland by companies belonging to wealthy businessman and CPP Senator Ly Yong Phat. The dispute began in May 2006 when company workers started to clear the farmland, which many villagers had been using since 1979. In early 2006 – three months after efforts to forcibly clear the land began – the government awarded land concessions in the area of 10,000 hectares each to two of Ly Yong Phat's companies (Sugar Industry Company Ltd and Koh Kong Plantation Company). A month later, police and military police led a major attempt to evict the villagers, two of whom were shot and five others injured. The dispute remained unresolved throughout 2007 despite repeated claims by the government that it would ensure a fair solution. In October villagers blocked one side of the National Route 48 in support of their demand that Ly Yong Phat pay them compensation of up to \$15,000 per hectare for 2000 hectares of land. Compensation of about \$250 per hectare that had already been paid for 3000 hectares, villagers assert was only accepted because of intimidation and the threat that their land would be taken with no compensation if they did not agree.

#### **Mittapheap District, Sihanoukville province**

On April 20, 2007, more than 150 police, military police and soldiers armed with guns, electric batons and tear gas forcibly evicted more than 100 families from land in Commune 4, Mittapheap District of Sihanoukville. They burnt or knocked down all of the families' houses, refusing to allow the occupants to remove their property first, and beat villagers. 13 people were arrested during the eviction raid. The eviction, ordered by the provincial governor, was unlawful.

In July 2007, the 13 arrested villagers went to trial on charges of assaulting police or damaging police property during the eviction – crimes allegedly committed when residents tried to protect their homes and property during an unlawful forced eviction. Five of the 13 were acquitted and the remainder were convicted and sentenced to between 75 days and eight months imprisonment. The possibility of self-defence was not considered during the

trial, and the eight were convicted even though the police who testified were unable to identify the individuals responsible for the alleged assaults and damage caused. The prosecutor later appealed the sentences of the convicted villagers, calling their sentences too lenient.

### **Deum Popel, Kompong Chhnang province**

On July 23, the Kompong Chhnang provincial court convicted three individuals of using violence to take the land of someone else, despite the fact that the defendants had been using the land in question for more than 20 years. The defendants were from two families who had farmed the land, in Deum Popel village, Thmo Eth commune, Kampong Tralach district of Kompong Chhnang province, since the early 1980s and had obtained a land title for it in 1993. However, in 2005, two other people claimed the land, saying that they had brought it and obtained a land title for it in 1994. When the three villagers refused to give up the land, a criminal complaint was made against them for "using violence" because they continued to plant their crops on the disputed land.

The fact that the defendants' families had a clear legal claim to the land, because they had uncontested possession of it for more than five years prior to passing of the Land Law in 2001, made no difference at the trial. The three were convicted of 'using violence against a possessor in good faith of an immovable property'. No evidence was presented by the prosecution that the three had in any way used violence to plant crops on land which was lawfully theirs. They were given six-month suspended sentences, fined 1.5 million riel (US\$375), and lost their land as a result of the court verdict.

### **Judiciary**

The Cambodian justice system has failed. The main functions of the judicial system appear to be:

- Protection of the economic position and interest of wealthy and powerful individuals or companies
- Persecution of critics or political opponents of the government
- Maintaining the impunity for state actors, including government officials, military and police authorities, as well as their associates.

Corruption, incompetence and politicisation in the judiciary and police are a dangerous reality that continued to worsen in 2007. In a full spectrum of cases including land rights violations, abuses by the police or military against civilians, rape and domestic abuses, and criminal charges against the political opposition, courts have demonstrated that their services exist firstly to serve the political party that controls their employment, and secondly to offer "justice" to those who can afford it. Out-of-court compensation payments to victims of serious crimes such as rape and murder remained the norm, and police and court officials continued to act as the brokers of such deals, often coercing victims into these agreements.

### **Impunity & executive interference in the judiciary**

A long running example of judicial injustice may be seen in the continued imprisonment of two innocent men unjustly convicted of the murder of prominent trade unionist Chea Vichea. December 31, 2007, marked the 1433<sup>rd</sup> day that Born Samnang and Sok Sam Oeun have spent in prison, framed by police as political scapegoats in order to protect the real killers.

Within weeks of their arrest in January 2004, the murder charges against the two men were dropped by the investigating judge due to lack of evidence. However the judge was quickly

disciplined for unspecified judicial mistakes and the charges reinstated. Later, in 2005, the two men were convicted of the murder in a grossly unfair trial, and sentenced to 20 years in prison. After a 20-month wait for their appeals to be heard, in April 2007 the Appeal Court upheld the verdict against the two men. This decision was widely criticised for being politically-motivated because it failed to take into account the available evidence, including new evidence presented from the main eyewitness to the murder.

The innocence of Born Samnang and Sok Sam Oeun has been declared by many individuals, including the eyewitness to the murder, Chea Vichea's family, and King-Father Norodom Sihanouk. Even Appeal Court prosecutor Pann Kim Lean acknowledged during the appeal hearing that there were gaps in the investigation and called for a reinvestigation to find the truth.

#### **Khmer Rouge Tribunal: Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)**

Allegations of political bias and other improprieties have also dogged the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), which is comprised of both international and Cambodian judicial officers. After years of delay, the tribunal was formally established in 2006 and in 2007 it charged five former senior Khmer Rouge officials. However, there are ongoing doubts about the competence and independence of the Cambodian judges appointed to the tribunal - some of whom have clear track records of making politically-motivated verdicts in the past - and whether the court is truly free to investigate and prosecute whomever it wishes.

The tribunal also faced serious allegations in February from a US-based legal NGO that Cambodian staff were required to pay bribes to their superiors in exchange for being employed. An audit commissioned by the United Nations Development Program did not specifically investigate the allegations (which remain uninvestigated) but found that there were "serious lapses" in the recruitment of Cambodian staff for the ECCC and recommended that all of the local staff contracts be nullified. The recommendation was rejected by the Cambodian side of the ECCC.

Another issue of contention for the ECCC was the excessive pre-trial detention of the first person indicted by the tribunal, Khmer Rouge prison commandant Kaing Guek Iev, also known as 'Duch'. Detained without trial by Cambodia's Military Court since 1999, in contravention of both Cambodian and international law, Duch was transferred to ECCC's jurisdiction in July 2007. His lawyers applied for him to be released pending trial, citing the excessive pre-trial detention of him. In December, the ECCC's Pre-Trial Chamber rejected the request, arguing that it had no jurisdiction to review pre-trial detention by the Military Court; the ECCC judges avoided making any comments on whether eight years in pre-trial detention was acceptable under Cambodian or international law.

It is of grave concern that, before a single suspect has been brought to trial for the crimes of the Khmer Rouge, the ECCC has already been tarnished by excessive pre-trial detention, allegations of corruption, lack of transparency and the assignment of Cambodian judges with track records of political bias.

#### **The Cambodian Bar Association**

More controversy arose for the judiciary and for the legal community in other areas. In March 2007, Ky Tech, the controversial President of the Cambodian Bar Association (CBA), issued a demand for annual fees of up to \$4,900 to be paid by foreign lawyers acting in the ECCC, even those working *pro bono*. Eventually, after widespread criticism of its position and



prolonged discussions with diplomats and others, the CBA agreed to drop the registration fee to \$500.

The CBA also spear-headed an attempt to restrict the ability of Cambodian lawyers to work for NGOs – specifically those who provide free legal representation to the poor and vulnerable. This appears to have been in response to civil and criminal complaints laid against Keat Kolney, a rich and well-connected Cambodian woman, for land grabbing. Ms. Kolney, after having charges laid against her by villagers, made a complaint to the CBA against 10 lawyers with two different NGOs, Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC) and Community Legal Education Center (CLEC), accusing them of “inciting” villagers to file a lawsuit against her. Within days of her complaint to the CBA, the CBA publicly declared that all NGOs must enter into memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the CBA in order to employ lawyers. CLEC was singled out as being in violation of this.

No Cambodian law requires NGOs to sign MOUs or other agreements with the CBA in order to employ lawyers.

At year’s end, the issue had yet to be resolved but the declaration by the CBA has already had a chilling effect; a number of NGO lawyers have already resigned from their positions at NGOs to work in private practice instead.

### **Restriction of Freedom of Expression and Assembly**

The right of Cambodians to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, including to peacefully protest, continues to be severely restricted by a government that increasingly appears to be reverting to an authoritarian form of rule. Public demonstrations or other gatherings such as labor strikes by factory workers are regularly banned or forcibly dispersed by the authorities, usually under the pretence of protecting public order and national security.

For example, Khmer Kampuchea Krom monks have been prevented from protesting multiple times in 2007. On February 27, 52 Khmer Kampuchea Krom monks tried to gather in front of the Vietnamese embassy in Phnom Penh to demand the reversal of a decision made by Vietnamese authorities to defrock three monks who allegedly took part in a Khmer Krom demonstration in southern Vietnam. Police armed with shields, tear gas, electric batons and guns broke up the demonstration. The following morning, Eang Sok Thoeun, a monk who participated in the demonstration, was found dead in a Kandal Pagoda. Authorities claimed it was a suicide but witnesses reported suspicious marks on the monk’s body that may have indicated foul play. Authorities were quick to dismiss such claims and buried the body promptly.

On June 30, Khmer Krom monk Tim Sakhorn, the chief monk of a pagoda in Takeo province who had been active in defending and advocating for the rights of Khmer Krom, was unlawfully abducted and deported to Vietnam by Cambodian authorities. He was imprisoned there and on November 8 a Vietnamese court sentenced him to one year in prison for undermining the ‘solidarity’ between Vietnam and Cambodia.

On December 17, 2007, 48 Khmer Kampuchea Krom monks again convened peacefully in front of the Vietnamese embassy to submit a petition calling for the release of Tim Sakhorn and five other monks imprisoned in Vietnam, as well as the resolution of land issues and respect for minority rights. The monks were confronted with a large contingent of riot police armed with electric batons and guns. The riot police began hitting the monks and, when they

ran away, chased them for four blocks, hitting and kicking those who they caught. Six monks were injured, including one who fell unconscious after being shocked by an electric baton.

Rural villagers who came to Phnom Penh to protest over land-grabbing have also met violence and restrictions on their right to peaceful assembly. In one example, 200 villagers from Tros commune, Romeas Hek district of Svay Rieng came to the capital to seek help from the government to regain their land, which had been taken by the Peam Chaing rubber company. On the night of October 16, 2007, the villagers were peacefully camped in a park near Wat Botum when, under the cover of darkness, 80 police and military police surrounded them, forced them onto two buses and sent them back to Svay Rieng. Witnesses say some of the villagers were beaten and two were taken to the hospital unconscious. NGO workers were blocked from observing the police action.

### **Freedom of Association and Labor Rights**

Trade union members and officials continue to face intimidation and violence for exercising their right to freedom of association. The most serious violation in 2007 was the murder of Hy Vuthy, the president of the Free Trade Union of the Workers of the Kingdom of Cambodia (FTUWKC) at the Suntex garment factory in Phnom Penh. Hy Vuthy was shot dead about 5:15am on February 24 while going home after finishing his night-shift at the factory. The murder, which took place a kilometre from the factory, was reportedly committed by two men on a motorbike. He had received telephone death threats three months earlier.

No-one has been brought to justice for the murder. Within months of the killing, the police claimed to have identified two suspects and obtained court arrest warrants for them. By the end of 2007, no-one had been arrested and the police continued to claim that they could not find the two suspects – whom the police refused to identify publicly.

Hy Vuthy was the third FTUWKC official, including the union's national president Chea Vichea, murdered since 2004. His killing also came after at least seven physical assaults against FTUWKC representatives at the Suntex factory or the co-owned Bright Sky factory – none of which were prosecuted.

### **Elections**

The Commune Elections in April 2007 illustrated the grim reality of political intimidation, attacks on the freedom of speech, expression, association and assembly, and the façade of adherence to the rule of law in Cambodia. Although observers welcome the fact that there was less outright violence against the opposition than in previous elections, allegations of intimidation, vote-buying and other improprieties were common.

Watchdog groups such as the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL) alleged that the National Election Committee (NEC) was biased towards the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) before, during and after the elections. The opposition Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) complained that village and commune councils, overwhelmingly dominated by the CPP, selectively distributed voter information ahead of the April 1 elections, thus favouring CPP supporters. The United States embassy remarked on the lack of a neutral complaint process, unequal access to the media by political parties, lack of transparency in campaign financing, presence of local authorities at polling stations on voting day, problems in the voter list and low voter turn out.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh was convicted *in absentia* of criminal charges three days before the start of the Commune Election campaign, in an obvious attempt to disadvantage his

newly-formed party, the Prince Norodom Ranariddh Party (NRP). Prince Ranariddh was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for breach of trust, relating to allegations of an illegitimate sale of his former party FUNCIPPEC's headquarters.

The CPP led the April Commune Elections with 61% of the votes, followed by the SRP with 25%, NRP with 8% and FUNCIPPEC with 5.4%.

The registration process for the upcoming 2008 election has also been fraught with difficulties. There have been numerous complaints from voters that the registration process is too complex. Independent election monitors commented that the NEC was not informing registered voters that the voters should check that their names weren't already on deletion lists that are about 653,000 names strong. Voters were given only three days to check the deletion lists and lodge a complaint to members of their commune council in order to be removed from the lists.

### **The International Community**

Cambodia's bilateral donors and the government met on June 19, 2007 for the first meeting of the newly-formed Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum (CDCF), a restructured format of the previous group called the Consultative Group. During the meeting international donors pledged more than USD\$689 million in aid to Cambodia, who in return pledged to pass anti-corruption laws, resolve land-grabbing issues and provide affordable land to Cambodia's poorest citizens, amongst other things.

Such promises have been heard many times before from the Cambodia government, but progress on turning them into action has only occurred at a snail-like pace. The government has been promising donors an anti-corruption law for more than 10 years, and in 2007 it was still doing the same - promising but not delivering it. Similarly, long-standing pledges to initiate meaningful reforms to the justice system have rung hollow. On these and other issues - including the vital need to address Cambodia's land crisis to prevent increasing social and economic instability - the government has displayed a clear lack of political will.

The international community must push for the Cambodian government to live up to its commitments to donors and to show tangible progress in improving rule of law and human rights in Cambodia. Donors must insist on the development of a judiciary independent from political and financial interests and dedicated to the rule of law, a committed and consistent adherence to human rights by state personal such as the military and police, and an end to land rights abuses, in particular by government officials. The objectives of donors in terms of improvements in health, education, infrastructure, poverty reduction, economic growth and political stability, cannot be effectively met without the strengthening of rule of law and human rights in Cambodia.

The Cambodian government is unlikely to make any meaningful reforms without greater efforts by the international community, especially foreign donors, holding it to its promises.

# Introduction

## Organization Background and Description

### **1992-1999: Conception and Expansion**

The Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, known by its French acronym LICADHO (La Ligue Cambodgienne pour la Promotion et la Défense des Droits de l'Homme) was founded in the wake of the 1991 Paris Peace Accords by Dr. Kek Galabru and other overseas Cambodians. Officially recognized as a local NGO in July 1992, LICADHO worked in close cooperation with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to provide voter education and monitoring of election-related abuses during the 1993 election. In the course of this work, LICADHO staff was exposed to a number and variety of serious human rights violations occurring throughout the country.

This led to an expansion phase between 1995 and 1999 during which LICADHO developed a broader range of services, yet more focused programs of training and awareness-raising, research, documentation, monitoring and investigations of human rights abuses in Cambodia. During this time, LICADHO also developed its capacity to respond strategically to specific issues and target groups needing direct and sustained responses. Specialist projects evolved and led to the establishment of the Medical Office, which serves all program offices at LICADHO, as well as program offices for Women's Rights, Children's Rights, and a Prison Research Unit within the Monitoring Office, and advocacy and social services in the Project Against Torture.

### **2000-2005: Consolidation**

As the new millennium arrived, LICADHO entered a consolidation phase, focusing on strengthening the overall capacity and effectiveness of the organization, its staff and projects. This included developing a clearer vision, mission and mandate to guide the organization in strategic planning and decision-making; developing staff, tools and information management structures to enable more effective implementation and evaluation of projects; streamlining case management, information dissemination and referral services with the adoption of tools such as databases and the website [www.licadho.org](http://www.licadho.org); and improving advocacy and integration across program offices. Specialized training in social work skills was also provided to enable staff to move beyond the traditional legal emphasis of human rights work, and better meet the holistic needs of victims and their families to support their emotional and social recovery.

During this time LICADHO also began placing increased emphasis on long-term planning, leading to the development of a three-year strategic plan covering 2006-2008 programs and activities. Among other objectives, the plan called for LICADHO to harness the experience and information gained in its field work and specialist activities, to formulate more effective priorities and strategies for advocacy, and to integrate this work with regional and international partners such as Human Rights Watch, International Federation of Human Rights, Forum Asia and Amnesty International, as well as various national coalitions such as the Housing Rights Task Force (HRTF), NGO Children's Rights Convention (NGO CRC) and the Cambodian Committee of Women (CAMBOW) and Alliance for Freedom of Expression in Cambodia (AFEC).

## 2006 – 2008: Professionalism and Going Forward

After consolidating the experiences of over a decade of human right work, LICADHO is now in an era of seeking increased professionalism at all levels. Progress has been made towards developing systematic methods for human rights data collection, management and analysis through the creation of the Advocacy, Documentation and Resources Office (ADRO).

Advocacy and partnership on key issues such as rule of law, freedom of expression and assembly, and domestic violence have been addressed through sustained, unified advocacy that contributed to significant changes in national policies and institutions. LICADHO plans to build on these successes and commits to striving further as well as continuing to evolve and respond as the situation in Cambodia develops.

Another measure of LICADHO's effectiveness is its continued donor support. Although multiple donor and project funding has some disadvantages, it provides an automatic evaluation process. Completed projects are vetted for accomplishments before new ones, continuations or extensions are approved. Continued funding and support indicate external confirmation of LICADHO's mission and projects.

In 2007 and 2008 LICADHO will continue to implement this restructuring plan, including strengthening of its Board of Directors, upper and middle managers and client services. In 2008, LICADHO will implement new restructuring plan (upper, middle and technical levels) establish new Board of Directors and finalize the payroll scale.

In mid 2007, LICADHO suffered from funding gaps as a result of a loss in core funders in late 2006 as donors refocused their support to the region. However, existing funding partners and new ones provided over \$110,000 funding to ensure the continuance of much needed services and program activities. LICADHO conducted research to identify new funding sources, drafted a three year funding plan, hired a part time fundraiser and submitted 6 new funding applications by end of year 2007.

### Commitments and Accountability

LICADHO's over-riding priority is to ensure all commitments are met to clients and victims, donors, fellow NGOs, and to staff. This has meant constant improvement such as the recent move towards qualitative impact, for which the management structure and case management process is being strengthened. Demand for services remains high, and LICADHO is committed to maintain its high standards in the face of increased case loads and an ever more complicated human rights environment. The following commitment statement is prominently displayed in Khmer and English at each of LICADHO's 13 offices:

#### Our Commitment

LICADHO is committed to the following:

- *Providing a safe, non-threatening environment for victims*
- *Providing all services free of charge*
- *Allowing victims to determine how their cases will be pursued*
- *Maintaining a strict confidentiality with victims, colleagues, partner organizations and beneficiaries*
- *Promoting non-discriminatory services for all victims regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnicity or disability*

Please call 012 803 650 with any question or complaints.  
All calls will be treated confidentially.

LICADHO recognizes the importance of continued strengthening of governance within the organization. By-laws have been comprehensively reviewed in an ongoing participatory exercise with every member of staff from cleaners and guards up to senior management and the President. Annual audits are conducted by Price Waterhouse Coopers. Though audits focus primarily on financial accuracy, they also include quality assurance elements, suggestions and comments on management control, and contracts compliance.

Financial management, in Cambodia's prevailing culture of endemic corruption, is an area where LICADHO has paid special attention from inception. Procedures have been designed and refined following donor and external audits. Financial and procurement procedures are transparent and require multiple signatures from several offices. Provincial management is designed to operate in the same way, however in order to re-affirm controls, LICADHO has a special mobile team that provides support and spot inspections for all offices.

### **LICADHO Vision & Mission**

In line with LICADHO's commitment to continually evolve as an organization, during 2006, staff drafted and voted on new vision and mission statements. The new statements reflect the evolution of LICADHO from an organization providing traditional monitoring, training and advocacy activities, to an emphasis on developing staff capacity to empower clients through broader social mobilization and community-led advocacy.

**Vision:** *"Our vision is for all people in Cambodia to live in a peaceful society that respects human rights, democracy and social justice."*

**Mission:** *"Our mission is develop human rights professionals who can provide quality client services, form effective partnerships and influence those in power to assist victims of human rights violations, while developing the overall organisational effectiveness of LICADHO."*

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## General Information/Administration

At the end of 2007, 155 part time and full time staff (including 53 women) were working in LICADHO offices in Phnom Penh and 12 provinces. During the year, 33 staff left LICADHO's employment, 18 new staff were recruited and 20 staff changed or were promoted from office to office within the organization.

LICADHO's management committee, comprising the president, director and Phnom Penh coordinators met 28 times through out 2007 on Friday afternoons in order to resolve obstacles affecting the operations of the various offices. LICADHO's provincial coordinators met with Phnom Penh coordinators 11 times throughout the year for one to three day sessions to exchange experiences, identify new strategies and to implement work plans.

In 2007, LICADHO staff carried out 287 missions in 16 provinces (including four provinces where LICADHO does not have a permanent office but were visited upon requests from partner NGOs) to investigate and support victims of human rights abuses and to communicate with other persons involved in related cases. LICADHO's staff distributed food and other short-term humanitarian assistance to 2,920 victims in Phnom Penh and 11 provinces.

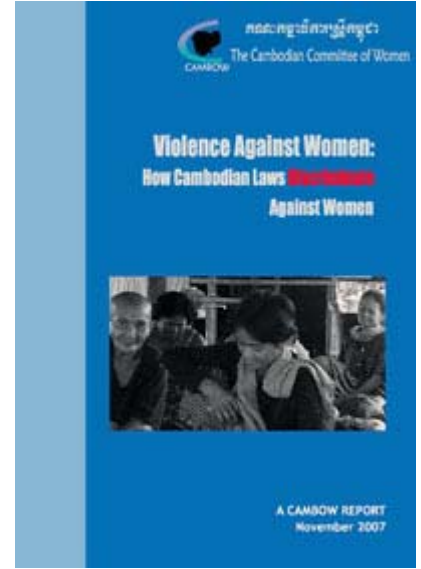
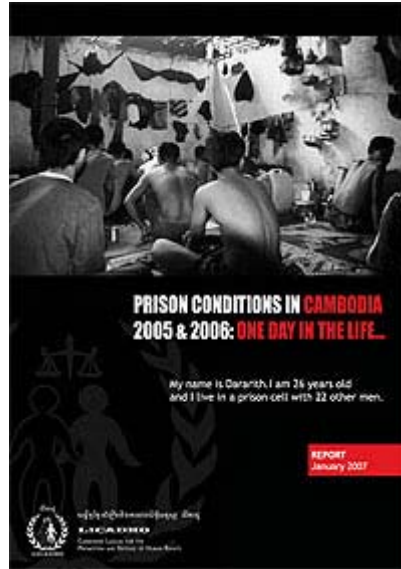
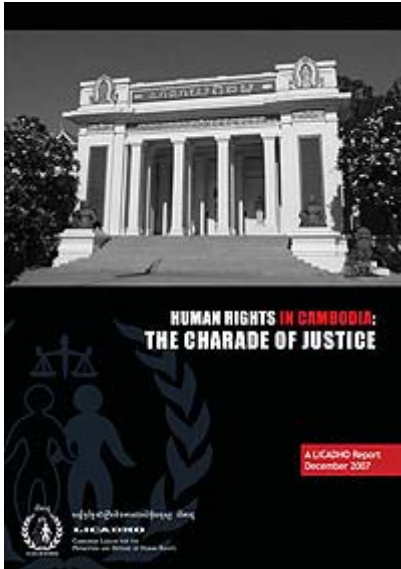
LICADHO is a co-chair of the Cambodian Committee for Women (CAMBOW). The committee conducted advocacy activities by producing press releases, utilizing the media and organizing public forums. LICADHO is an active member of International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), Forum Asia (FA), Housing Rights Task Force (HRTF) and NGO Forum in Cambodia.

In 2007, 37 LICADHO staff members benefited from LICADHO run training programs in Cambodia. Additionally, LICADHO sent 89 staff members to training courses run by external bodies though the year. Topics covered included counseling courses, investigation skills, and monitoring and client sensitivity.

Many media statements, briefing papers and reports were issued throughout 2007 with the goal of educating the government, civil society, the media and the general public on human rights issues and the law. Some of these were prepared in collaboration with other NGOs. A comprehensive list of all these activities can be found at in the appendix. The following list comprises reports and briefing papers produced and released by LICADHO during 2007:

- *Human Rights in Cambodia: The Charade of Justice Report 2007*
- *CAMBOW: Violence Against Women, How Cambodian Laws Discriminate Against Women Report 2007*
- *LICADHO Women's Rights Office Pilot Project 2007 (Report)*
- *Illegal Forced Eviction of 105 Families in Sihanoukville Fact Sheet (Briefing paper)*
- *Violence Against Women in Cambodia Report 2006 (March 2007)*
- *Prison Conditions in Cambodia 2005 & 2006: One day in the life... (January 2007)*
- *Restrictions by the Bar Association - A Threat to Free & Independent Legal Aid in Cambodia (Briefing Paper)*
- *Illegal Sale of Land and Transfer of Title in Kompong Chhnang Fact Sheet (Briefing paper)*
- *Born Samnang and Sok Sam Oeun: Innocent Prisoners Awaiting Justice Briefing Paper 2007*
- *Born Samnang & Sok Sam Oeun Trial Issues and Transcript Briefing Paper*

- *Abolition of Death Penalty: 2nd Optional Protocol to the ICCPR & Cambodia Briefing Paper*
- *Restrictions on the Freedom of Assembly in Cambodia Briefing Paper 2006 (January 2007)*



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## Monitoring Office

*LICADHO monitors the human rights situation in Cambodia by collecting and analyzing information on violations including rape, sexual exploitation and human trafficking, torture in custody, extra judicial killings, illegal detentions, disappearances, threats and intimidation, land expropriations, and illegal destruction of property. Monitors assist victims to file complaints to police, the courts or other relevant institutions, and advocate for their cases to be investigated and resolved according to the law. Monitors in Phnom Penh and the provinces regularly monitor eighteen prisons, and the central office keeps updated records of the conditions of prisoners and human rights violations that occur in detention.*



### Aims/Objectives

- To identify human rights abuses and maintain authoritative knowledge of the human rights situation in Cambodia.
- To establish effective means, by which human rights abuses are revealed, documented, stored, investigated, and redress sought.
- To give special attention to human rights abuses that directly affects the most vulnerable members of society.
- To formulate and implement effective strategies for engaging with law enforcement authorities on behalf of victims, to improve professional conduct, and to prevent future abuse.
- To build up specific areas of expertise in categories of human rights that are of special concern to LICADHO: - extra-judicial killings, torture in police custody, illegal detentions, disappearances, kidnappings, threats, intimidation, land expropriations, human trafficking, rape and sexual abuse of women and children.
- To store and maintain documentation and a database for research and analysis of human rights violations, including links to similar national and international resources for advocacy purposes on legal and social issues.
- To maintain in-house legal expertise and access to HR Legal Defense NGOs.
- To produce best quality advocacy reports, statements, briefing notes and responses for LICADHO, the Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC), the Cambodian Committee for Women (CAMBOW), Housing Rights Task Force (HRTF), NGO Forum on Cambodia and NGO Children's Rights Convention, that will comment on serious and/or consistent patterns of abuse and prompt redress and preventative actions.

## Achievements

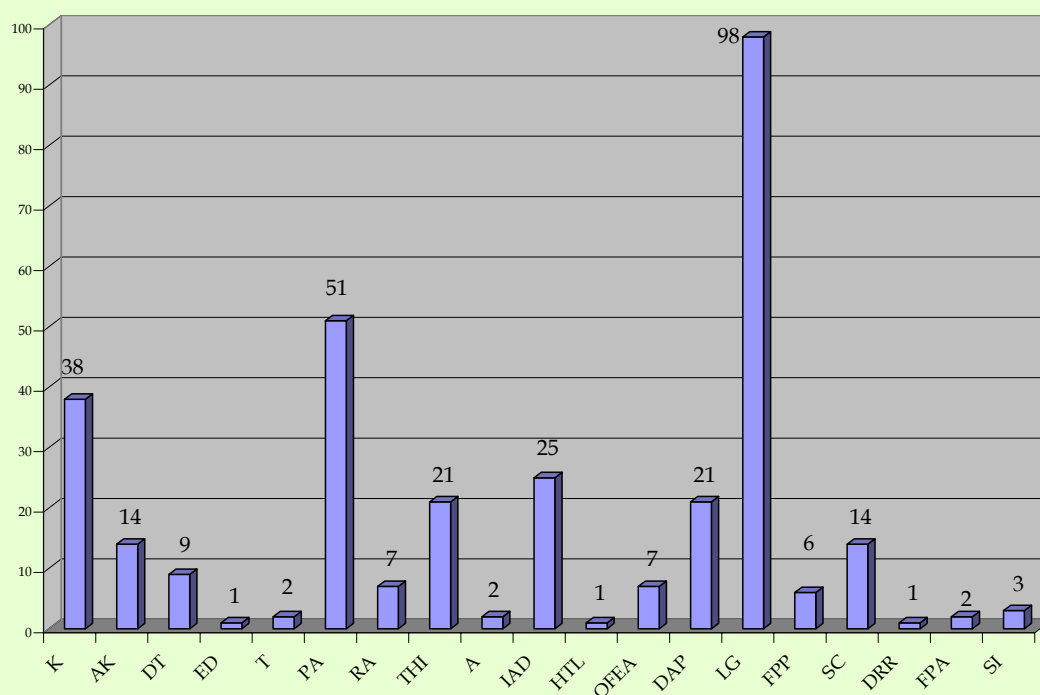
In 2007 the main activities of the Monitoring Office were divided into three areas: Monitoring Office (MO), the Prisons Research Project and the Human Rights Legal Project (HRLP).

MO runs the primary activities of monitoring and investigating human rights violations perpetrated by the State. The PRP monitors 18 out of Cambodia's 26 prisons around the country for human rights violations, prison researchers also work in cooperation with the LICADHO Medical Office which also makes medical visits to 12 prisons. The HRLP, a new unit set up in 2006, provides legal assistance and representation to a select number of human rights violation cases.

### *Monitoring Office*

In 2007, MO investigated a total of 323 cases of human rights abuses involving 9,542 victims.

### Cases for Human Rights Violations Received by MO 2007



|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| K = Killing                           | IAD = Illegal Arrest/Detention.                       |
| AK = Attempted Killing                | HTL = Human Trafficking for Labor                     |
| DT = Death Threat                     | OFEA = Obstruction of Freedom of Expression/Assembly. |
| ED = Enforced Disappearance           | DAP = Destruction/ Illegal Appropriation of Property  |
| T = Torture                           | LG = Land Grabbing                                    |
| PA = Physical Assault                 | FPP = Failure to Prosecute/Protect/Provide Service    |
| RA = Rape/Attempted Rape              | SC = Other / Special Cases                            |
| THI = Threat/Harassment/Intimidation. | DRR = Denial of Rights to Register                    |
| A = Abduction.                        | FPA = Failure to Prosecute/Protect/Provide Service.   |
|                                       | SI = Signboard Interference                           |



Over 2007, the greatest number of victims in any single violation came from land grabbing cases. Land cases are among the most serious as these affect the livelihood of whole families and communities. Landlessness in Cambodia is synonymous with dire poverty, urban migration, the separation and destruction of families and communities and, in the most severe instances, malnutrition, starvation and death.

### **Case Study: Land Grabbing in Trea commune, Stong district, Kampong Thom province by the Commune Chief .**

Since 1982 the citizens of Koch Ty Tuy village and Por Peay village, Trea commune, Stong district, Kampong Thom province had lived on their land without any problems.

In 2002 the villagers of Trapang kumphneng (located in Koch Ty Tuy village) temporarily ceased to farm on their land due to issues with cattle robbers, kidnappings and other killings. Then in 2006 the villagers came to resettle on the field and farm. Mr. But Khlok, 48, Mr. Men Phat, 54, Trea commune chief and Stong district, Kompong Thom province prohibited the 35 families to farm on that land, requiring the 35 families to grant that land to the Trea commune.

On October 3, 2007, LICADHO requested that Mr. Heng, president of the Land Dispute Resolution Committee of Stong district, Kampong Thom province, attend to this issue.

On October 8, 2007, a LICADHO monitor met with Mr. Heng, who indicated that negotiations between the community and the authority were necessary. As a result the chief of the community conceded that the villagers had occupied the land for a substantial period of time and returned the land to the community.

#### ***Prisons Research Project***

During 2007 the Prisons Project interviewed 2,556 prisoners (208 female) including both pre-trial detainees and convicted prisoners. In those interviews 155 prisoners (9 female) reported that they were tortured (125 in police custody and 29 in prisons). LICADHO prison researchers visit the prisons once a week to conduct interviews with prisoners. The interviews last for approximately two to three hours and in that time between two and four prisoners will be interviewed. Prison researchers use a standard questionnaire form which documents the prisoners' personal details, treatment, living conditions, complaints, legal information and any other important information.

### ***Human Rights Legal Project***

The legal unit was formed in 2006 within MO in order to respond to the increasing need for legal assistance and legal representation for victims of human rights violations. A team of five lawyers and one consultant have been working within this project. They represented victims of gender-based violence, rape, human trafficking, threats to human rights defenders and land grabbing in the 12 LICADHO offices. Over 38 cases were taken on by the HRLP during 2007. Cases were referred to the HRLP after they were investigated and recommended by monitors in MO and WRO.

### **Impact**

- Victims were empowered to seek redress by legal means, and support other victims in their communities.
- Emerging issues were identified, cooperation and support fostered among the human rights community to address them. LICADHO participated in direct actions in response to the detention of human rights defenders.
- Communities participated and broadly supported advocacy efforts, empowering both victims and advocates.
- Prison researchers continued to monitor and investigate 18 of Cambodia's 26 prisons. These visits allow researchers and medical staff to ensure prisoners had legal representation, basic health and hygiene and a means for seeking redress and change when their rights were violated.
- Emergency assistance provided for victims of abuse, including supplementary food, necessary materials and medical treatment.

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## Women's Rights Office

*LICADHO plays an active role in promoting gender awareness and the rights of women through training workshops held in Phnom Penh and selected provinces for NGO workers, community leaders, civil servants, police and military personnel. LICADHO provides referral services including legal representation, counselling, medical care and shelter to female victims of rape, trafficking and domestic violence. LICADHO works with local and international committees to promote and advocate for women's rights.*



### Aims/Objectives

- To identify women's rights abuses, especially victims of rape, trafficking and domestic violence, and maintain authoritative knowledge of the human rights situation of women in Cambodia.
- To initiate and co-operate with selected partners such as CWCC, GAD, PADV and CAMBOW – an association of 36 local NGOs promoting Women's Rights, in order to maximize combined impact.
- To achieve full, equal, and fair recognition and representation of women in all walks of life, having regard to demographic data and their relative contribution and membership of groups.
- To counter discrimination that favors men and boys, including traditional mores, and to promote gender equality.
- To give material assistance, protect and provide special support and follow up, including legal representation, to women especially victims of sexual abuse, domestic violence, or any other discrimination that denies them their rights.
- To advocate for legal and social reforms affecting women in Cambodia especially on trafficking, domestic violence and rape.

### Achievements

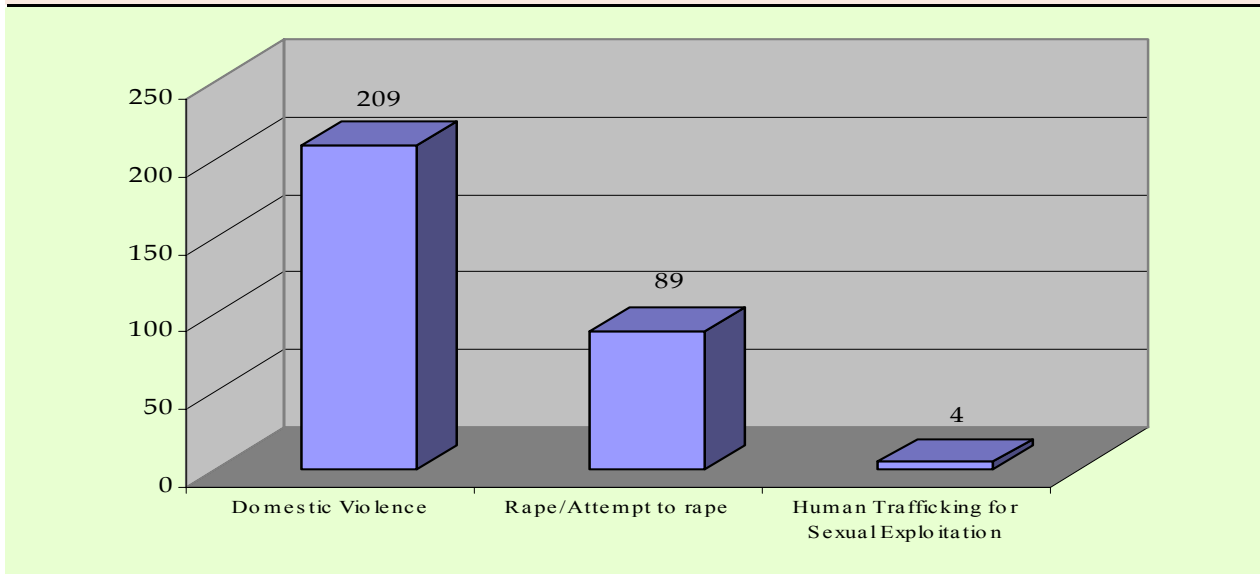
In 2007 the main activities of the Women's Rights Office (WRO) were:

- Monitoring and investigating cases where women's rights had been violated;
- Educating both women and local authorities about women's rights and laws relating to women's rights in Cambodia;
- Advocating to advance the cause of women in Cambodia;
- Training sessions for staff to increase the quality of work performed by WRO;
- The involvement of foreign interns to contribute to increased global awareness about the situation of women in Cambodia; and
- Practical changes to the office lay-out to create a more user-friendly environment for clients.

### Monitoring and Investigations

In 2007, monitors in the WRO in Phnom Penh as well as monitors in LICADHO'S provincial offices investigated a total number of 302 cases of women's rights violations. Within these cases there were 312 victims and 333 perpetrators. All cases involved violations of domestic violence (DV), rape (RA) and human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation (HTS).

**Cases of Women's Rights Violations Received by WRO 2007**



From the statistics it is clear that the reporting and investigation of domestic violence violations has occurred at a much higher rate compared to other violations for 2007. Domestic violence made up 69% case load for the year.

Compared to 2006, the total number of reported cases has decreased from 312 cases to 302 cases but the decrease is more likely due to staff constraints and lack of specialized staff in the provinces rather than a decrease in such incidents.

The WRO plays an important role in assisting clients with legal consultations and information related to legal procedures. The table below shows a comparison of the number of clients who received legal consultation from the WRO and provincial offices from 2005 - 2007.

**Legal Consultations from 2005 2007**

| Year         | 2005       | 2006       | 2007       |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| DV           | 172        | 233        | 385        |
| Rape         | 9          | 17         | 36         |
| HTS          | 4          | 0          | 6          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>185</b> | <b>250</b> | <b>427</b> |

### Victim Assistance

WRO also provides material assistance to clients in need. The assistance includes the provision of items like mosquito nets, rice, cooking oil, plastic containers, travel fares and toothpaste. A total number of 56 clients received these services, 43 of these clients reported violations of domestic violence.

### *Education Pilot Project*

The WRO continued its Pilot Project in 2007, aimed at educating women (selected women “focal points”) local authorities and the general community about women’s rights and laws relating to women’s rights in Cambodia, in Kandal Province and commenced the Pilot Project in July to Kampot and Kompong Thom provinces. The aims of the training sessions directed at women were:

- To teach and support focal points to educate people in their communities about violence against women in informal and formal ways;
- To form support and educational networks with women in these communities; and
- To better understand and implement methods of lobbying and working with local authorities such as police and commune chiefs in violence against women cases in the community.

Currently the WRO has conducted two monthly follow up sessions with the focal points and will be continuing these sessions in 2008.

In the program 47 local authorities, comprising police, village chiefs, commune chiefs and members of the legal sector, also participated. The training sessions for this group covered the following topics:

- Understanding the practical and legal definitions of violence against women issues and related existing legislation;
- Psycho-social impacts of violence on victims and practical methods of responding to cases; and
- Protecting the rights of victims during the legal process.

### *Advocacy Tools*

The WRO (with the assistance from members of LICADHO’s Advocacy, Documentation and Resource Office) designed and produced a pictorial booklet entitled ‘The Shadow of Life.’



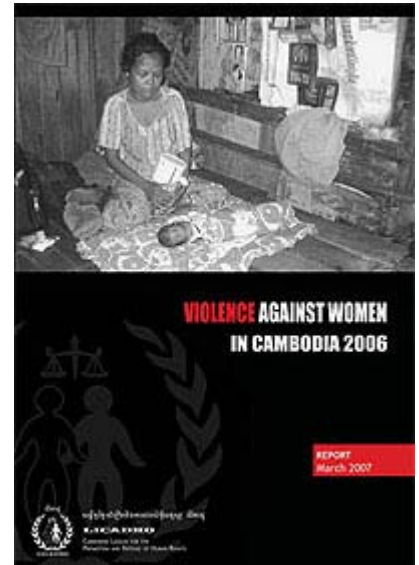
The purpose of the booklet was to discuss the issue of domestic violence and how this impacted on one family’s life in Cambodia, leading to rape, marital rape, death and trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The booklet was designed to be a pictorial booklet in order to target community members who are illiterate. The booklet is currently in post-production and will be released and distributed in March/April 2008

LICADHO distributed posters containing educational messages about domestic violence to all participants in the pilot project.

### *Advocacy*

Dr Kek Galabru, the President of LICADHO, remained the head of the coalition CAMBOW (a coalition comprising 36 members working to advance the cause of women in Cambodia). CAMBOW had four formal meetings through out the year and the WRO assisted CAMBOW in many of its activities in 2007. This included organizing meetings of member NGOs at the LICADHO office and coordinating the annual 16 Day Campaign to educate the general public about specific points of domestic violence law.

On 8 March 2007, the WRO organized a celebration in cooperation with donors, to recognize International Women's Day. This year, LICADHO decided to draft and distribute its annual report on violence against women on a national, regional and international level. Simultaneously, radio spots were conducted in Cambodia to ensure better understanding of the issues highlighted in the report. Finally, with the participation of CAMBOW members and other NGO workers, LICADHO distributed essential food and material to female prisoners in 15 prisons nationwide.



### *Interns*

Under the LICADHO-UQAM (University of Québec in Montréal) partnership, LICADHO received nine interns in 2007 from UQAM, including one student who interned for two periods. The interns assisted in tasks relating to advocacy and educational projects on violence against women issues. Each internship lasted for duration of three months.

### *Training*

The WRO attended several training sessions held by different NGOs and trainers in 2007. Two members of the WRO also attended English lessons at the Australian Centre for English (ACE) from 26 September- 14 December, 2007. Both studied for one term in 2007.

### *Change of Office*

In April 2007, the WRO monitors moved offices to be nearer to the LICADHO Monitoring Office and were able to establish a child friendly interview room next to its office. This relocation meant that monitors were able to interview clients and their children in private and comfortable surroundings.

### Impact

- Both victims and potential victims of abuse became better informed of their rights and more confident in making decisions regarding legal redress.
- The authorities also became more educated about their obligations to protect the rights of women under Cambodian law.





## Children's Rights Office

*Specialized trainers in Phnom Penh and selected provinces conduct participatory training sessions for parents, children, local authorities and NGOs in order to promote understanding and implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Child protection networks bring together provincial officials, local authorities, parents and children to conduct grassroots prevention and protection activities emphasizing the participation of children, focused on combating the worst forms of child labor. Children's Rights monitors in Phnom Penh also provide legal, social and referral services to child victims of rape, domestic violence, trafficking and other violations.*



### Aims/Objectives

- To identify Children's Rights abuses and maintain authoritative knowledge of the human rights situation of children in Cambodia.
- To give material assistance, protect and provide special support, including legal representation, to children and their families especially victims of rape, killings and physical assault.
- To initiate and co-operate with NGO partners and community members promoting Children's Rights, in order to maximize combined impact.
- To steer the Cambodia National Children's Committee towards a more sustained consistent strategy beyond calendar events to address major social issues and themes such as sex tourism and the domestic culture that permits it to exist.
- To counter Child Labor abuses by preventing and reducing children's involvement in worst forms of child labor through increasing understanding and action on the issues.

### Achievements

In 2007 the main activities of the Children's Rights Office (CRO) were:

- Conducting training programs,
- Establishing and maintaining Child Protection Groups (CPGs),
- Conducting advocacy activities; and
- Investigations and victim assistance.

### *Training Workshops*

During 2007, 20 two-day training courses were conducted and 488 participants were invited to attend the courses. Workshops were conducted in various provinces around the country and were run by advocates in the provincial offices with support from senior child rights advocates from Phnom Penh.

The aim of the training workshops were to raise awareness on child rights, child trafficking, child sexual exploitation and other child rights issues specific to each area among local authorities (including government workers), NGO staff, parents of working children, teachers, students and vulnerable and at risk children. The workshops also aimed to establish Child Protection Groups (CPGs) which are networks of local officials, parents and children who monitor their community for abuses against children. CPGs can comprise of either adults or children.

At the request of various other NGOs, the CRO provided training workshops to the Ministry of Social Affairs.

### *Child Protection Groups*

During 2007, 12 CPGs were formed following the conclusion of training workshops. This added to the 68 existing CPGs. Capacity building courses were conducted for existing and new CPGs to increase members' skills in dissemination. Two CPGs members attended a series of meetings (every two months in the first semester) on Child Rights Strategic Planning and Child Participation, organised by NGO Committee on the Rights of the Child (NGO CRC). Five CPGs members attended a series of meetings on Child Development, Child Networks and Advocacy, organised by Child Rights Foundation (CRF). One children-CPGs member attended the Juvenile Justice Workshop, organized by UNICEF, Dan Church Aid, and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in Phnom Penh.



The CPG activities are broad but focus on educating civil society about the rights of children and endeavoring to protect these rights. For example, throughout 2007 CPGs conducted 170 dissemination sessions giving information on children's rights, child labor and child trafficking. A total of 15,378 members participated in the sessions, including 6,083 local children. An increasing number of children CPGs are taking the lead in dissemination session, lessening the assistance provided by provincial advocates and consequently empowering the children members.

Additionally, CPGs increasingly assisted provincial advocates, social workers and monitors in seeking permission from relevant authorities for investigations, making assessments and providing social assistance to victims, vulnerable children and very poor families.

### Case Study: Sinuon, Member of Child Protection Group, 18

I am a sixth of seven brothers and sisters. My family is very poor and they lived in Kampong Cham province. I have not heard from them since they sold their land and house in Kampong Cham and moved to find work - I was 10 years old. Since then, I have no place or family to stay with, but finally I asked for help from the monks at the pagoda and I now stay with them.

I am studying at high school in grade 10. I normally ride an hour and a half by bicycle to get to school. After school, I have to work for farmers growing potatoes, where I can earn around 7000 riel a day (\$1.75) because I need money for school materials, extra tuition and my food.

In 2005, I attended training on child rights with LICADHO, and after that, I became a member of a child protection group (CPG). Now I understand children's rights, child trafficking, and child exploitation. And I have received support from friends and they selected me as a member of the CPG and recently as a student club assistant, and for another program at my school I was also selected as a volunteer for the prevention group of HIV and drugs.

I am so happy to use my knowledge to assist children who can not read and write through teaching literacy and dissemination on the children's rights and child exploitation in communities and at school.

I dream and wish to complete high school and to seek a kind of work that I can assist vulnerable, poor people who lost their land and family like me.

#### *Advocacy Activities*

Many of the CROs advocacy activities are carried out using the media including press interviews, television spots and radio broadcasts, where participants can telephone in and ask questions to a panel of staff and professionals. These types of activities have proved popular. CRO works in collaboration with other NGOs to alert the public to children's rights issues including child trafficking, child labor, child abuse and education. On invitation by National Radio Cambodia, the CRO coordinator and senior monitor also provided advice to parents on how to discipline children.

On June 1 2007, the CRO office organized a children's rights campaign for International Children's Day in eight locations. In each area, the campaign chose a specific children's rights issue with which to raise awareness amongst the community. Public events were organized by LICADHO in cooperation with local authorities, police, pagodas, students and teachers, NGOs and other community members. The event and educational material were broadcasted by local media such as TVK, TV9, CNT and TV9 and local newspaper.

CRO organized 38 radio talk shows through FM 93.5 and 105 MHz. The topics were specified on the child rights issues. The radio talk shows were conducted with the participation and cooperation of Legal Aid Cambodia (LAC), World Vision Cambodia, CCASVA, Friends, CCH, ECPAT, Lavalla School, Our Home Center, CWCC, SCADP, LICADHO and CPG members.

Six CR staff worked with staff of World Vision Cambodia to organize two public events: the first was on issues of child workers in brick factories and was held on August 18; the second was held on November 22 in Phnom Penh and was on issues with child worker in the entertainment industry.

Project staff and CPG members joined three marches; two marches being on the Worst Forms of Child Labor Training and Mobilization Project of LICADHO on child trafficking and sexual exploitation in Siem Reap province and Sihanoukville and the third on child labor in brick factories at Muk Kampoul district of Kandal province.

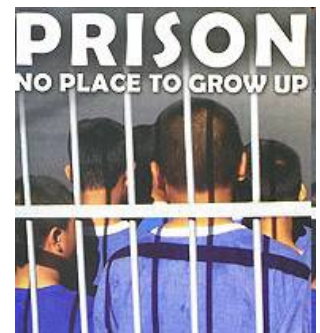
At the Sihanoukville and Siem Reap marches, both had the same theme "Let's work together to combat child trafficking and sexual exploitation" and aimed to spread awareness about these forms of abuse and the devastating effects they have on children. In Siem Reap, the march was organized on 2 October and 400 participants joined including vice provincial



governor, polices and relevant officials, NGOs staff, monks and all CPG members. In Sihanoukville, the march was organized on 24 August and 500 participants joined including director of provincial cabinet, police and relevant officials, all CPG members, NGOs staff and monks. These activities raised public awareness on child trafficking issues and encouraged government officials, polices and members of the public, including tourists, to work together to protect children from such abuse.

The advocacy campaign "Children in Prison: No Place to Grow Up", aimed to raise awareness of the prison conditions of juveniles and children in conflict with the law was launched on January 31, 2007 at a press conference at LICADHO with the publication of two reports:

- 'Prison Conditions in Cambodia: One Day in the Life...' Produced by LICADHO (This report was also produced in an audio format).
- 'Securing Children's Rights in Cambodia', which focused on Access to legal representation and pre-trial detention of minors in the various prisons in Cambodia, produced by Legal Aid of Cambodia.



During the media conference a panel consisting of two ex-juveniles (behind a screen), a parent of a juvenile detainee, a member of one of the LICADHO's CPGs, a lawyer from Legal Aid of Cambodia and a representative from LICADHO and UNICEF informed the public and press as well as responded to questions raised related to the issues and situation of the children in prisons in Cambodia. The media-conference was covered by the radio (Voice of America, Voice of the Beehive, Radio Free Asia and BBC) and various newspapers (Cambodia Daily, Cambodge Soir, Koh Santepheap Daily) as well as Reuters.

The second activity for the campaign was art classes and an art exhibition for juveniles in prison. Providing the opportunity for juveniles in prisons to express themselves in a challenging and unique way through using the rehabilitative nature of art therapy and creating a forum where their emotions and thoughts can be displayed.

The art classes took place between April 7-18, 2007 in the prisons of Prey Sar (CC2), Kandal and Siem Reap. A total of 66 children were involved in this activity. Six art students (two for each prison) taught the children the various skills of drawing.

The art exhibition entitled "Experience and Dreams, Drawings by Children in Prison", was hosted at the Cambodian National Cultural Centre in Phnom Penh from September 15 to 17, 2007. The exhibition put on display a collection of expressive drawings by the juveniles that illustrated prison conditions, their personal impressions of the justice system and their thoughts and future dreams.

### *Advocacy Materials and Tools*

- Developed and printed 3800 leaflets on Child Trafficking.
- Printed 61 banners and displayed them throughout Cambodia (five provinces) to raise public awareness before and during International Children Day on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007
- Produced a 20 minute educational video on Child Trafficking and Child Domestic Workers for CPGs dissemination activities and events.
- Printed 3000 booklets- "What Can You Do against Child Trafficking, Exploitation, and Child Exploitation?"
- Developed and printed 5000 pocket cards (long-leaflet) on four main baskets of rights, who should be reported for child rights violation cases intervention, and with extra note space for individual record of phone numbers. The cards were distributed to CPG and network members, people in community.
- Developed and printed 280 of four kinds of symbols on preventing children from working with dangerous equipments, machine tools and places in brick factories for safety working conditions.



### *Minimum Standards*

In order to lobby the government to implement the regulation of child work in brick factories and in domestic labor; local and specialised authorities and household and child protection groups organised meetings to develop a mechanism which could push for such implementation.

Three consultation meetings were held in Muk Kampoul district, Kandal province (brick factories) and Dangkor district, Phnom Penh (child domestic labor) throughout the year to discuss the drafting of Minimum Working Standards. The draft documents were officially signed on September 17 (brick factories) and October 4 (domestic labor). From October to December 2007 the documents were disseminated door to door to reach all brick factories, parents of working children, all households and working children in the community, so that they can understand and implement effectively the working standards it proclaims.

The draft minimum standards is an important advocacy tool that can be used by the community and civil society to lobby child labor employers, local authorities and the government to implement minimum standards in child labor. The ILO has also shown interest in the draft minimum standards by requesting copies of the document and it is hoped that the ILO will use it as model and distribute the minimum standard to brick factories of targeted areas in Siem Reap province.

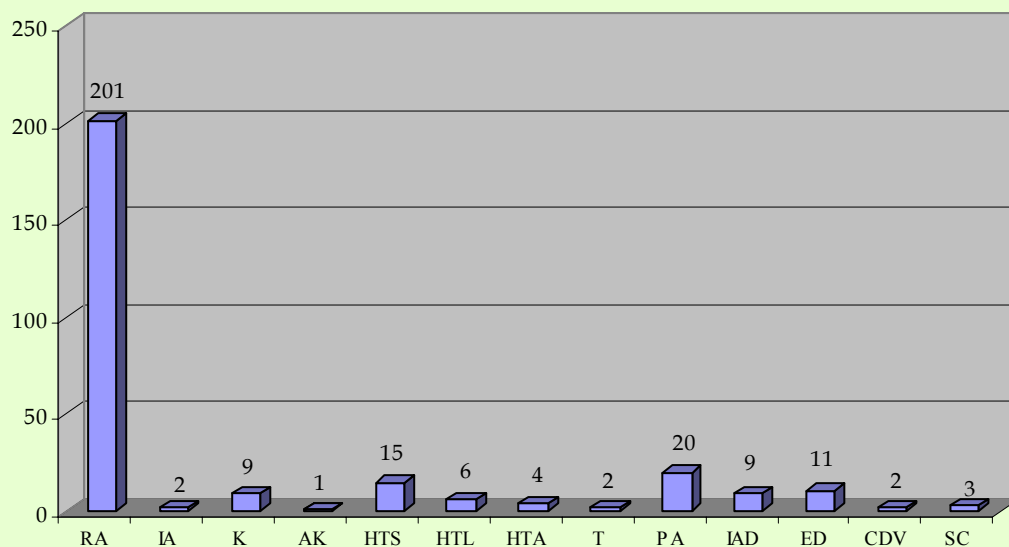
Having seen the draft Minimum Standard of Working Condition, brick factories owners through the Association of Brick Factory Owners in Muk Kampoul had drafted a working contract and submitted it to LICADHO and LAC for comments and technical assistance.

Following the completion of the child domestic labor draft minimum standards, it was presented to the Child Domestic Worker Task Force which includes 30 representatives from the ILO, Child Rights Committee, Municipal Department of Labor, Municipal Department of Social Affairs, and Municipal Department of Tourism, and various local NGOs. The Task Force then sent its recommendations on amending the Labor Law to the Ministry of Labor. The ILO was particularly interested and said that it would provide funding to the Ministry of Labor to amend the Labor Law.

### *Monitoring and investigations*

During 2007, the monitoring team received and investigated 284 cases, comprising 304 victims (271 females).

### Cases of Children's Rights Violations Received by CRO 2007



|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| RA = Rape/ Attempted Rape                       | T = Torture                     |
| IA = Indecent Assault                           | PA = Physical Assault           |
| K = Killing                                     | IAD = Illegal Arrest/ Detention |
| AK = Attempt to Kill                            | ED = Enforced Disappearance     |
| HTS = Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation | CDV = Child Domestic Violence   |
| HTL = Human Trafficking for Labor               | SC = Other / Special Cases      |
| HTA = Human Trafficking for Adoption            |                                 |

### Age Range of Victims

| Range of age  | Cases | Number |    |       |
|---------------|-------|--------|----|-------|
|               |       | F      | M  | Total |
| 0- 5 yrs old  | 38    | 35     | 3  | 38    |
| 6- 9 yrs old  | 42    | 42     | 2  | 44    |
| 10-12 yrs old | 44    | 40     | 8  | 48    |
| 13-15 yrs old | 106   | 99     | 17 | 116   |
| 16-17 yrs old | 54    | 55     | 3  | 58    |
| Total         | 284   | 271    | 33 | 304   |

### Age Range of Perpetrators

| Range of age   | Cases      | Number    |            |            |
|----------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
|                |            | F         | M          | Total      |
| 13- 15 yrs old | 15         |           | 16         | 16         |
| 16- 18 yrs old | 35         | 5         | 35         | 40         |
| 19-25 yrs old  | 78         | 6         | 84         | 90         |
| 26-45 yrs old  | 105        | 22        | 114        | 136        |
| 46 yrs old     | 51         | 4         | 51         | 55         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>284</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>300</b> | <b>337</b> |

### Victim Assistance

The CRO also provided material assistance for victims of children's rights abuses and vulnerable children. In total 405 children received such assistance, which ranged from providing bicycles for children who study a long way from home, sending victims of rape to hospitals for medical treatment and the provision of school materials. On International Children's Day, children's rights staff together with assistance from other LICADHO staff and NGOs partners, organized the distribution of necessary materials such as school materials, toys, sleeping materials, household materials and food to children and pregnant women prisoner's in 14 prisons, one located in Phnom Penh and the rest throughout the provinces. A total of 969 people received such assistance.

### Legal Assistance and Referrals

CR staff was involved in various other interventions/actions and services during the intake process. They included the following:

- 74 cases were intervened to police, military police, and local authority.
- 8 cases were intervened to government departments of labor and social affair
- 202 cases were intervened/referred to courts
- 57 cases referred to NGOs for lawyers/legal representative services

### Cases Referred for Legal Services

| Agencies/Organizations                     | Cases     |
|--|-----------|
| Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC)                | 16        |
| Project for Juvenile Justice (PJJ)         | 21        |
| LICADHO                                    | 9         |
| Legal service of children and women (LSCW) | 6         |
| Cambodia Defender Project (CDP)            | 2         |
| Bar Association of Cambodia (BAC)          | 1         |
| Cambodia Woman Crisis Center (CWCC)        | 1         |
| Action Pour Les Enfant (APLE)              | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>57</b> |

### Impact

- Community people are interested in children rights issues, know CPGs better, have good cooperation in reporting child rights abuse cases and support the groups' activities.
- CPG and CPG network members understand the need for team work through identifying the needs and designing activity plans- they have developed activity plans for 2008, then they forwarded them to LICADHO child rights advocates; outlining the reporting of cases, seeking social assistance for vulnerable children, and encouraging communities to engage the activities.
- Some of CPG members are able to do intervention on children rights cases by themselves and to relevant authorities.
- Community people show behavioural change such as sending children back to school, stop using children to work for the family income, continue to use children for work but send them to school for half a day.
- The local authorities have started responding and intervening in cases of child abuse by themselves through contacting families, organisations and investigation-undertakings. The local authorities are also visiting LICADHO on a regular basis to report cases, request for assistance and escort victims. In addition, they have started reporting cases to CPG and community members as well as undertaking dissemination activities.
- Improved cooperation between social workers from specialized organizations and centers and LICADHO CR staff.
- More interventions were made on behalf of victims, largely as a result of increased reporting by CPG networks.
- Communities have been providing locations with the aim to undertake dissemination-activities and organize network meetings for the various CPG members.

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# Project Against Torture

*The Project Against Torture provides a comprehensive range of services for victims to assist them in their recovery and the development of coping mechanisms. The services include physical, psychosocial, and economic rehabilitation for all forms of torture, including torture by the police, prison officials or other government officials and domestic violence and other forms of severe violence committed by civilians.*



## Aims/Objectives

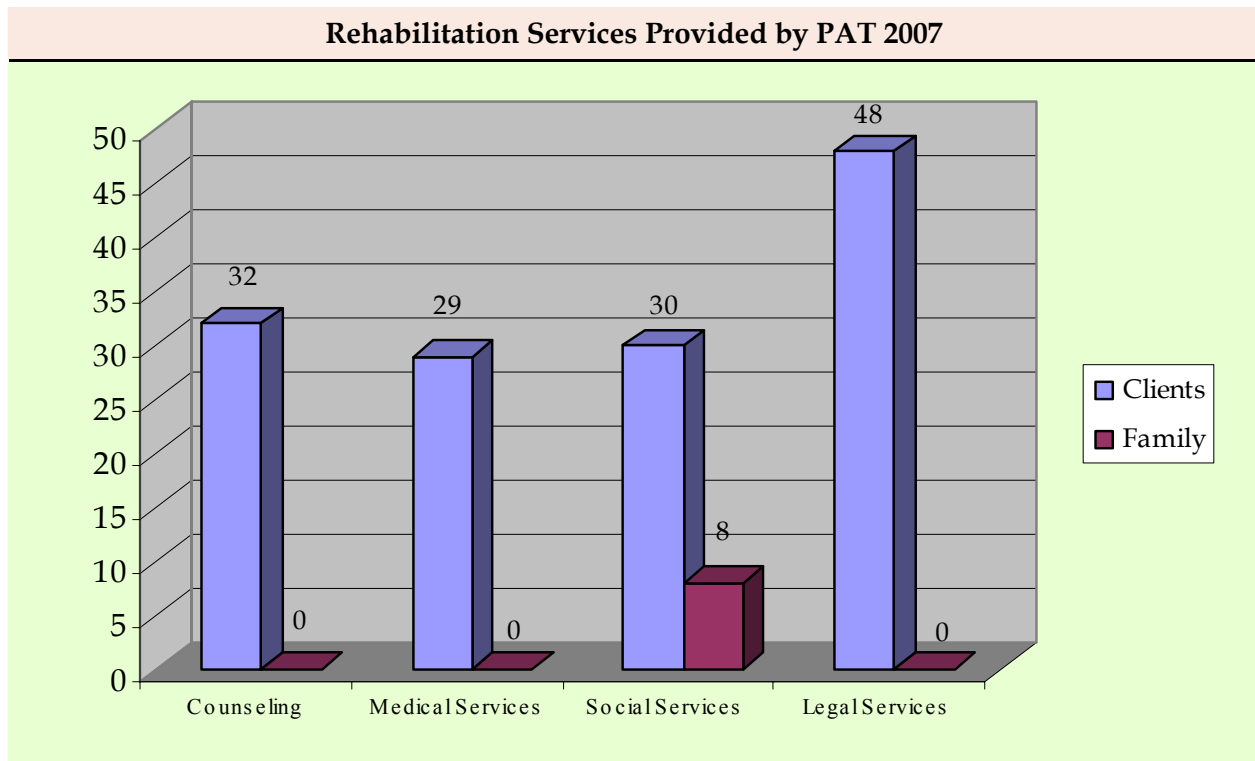
- To provide quality rehabilitation services and protect victims of torture and other serious violence, and to take action to prevent the use of torture in Cambodia.
- To implement a client intake and progress evaluation system to prove the project's ability to assess the impact of its rehabilitation services.
- To train LICADHO staff on identifying trauma, provide counseling and social work services.
- To design, implement and refine care for the caregivers/stress management program for Phnom Penh and provincial staff and other appropriate persons interacting closely with clients.
- To identify potential partners (NGOs, individuals, community networks, etc) with whom the project can collaborate in order to improve its scope and effectiveness of services to the project's target groups.
- To counter a culture of torture and inhumane treatment that is common in law enforcement and other institutions through increasing understanding and action on the issue and promoting alternative better practices

## Achievements

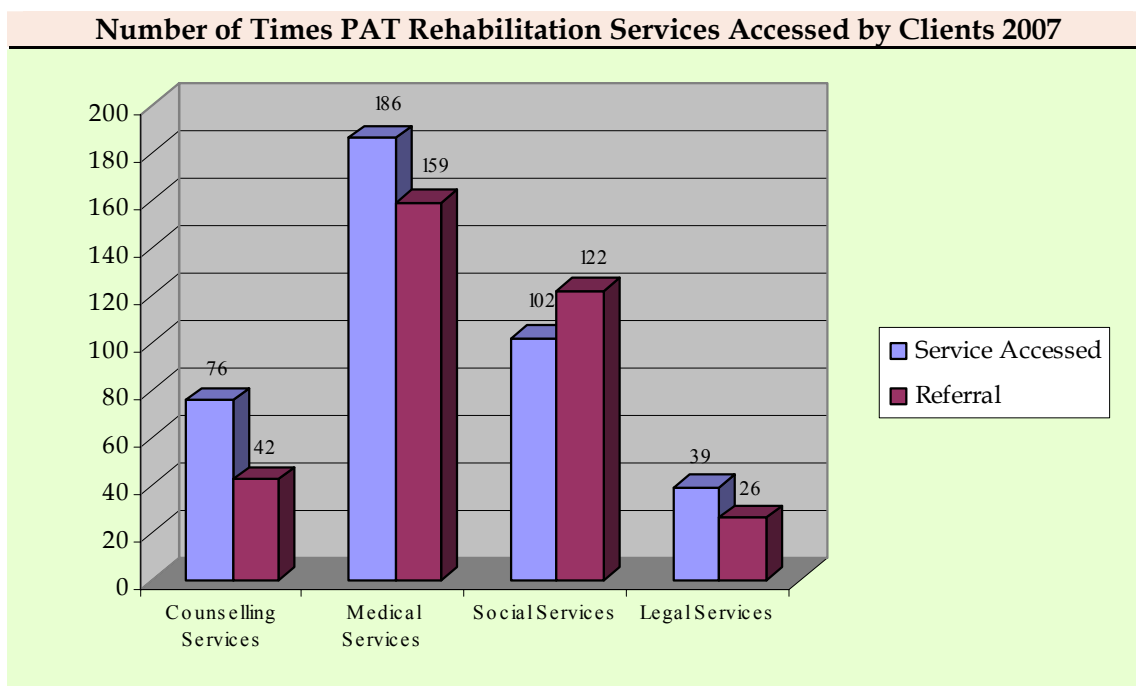
The Project Against Torture (PAT) operates principally out of LICADHO's Phnom Penh office with monitors in provincial offices. The project provides rehabilitation services to victims of serious human rights violations who require assistance for serious physical and psychological injuries. Such violations can include rape, serious domestic violence, State sanctioned torture, acid attacks and other cases the PAT assumes in cooperation with other LICADHO offices.

In 2007, the PAT worked on 186 cases, 76 of which were carried over from 2006. Of the total number of cases, 148 arose from direct complaints made by the victims. The remaining 32 cases were relatives of victims who also required assistance.

There are four rehabilitation services offered by the PAT: counseling, social service, medical service and legal service. The table below documents the number of cases that involved these services through out 2007. Some cases involve more than one service.



The table below documents the frequency of rehabilitation services provided by PAT and the amount of referrals. Where necessary PAT may refer clients to other NGOs or government bodies that may provide more specialized treatment or medical services.



In addition to the tangible achievements discussed above, PAT staff experienced improved relationships of trust between themselves and clients.

### **Impact**

- Clients and victims are better able to resolve their problems.
- Clients' families have increased understanding of how to support victims in their families.
- Clients have better health condition after receiving medical treatment.
- Trust and relations between the clients' families and staffs has been improved.
- PAT's Staff received additional knowledge, capacity and experience from their work.
- The mechanisms of PAT rehabilitation work are better, clearer and more realistic.
- The program's rehabilitation services increased and more effective.
- LICADHO staffs (Provincial staff) understand more about Torture concept and stress management after they got some training from PAT coordinator and counselor staff.
- LICADHO staff have more understanding about rehabilitation project of the PAT office, so the communication is increased between PAT and LICADHO provincial offices.
- Increased public discussion about laws against torture and other violence for policemen and clients as well as communities when implementing work in the field.
- Improved case management, with clearer procedures.
- Increase understanding about victims of torture and other human rights violations for partner organizations.
- Systematic work in office is improved.

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## Medical Office

*LICADHO's medical team conducts monthly visits in twelve Phnom Penh and provincial prisons and provides medical services to inmates and prison officials. Nutritional supplements and specialized medical care are given to meet the particular needs of pregnant women in custody, children of female prisoners and other vulnerable groups. In Phnom Penh, the medical team also provides treatment for victims of human rights abuses within the general population.*



### Aims/Objectives

- To provide and facilitate proper medical care to prisoners and prison officials, including promoting proper provision of state/prison management and family/community support provisions.
- To conduct medical examinations of human rights victims, subject to consent, to furnish evidence for individual redress and countering such abuses.
- To arrange best coverage of Cambodia's prison population having regard to location and size of prisons and circumstances of each. To ensure that prisoner's suffering ill-health are identified for treatment.
- To establish possible causes of deaths in prisons and torture practices or ill-treatment by prison officials or fellow prisoners.
- To treat patients, arrange hospital referrals, provide basic material and compile data on injuries and diseases.
- To provide important information on how prison health services compare to international standards
- To provide supplementary food, medication, and services to vulnerable groups in prisons and outside of detention centers.
- To identify and highlight causes of major health problems in prisons. To initiate preventative health education and hygiene programs in prisons.
- To provide medical services to the most vulnerable people living in eviction or resettlement sites in Phnom Penh and most urgent provincial sites.

## Achievements

The three main activities of the Medical Offices are:

- Monitoring the health of prisoner's and prison workers; and
- Providing medical services in Andong re settlement site and other most urgent provincial eviction or re settlement sites; and
- Providing medical treatment to victims of human rights violations.

### *Prison health services*

The Medical Office provided regular medical care to prisoners in 12 prisons. This care focused on:

- Health promotion by monitoring human rights abuses and torture;
- Intervening in the case of urgent health problems;
- Sending patients to hospitals in serious cases;
- Monitoring the living conditions of cells; and
- Investigating deaths in prison.

The Medical Office also provided extra food for pregnant women, babies, children, elderly and seriously sick people.

In 2007, the Medical Office provided assistance to patients on 8,418 separate occasions. The table below indicates the gender and prison distribution of medical assistance.

**People receiving medical treatment under the Medical Offices prison program in 2007**

|    | Prisons       | Number of consultations with prisoners |             | Number of consultations with prison guards |           | Total consultations | Prison Visits |
|----|---------------|--|-------------|--|-----------|---------------------|---------------|
|    |               | Men                                    | Women       | Men  | Women     |                     |               |
| 1  | Toul Sleng    | 110                                    | 0           | 50   | 0         | 160                 | 11            |
| 2  | PJ            | 358                                    | 30          | 14   | 0         | 402                 | 11            |
| 3  | Takhmao       | 450                                    | 103         | 5  | 0         | 558                 | 11            |
| 4  | Prey Veng     | 555                                    | 47          | 76   | 13        | 691                 | 9             |
| 5  | Svay Rieng    | 403                                    | 59          | 90   | 18        | 570                 | 9             |
| 6  | Takeo         | 741                                    | 106         | 105  | 9         | 961                 | 12            |
| 7  | Sihanoukville | 615                                    | 74          | 39   | 3         | 731                 | 11            |
| 8  | Koh Kong      | 403                                    | 79          | 28   | 1         | 511                 | 11            |
| 9  | Pursat        | 238                                    | 28          | 22   | 1         | 289                 | 10            |
| 10 | Battambang    | 1284                                   | 271         | 33   | 0         | 1588                | 10            |
| 11 | Kg Thom       | 730                                    | 98          | 44   | 13        | 885                 | 10            |
| 12 | Kg Cham       | 909                                    | 120         | 39   | 4         | 1072                | 10            |
|    | <b>Total</b>  | <b>6796</b>                            | <b>1015</b> | <b>545</b>                                 | <b>62</b> | <b>8418</b>         | <b>123</b>    |

In order to improve the quality and quantity of food given to prisoners, the medical team has provided vegetable seeds and tools for gardening in 16 prisons. The Medical Office hopes to increase the amount of food prisoners receive, whilst also providing opportunity to work outside prison cells.

The Health and Hygiene Program has been operational at Tuol Sleng Prison since December 2006 and has resulted in the elimination of scabies (100%) and the reduction (84%) of other skin diseases. There are plans to expand the Program to other prisons.

### Case Study: Prison Visit Interventions

In June 2007, during a visit to Kompong Cham prison, the Medical Team received numerous complaints from prisoners about the corruption and negligence of the prison health worker in selecting prisoners to receive treatment. The Medical Team then requested a meeting with the Prison Director to discuss their concerns and requested that they be allowed to select prisoners for treatment. The Prison Director did not cooperate and said that he had concerns about the security of the prison and was fearful of an escape plan, therefore he did not allow the Medical Team to have any contact with sick prisoners. After long negotiations, the Prison Director finally agreed to let the Medical Team select prisoners for treatment.

In July 2007, while on a visit to Prey Veng prison, the Medical Team heard screaming from one of the cells. A guard informed them that a prisoner had abdominal pain. The Medical Team was concerned for the prisoner, as they had already treated all prisoners for that day. They then requested to visit this patient in his cell, but the request was denied, and the prisoner was instead brought to the prison infirmary. The prisoner was a 27 years old and informed the Medical Team that he had been shackled by guards following an argument with a fellow prisoner. He informed them that he did not have abdominal pain, but knew that if he screamed, the Medical Team would ask to help him.

The Medical Team provided the prisoner with some basic treatment and then met with the Deputy Prison Director in an attempt to convince him to free the prisoner from the shackles. After long negotiations, the Deputy Prison Director finally agreed to release him from the shackles.



### *Services for victims of eviction/re settlement sites and of human rights violations*

In 2007, the Medical Office provided treatment to 502 (316 women) victims of human rights violations, 6956 (5337 women) victims of land dispute cases and evictions and a number of poor people.

The Medical Office also provided treatment to victims of human rights violations sent from LICADHO's provincial offices as well as from other local and international NGOs. In cases of serious illness, the Medical Office sent patients to hospitals or other centers that could provide the required treatment or rehabilitation.

### Case Study: Land dispute victim

Sovanna (*not real name*) is 33 years old and currently lives in Andoung Village, a relocation camp for the evicted community of Sambok Chab, Phnom Penh. In January 2007, Sovanna's family called the LICADHO medical team for help. Sovanna had severe abdominal pain and genital bleeding. LICADHO's Medical Team referred Sovanna to the municipal hospital and negotiated with the hospital on her behalf. Further examination revealed that she has uterine cancer. The Medical Team then brought Sovanna to Preah Sihanouk Hospital's oncology department where she received ongoing treatment and chemotherapy. During her hospital stay, LICADHO's Medical Office provided money, food, medicine and material aid, as well as following up with her progress until she made a complete recovery.

#### *Capacity Building*

In order to improve the qualifications of staff, the Medical Office offered 11 monthly medical training courses. In addition to this, on two occasions the office sent staff to be trained at other NGOs.

LICADHO understands that the expertise of staff can be enriched by the experiences of others. Therefore, the staff from the Medical Office attended many meetings and seminars with other NGOs so as to improve skills and create a stronger health network in Cambodia.

#### **Impact**

The Medical Office provided health assistance to more than 7,458 people in Cambodia during 2007. Without the office, these people would have suffered without medical treatment or advice. In addition to medical treatment, the Medical Office's work with both prisoners and prison guards helps to raise awareness on how each party should expect to be treated and also works towards challenging the culture of violence that exists in the prison system.

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## Advocacy, Documentation and Resources Office

*Documentation provides the LICADHO offices with the technical capacity to improve the accuracy, objectivity, consistency and credibility of their reports, and to ensure the security and confidentiality of the data on human rights violations that is collected.*



### Aims/Objectives

- To provide LICADHO with tools, methodology, procedures, forms, software and technical expertise) to improve the accuracy, objectivity, consistency and credibility of the reports, and to ensure the security and confidentiality of the data on human rights violations.
- To improve the coordination and consistency of information shared between the different offices within LICADHO.
- To raise the technical capacity of designated staff in data collection, data processing and analysis, and computer networks and systems.
- To better understand the situation of human rights in Cambodia using new social research methods and adapt the advocacy efforts accordingly.
- To establish LICADHO as a reliable source of information for national, regional and international advocacy efforts.
- To strengthen information networking with other local/international NGO's

### Achievements

The Advocacy, Documentation and Resources Office (ADRO) primarily works to compile and translate case files from the various LICADHO offices (MO, CRO, PAT and WRO) into a central electronic database so that accurate information can be easily and securely stored, accessed and analyzed. ADRO's other output areas are: coordinating information sharing between offices, conducting data analysis for advocacy and maintaining the resource centre, producing advocacy materials and tools and updating the LICADHO website.

During 2007 ADRO expanded its role of improving information sharing and advocacy methods by publishing 10 periodic internal newsletters, four external newsletters (Adopt-A-Prison Project), researching and drafting 12 news articles and success stories and producing eight audio news podcasts in Khmer for the LICADHO website.



Reports

ADRO also recorded and produced audio versions in Khmer of three LICADHO Reports:

- *Prison Condition in Cambodia 2005 & 2006: One day in the life...*,
- *Violence Against Women: How Cambodian Laws Discriminate Against Women, and*
- *Human Rights in Cambodia: The Charade of Justice'*



The audio versions of the reports help to disseminate reports to the wider Cambodian community that are illiterate, in the provinces or are overseas and choose to download load the report.

In 2007 9,848 copies of LICADHO reports and publications were printed and 3,155 CD and 1,000 cassette tape were produced.

LICADHO Website

The LICADHO website during 2007 continued to grow and improve. This year the website saw the addition of a new audio section on the website which featured a monthly audio news podcast service in Khmer and audio reports. A new monthly newsletter service, additional bilingual content (Khmer/English) and an increase in its visibility on the website was also added to the website.



Some statistics for the LICADHO website include:

- 57,471 unique visitors viewed 349,667 pages on the website with an average of over 4,700 unique visitors per month.
- **The top five countries that visited the website were:**
  1. The United States of America (218,780 pages)
  2. Australia (50,055 pages)
  3. Cambodia (13,187 pages)
  4. Canada (11,646 pages)
  5. European Union (7,997 pages)



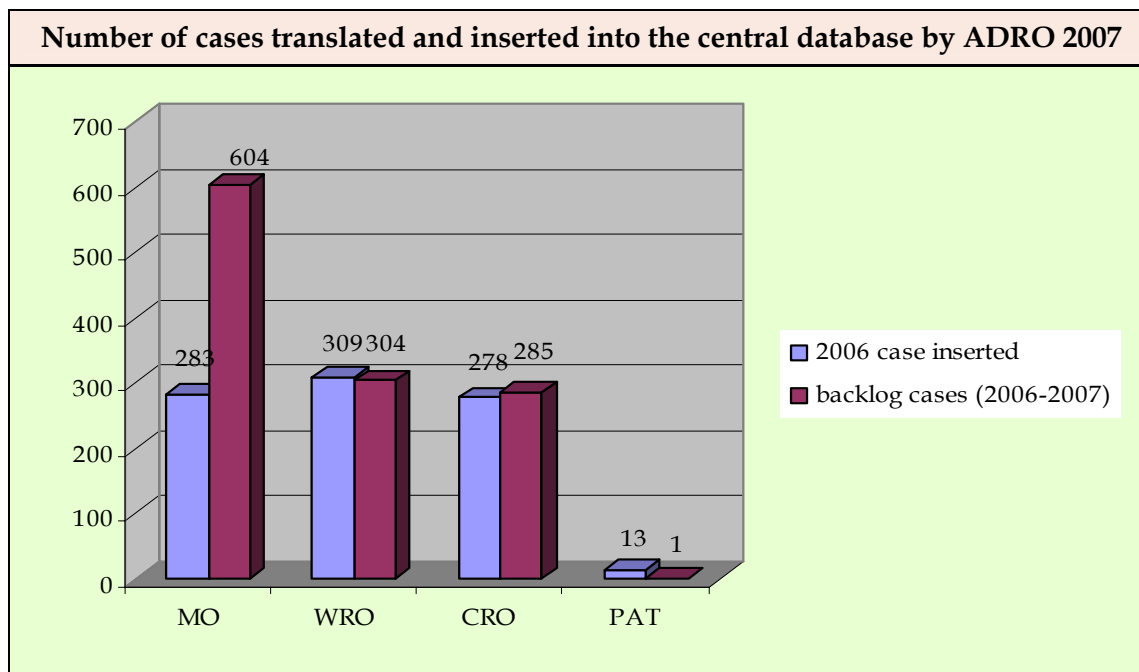
(Note that the top two countries historically have received many Cambodian refugees)

- **The top three pages/topics viewed on the website:**
  1. Photo album
  2. Reports
  3. Audio section
- **Top three search terms used to access the website:**
  1. NGO Cambodia
  2. Human torture
  3. Child labor in Cambodia



### Database

The table below illustrates the number of cases (942) ADRO translated into English and entered into the central database in 2007. Some of the cases were from 2006. As ADRO worked on assigned tasks such as research, draft, produce and update advocacy tools and materials so that the indicative of the backlog of work increased which ADRO has to deal with.



### Impacts

- Statistics of human rights violations were made easily accessible and more accurately recorded. This increased the efficiency of documenting case files.
- News articles and success stories published on the LICADHO website provided timely advocacy material to the public on topical human rights issues.
- Internal newsletters provided LICADHO staff with a medium to share both social and staff issues.
- ADRO's ability to assist in all aspects of the production of LICADHO public report (research, formatting, translation, editing and audio recording) greatly increased the capacity of LICADHO to produce timely public reports.

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## Human Rights Education Office

*LICADHO trainers provide regular three- day training courses on human rights, legal procedures and democratic principles to selected target groups, including police officers, students and monks, using a range of educational media and a participatory learning approach.*

*LICADHO's provincial trainers also disseminate human rights information to the general public at the village, commune and district level.*



### Aims/Objectives

- To convey effectively to Cambodians of every social status, educational background and circumstances the universal human rights that they are entitled to from other people and that they in turn owe to all others.
- To share an understanding of human rights with individuals, families, and communities such that they can govern their own actions and influence others positively towards peaceful solutions to conflict, and instil inclusiveness and participation.
- To operate a tried and tested series of relevant, practical, and effective learning modules, using participatory methodology with curricula that meets the needs of target group, and that are subjected to continuous review to reflect best human rights practice in Cambodia.
- To identify and reach those members of society in greatest need of human rights awareness, both those whose rights have been violated or at risk, and those who are in positions to help those in need.
- Conduct human rights courses and human rights dissemination sessions to selected target groups.
- To develop and produce educational experiences and material in the most appropriate ways for the messages to be understood and acted upon.
- To establish continuing relationships with participants and communities to facilitate monitoring of post-training progress for refresher/reinforcement and other follow-up activities.
- To achieve a consistent record of measured improvement in the levels of skills and knowledge assimilated by participants, retained up to six months afterwards, and shown to be acted upon.
- To provide guidance to communities for ideas, observations, and concerns on human rights issues for LICADHO and other NGOs to pursue with higher authorities.

- To identify, nurture, and encourage wherever possible suitably motivated and capable people who will continue to promote human rights in their communities.

### **Achievements**

In 2007 the main activities of the Human Rights Education Office (HREO) were organizing and conducting human rights training courses including dissemination sessions and developing human rights training curricula.

These activities are designed to serve the needs of seven target groups: students from upper secondary schools and universities; Buddhist monks; civil servants including commune councils; community networks; victims of land grabbing; national police officials, and the general population.

### ***Core Training Activities***

The human rights training courses offered by HREO comprise of a series of three-day courses, a one-day follow-up course and half-day forums. During these courses advocacy materials are distributed. The table below demonstrates how many courses were conducted and indicates that women constituted more than half of the total participants.

| <b>Training courses conducted during 2007</b> |                          |                             |                           |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Types of training</b>                      | <b>Courses conducted</b> | <b>Participants trained</b> | <b>Women Participants</b> |
| 3-day courses                                 | 44                       | 1443                        | 752                       |
| 1-day network courses                         | 0                        | 0                           | 0                         |
| 1-day follow up courses                       | 0                        | 0                           | 0                         |
| Half-day dissemination sessions               | 124                      | 5035                        | 3151                      |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>168</b>               | <b>6478</b>                 | <b>3903</b>               |

As part of HREO commitment to promoting broad solidarity with other key NGOs, 30 collaborative courses were conducted in 2007.

Furthermore, Human Rights trainers from the Phnom-Penh office cooperated 29 times with a Child Rights project in Dangkor district, where the Child Protection Group was conducting dissemination on Child Rights and meetings.

### ***Training Curriculum Development***

HREO's other core activity is to develop, assemble, produce, revise and update the human rights training materials to support human rights training activities in Phnom Penh and in 12 provinces. The materials included training manuals, illustrated books for both illiterate and literate people, leaflets, legal booklets, posters, picture screens, T-shirts, certificates of participation, calendars, and other specific training handouts. All materials are developed in Khmer.

The specific training handouts that were drafted in 2007 were:

- Advocacy and Community;

- Genuine Democracy; and
- Guideline for Human Rights Discussion Forum and Talk-show.

Additionally, 'Law on Marriage and Family' and 'Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence' were redesigned and reprinted.

### *Staff Capacity Building*

Due to the lacking of funding all HREO staff were not able to attend any external training; however, they attended several staff development courses organized by LICADHO or other NGO partners. These included communication skills, computer skills, training on the new criminal procedures code, advocacy for community and grassroots advocacy.

### **Impact**

Participation in HREO activities gave clients a direct opportunity to seek advice in relation to their specific problems. A number of real cases were raised by participates who suffered from human rights violations and effective solutions were given to help prevent future violations from continuing.

National and International NGOs are still interested in human rights education and have requested more training courses for their target communities and staff. As well individuals/communities and local authorities had requested more training and dissemination courses for people living in remote areas.

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## Appendix 1: LICADHO Publications 2007

### January

Document : Human Rights and Cambodia's Prisons: 2005-06 Report on Prison Conditions & Children in Prisons

Tuesday, January 30, 2007 7:00 AM

<http://www.licadho.org/reports.php?perm=104>

News : Campaign launched in Cambodia to free innocent men wrongly convicted of murder

Monday, January 29, 2007 7:00 AM

<http://www.licadho.org/articles/20070129/50/index.html>

Press Release : Launch of campaign and reports on violations of Children's legal rights and living conditions in prison (LICADHO)

Monday, January 29, 2007 7:00 AM

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=141>

Press Release : 3 years of injustice for Born Samnang & Sok Sam Oeun (LICADHO)

Sunday, January 28, 2007 7:00 AM

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=140>

Document : Abolition of Death Penalty: 2nd Optional Protocol to the ICCPR & Cambodia Briefing Paper

Thursday, January 25, 2007 7:00 AM

<http://www.licadho.org/reports.php?perm=102>

Press Release : Civil society deeply concerned about the ECCC draft internal rules progress (CHRAC)

Wednesday, January 24, 2007 7:00 AM

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=138>

Press Release : Reclamation of the indigenous land illegally taken in Rattanakiri (CHRAC/HRTF)

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=139>

### February

Press Release : Crack down on peaceful Khmer Kampuchea Krom monks protest (LICADHO/CCHR/ADHOC)

Tuesday, February 27, 2007 7:00 AM

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=145>

Press Release : Murder of Unionist President Hy Vuthy (LICADHO/CCHR/ADHOC)

Monday, February 26, 2007 7:00 AM

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=144>

Press Release : Boeung Kok lease contract violates Cambodian law (HRTF)  
Wednesday, February 21, 2007 7:00 AM  
<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=143>

Press Release : Unfair court verdict in Bavel land case (LICADHO)  
Thursday, February 15, 2007 7:00 AM  
<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=142>

News : Cambodian military police mobilised to protect land concession of ruling party  
Senator  
Thursday, February 08, 2007 7:00 AM  
<http://www.licadho.org/articles/20070208/51/index.html>

### **March**

Press Release : Civil society calls for respect for freedom of expression in Cambodia in support to OSJI (CHRAC/CAMBOW/COMFREL/NICFEC/AFEC)  
Thursday, March 29, 2007 7:00 AM  
<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=148>

Press Release : Civil society calls for the fees for ECCC Foreign Lawyers be settled immediately (CHRAC)  
Tuesday, March 20, 2007 7:00 AM  
<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=147>

Press Release : Call for resolution of community land dispute in Kbal Romeasm, Stung Treng (CHRAC)  
Saturday, March 10, 2007 7:00 AM  
<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=146>

Document : Violence Against Women in Cambodia Report 2006  
Friday, March 02, 2007 7:00 AM  
<http://www.licadho.org/reports.php?perm=105>

### **April**

Press Release: Civil society gravely concerned over exorbitant fees derailing ECCC (CHRAC)  
April 4, 2007  
<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=149>

Press Release: Unjust verdict of Appeal Court on Born Samnang and Sok Sam Oeun case (CHRAC)  
April 12, 2007  
<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=150>

Press Release: Sihanoukville Land Eviction: 13 arrested should be released and a social land concession given to poor families (LICADHO)  
April 25, 2007  
<http://www.licadho.org/reports.php?perm=151>

## May

Press Release: Call for justice for dead unionist Hy Vuthy  
(Joint statement by various organizations)

May 1, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=152>

Press Release: Expressing deep concern to UNHRC regarding situation of Human Rights in Cambodia (FIDH, LICADHO, ADHOC)

May 28, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=153>

Press Release: International Children's Day 2007: Child abuse in public and behind closed doors (LICADHO)

May 31, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=154>

News: Violent land eviction in Cambodia's tranquil beachside municipality

May 3, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/articles/20070503/52/index.html>

News: Riot Police Clash with Cambodian River Rich Garment Factory Workers on Strike in Phnom Penh

May 22, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/articles/20070522/54/index.html>

News: Borei Keila Community Relocation, a derailed social project in Cambodia's capital May 23, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/articles/20070523/53/index.html>

Audio News: LICADHO Monthly Newsbrief (Khmer 5:56min)

May 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/media/index.php?id=40>

## June

Press Release : More action needed as Anti-Torture Laws ignored (LICADHO)

June 27, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=155>

Document : Born Samnang and Sok Sam Oeun: Innocent Prisoners Awaiting Justice Briefing Paper 2007

June 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/reports.php?perm=107>



News: LICADHO celebrates Children's Day 2007 with juvenile prisoners in Cambodia  
June 10, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/articles/20070610/56/index.html>

News: Phnom Penh Police detain residents photographing land eviction  
June 15, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/articles/20070615/55/index.html>

News: Foreign nationals detained for appealing for Born Samnang and Sok Sam Ouen's release

June 21, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/articles/20070621/57/index.html>

## July

News: Nine resident found guilty of assaulting Cambodia police during land eviction.

July 10, 2007

<http://licadho.org/articles/20070710/58/index.html>

News: Three Cambodian villagers convicted after having their land grabbed

July 27, 2007

<http://licadho.org/articles/20070727/61/index.html>

News: Attitude towards violence against women in Cambodia slowly changing

July 31, 2007

<http://licadho.org/articles/20070731/60/index.html>

News: Women and children in Cambodian prisons received much needed donations

July 31, 2007

<http://licadho.org/articles/20070731/59/index.html>

Document: Illegal Force Eviction of 105 Families in Sihanoukville Face Sheet

July 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/reports.php?perm=108>

Document: Illegal Sale of Land and Transfer to Title in Kampong Chhnang Face Sheet

July 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/reports.php?perm=109>

Latest Audio: LICADHO Monthly News Brief (7.54 minutes)

July 2007

<http://licadho.org/media/home.php>

## August

Press Release: Respect children-don't abuse them (LICADHO)

August 24, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=156>

News: Children in Cambodia suffer from the worst form child labor  
August 29, 2007

<http://licadho.org/articles/20070829/63/index.html>

Press Release: Excessive force used in Dey Krahom eviction (Housing Rights Task Force-HRTF)

August 30, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=157>

## September

News: Art exhibition by children in Cambodian prison.

September 21, 2007

<http://licadho.org/articles/20070921/64/index.html>

Press Release: Dey Krahom Community Representatives under Threat of Arrest (LICADHO)  
September 27, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=158>

Document: Women's Rights Pilot Project 2007

September 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/reports.php?perm=110>

## October

Press Release: Unjust verdict against Wat Bo Community Representative

LICADHO, October 25, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=162>

Press Release: Unlawful abuse and deportation of land protesters in Phnom Penh

LICADHO, October 17, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=161>

Press Release: Unjust verdict in case involving a RCAF Colonel by the Phnom Penh  
Municipal Court

LICADHO, October 8, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=160>

News: Success Story, Cambodian Fishermen Exploited in Thailand

LICADHO, October 21, 2007

News: Land protesters forcibly removed from peaceful vigil outside Cambodia's National  
Assembly

LICADHO, October 17, 2007

<http://licadho.org/articles/20071017/66/index.html>

News: Developer 7NG continues to target villagers on the foot steps of Cambodia's National  
Assembly

LICADHO, October 4, 2007

<http://licadho.org/articles/20071004/65/index.html>

## November

Press Release: Violent crackdown of garment workers' strike in Kandal

LICADHO, November 29, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=167>

Press Release: Preah Vihear Eviction - Action Needed Over Killings and Looting (including Photo Album)

LICADHO, November 22, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=166>

Press Release: Investigation Needed Into Preah Vihear Shootings

LICADHO, November 16, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=164>

Press Release: Forced eviction of 132 families in Chruoy Changva Commune, Phnom Penh Joint Organizations, November 3, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=163>

News: District Authorities Disrupt Religious Festivities on Cambodia's Independence Day

LICADHO, November 16, 2007

<http://licadho.org/articles/20071116/68/index.html>

News: 132 families have their houses destroyed in another Phnom Penh eviction

LICADHO, November 07, 2007

<http://licadho.org/articles/20071107/67/index.html>

## December

Press Release: Khmer Kampuchea Krom Monks Chased and Assaulted by Police in Phnom Penh (including Photo Album)

Joint Organizations, December 17, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=169>

Press Release: Ongoing provocative actions of the 7NG company toward the people of Dey Krahorm

LICADHO, December 4, 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/pressrelease.php?perm=168>

Report: Human Rights in Cambodia: The Charade of Justice Report 2007

LICADHO, December 2007

<http://licadho.org/reports.php?perm=113>

Briefing Paper: Restrictions by the Bar Association - A Threat to Free & Independent Legal Aid in Cambodia Briefing Paper

LICADHO, December 2007

<http://www.licadho.org/reports.php?perm=114>