



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King

**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations Office and other
International Organisations at Geneva**

Ref: 2020/07/658

URGENT

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and, with reference to the Office's communication No. AL KHM 3/2020 dated 29 May 2020 and the Permanent Mission's note verbale No. 2020/07.596 dated 14 July 2020, has the honour to transmit herewith to the Office of the OHCHR additional details from the Ministry of Health as to the alleged case of Mr. AM Sam Ath, LICADHO Deputy Director.

The Permanent Mission of Cambodia would be much grateful if the said information could be forwarded to its high destination.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) the assurances of its highest consideration.



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Geneva

Information of the Ministry of Health regarding the alleged case of

Mr. AM Sam Ath, LICADHO Deputy Director

The Ministry of Health reviewed a letter from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights requesting the Royal Government of Cambodia to provide information regarding the intimidation of LICADHO Deputy Director, Mr. Am Sam Ath, while giving an interview to RFA regarding the rating the Royal Government of Cambodia on the issue of COVID-19 and would like to clarify the relevant questions under the competence of the Ministry of Health as follows:

The ongoing epidemic is now plaguing the entire world into an unprecedented situation that requires an extraordinary and unprecedented response. Cambodia has put in place an approach that involves the entire government and society as a whole, in line with World Health Organization guidelines that reflect the implementation of human rights principles and non-discrimination. The Ministry of Health has introduced measures to combat COVID-19 by implementing the principles of Early Detection, Early Contact Tracing, and Isolation, Early Isolation, Early Treatment and Early Prevention. At the same time, in order to prevent the second wave of transmission of COVID-19 in Cambodia, it is necessary to continue to implement the following preventive measures: (1) personal hygiene, especially clean hands (2) use masks (face mask if necessary) handkerchiefs, paper or towels to cover the mouth and nose when coughing, sneezing and (3) physical distancing and measures to control passengers entering the Kingdom of Cambodia to prevent and respond to the global spread of the disease at the POE (Port of Entry) to prevent the import of diseases from abroad.

In accordance with the principles of universal human rights, especially the right to information, the Ministry of Health has established and launched a comprehensive media and hotline 115 to raise public awareness of the disease, as well as to answer questions from the public related to COVID-19 every day and 24 hours a day and can be contacted for free (some days, we received more than 10,000 Calls). During a series of positive cases of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health issued a daily press release on the status of COVID-19 and weekly press

conference on COVID-19 updates, offering live and replayed interviews frequently on all types of media and social media.

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the local authority, has trained and disseminated health education on the prevention measures and health education messages to the public throughout the country. The Ministry of Health regularly informs the public about the update of health issues through the Facebook page "*Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Cambodia*" and the Ministry's website *www.cdcmoh.gov.kh*, which included downloadable health education materials. At the same time, the Ministry of Health provides health services to the general population without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion or political affiliation. The Ministry appreciates the responsible participation of all people in past interventions that Cambodia has been able to effectively prevent the spread of COVID-19 into the community, and so far, there has been no transmission of COVID-19 into the community.

The Ministry of Health has issued a notification and implemented measures to prevent and respond to the spread of COVID-19 to control travelers returning from abroad into the Kingdom of Cambodia by air, land and sea in close cooperation with all relevant institutions to ensure the prevention of the importation of COVID-19 from abroad and the transmission of COVID-19 into the community.

Phnom Penh, 22 July 2020



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- 1- National police under the leadership of the Royal Government of Cambodia always works in cooperation and close relationship with civil society organizations (CSO) with a goal of protecting and respecting human rights. Any CSO officers, who perform their duties in accordance with the law, including Mr. AM Sam Ath, Deputy Director of the Human Rights Monitoring Office of the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defence of Human Rights (LICADHO), are accorded with protection against any alleged intimidation. However, the authorities request that the CSO officers file precise information on the alleged intimidation to the authorities for an appropriate action.
- 2- As for the measures in response to the Covid-19, the Ministry of Interior requests all stakeholders, including media, to observe the steps taken by the government, especially the health measures. Furthermore, they should not engage in dissemination and

exaggeration of any unverified information, which instills fears into the people and results in social unrest and instability.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 14 July 2020



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Geneva