

December 8, 2025

Sent via email

His Excellency Hun Manet

Office of the Prime Minister
No. 3 Samdech Hun Sen Street
Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkarmon
Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia

Dear Prime Minister Hun Manet,

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), an independent, nonprofit press freedom organization, writes to request your urgent attention to the matter of journalists imprisoned in Cambodia ahead of International Human Rights Day on December 10.

According to data compiled by CPJ, your government holds at least four journalists in pretrial detention. On January 21, 2025, authorities under your administration arrested Duong Akhara of the S.A. TVHD news site and Lay Socheat of the Cambodia Star Daily News 24/24 on criminal incitement charges for their reporting on cyber-scam centers operating in your country.

On July 31, 2025, Pheap Phara, a reporter of TSP 68 TV Online, and journalist Phon Sopheap of the Battambang Post TV Online were arrested after they returned from covering the Cambodia-Thailand border dispute. Both face treason-related charges that carry maximum penalties of up to 15 years in prison.

In a December 2024 statement, you emphasized the importance of a “strong, responsible and honest media industry, along with journalists who dare to speak the truth and provide constructive criticism.” You also stated that your government “has consistently prioritized the promotion of press freedom and freedom of expression.”

To mark International Human Rights Day and advance your stated vision for press freedom in Cambodia, we strongly encourage your government to drop the charges against the four imprisoned journalists and secure their prompt release. Only then can journalists in Cambodia confidently “speak the truth” and “provide constructive criticism” without fear of government reprisal.

Our advocacy is supported by more than 1,500 journalists, representing over 100 countries, who joined CPJ in a [solidarity action](#) at this year’s Global

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Committee to Protect Journalists

Investigative Journalism Conference in Malaysia to call on governments around the world to free imprisoned journalists and end impunity for those who attack the press.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your reply and welcome any dialogue with the relevant offices of the Cambodian government.

Sincerely,

Beh Lih Yi
Asia-Pacific Director
Committee to Protect Journalists