



Registered in British Columbia, LICADHO Canada provides critical services to communities on the front lines of the land-grabbing crisis in Cambodia. We do so in meaningful collaboration with LICADHO – *Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights*.



Ven. Sovath at Boeung Kak

July 2011

ACCESS TO JUSTICE DENIED

Venerable Sovath – EVICTED!

In May 2011, religious authorities officially banned Venerable Sovath from staying in any Phnom Penh pagodas. Despite intervention efforts by the UN, human rights organisations, and international Buddhist monks with ties to Cambodia, the religious authorities refuse to lift the ban. And despite these same authorities verbally stating that they have no intentions to detain, defrock or arrest Venerable Sovath, he was again threatened with detention shortly after arriving at Boeung Kak press conference on July 11, 2011.

Recently Venerable Sovath was presented with the Hellmann-Hammett grant, an international award presented to those using written words to fight for human rights despite personal risk to themselves. And Frontline has invited him to attend the **Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders** in Ireland in September 2011.

LICADHO Employee Chouen Loses in Appeal Court

“On Thursday, July 14, 2011, the Appeals Court judge Pol Sam Oeun issued a verdict upholding the lower court's verdict against Sokchouen after a two-hour long trial that took place on June 30, 2011, which failed to present any evidence of Sokchouen's guilt. [...]

“This decision blatantly contradicts well-established principles of criminal law in that it convicts Sokchouen under a legal provision that did not exist at the time of the alleged crime. [...]

‘Sokchouen has always maintained his innocence as we do’, says LICADHO Director Naly Pilorge. ‘In essence, the judge effectively acquitted Sokchouen of the original conviction against him yet denied him his freedom.’” [LICADHO Press Release](#)

Tribute to Boeung Kak Ladies

On July 14 2011, more than 60 mixed police forces were deployed to deal with eight female Boeung Kak representatives attempting to give a letter to the Prime Minister to ask for intervention in their land dispute.

LC would like to pay a special tribute to Boeung Kak representatives, all of whom are women. Despite the complete breakdown in negotiations with the municipality and an increase in crackdowns and arrests, the Boeung Kak ladies courageously continue to lobby for the rights of their community despite the great risks to their own safety.

New LICADHO/LC video:
[Venerable Monk Sovath Responds to Threats](#)



Chouen after the joke of a trial



Boeung Kak representatives

Police and Kompong Speu Villagers Violently Clash

On June 9, 2011, hundreds of armed police and villagers violently clashed over a land dispute in Kompong Speu province.

“At least 10 people were injured on both sides, including seven seriously. [...] Regrettably, the incident may be a sign of things to come, as more and more ordinary Cambodians are pushed aside by a development agenda designed to enrich the elite. [...]

Cambodia has seen a rise in violence associated with land disputes in recent years. The situation is often the same: disenfranchised people, who have lost everything and have no legal recourse, resort to drastic means.” [LICADHO press release](#)

Sous Chantha Released from Prison

On June 24th Cambodian union leader Sous Chantha was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment for drug distribution, but released with some time served and the rest of time suspended.

Ath Thorn, head of the Cambodian Labour Confederation, speaking after the trial stated that; *“Obviously we are pleased that Chantha will be soon released, but there remains a very bitter aftertaste. [...] this verdict is a clear warning to independent trade union activity in Cambodia – it could happen to any of us. It is a clear case of union intimidation.”* [Clean Clothes Campaign](#)

LICADHO/LC Growing On-line

With human rights abuses on the rise and democracy in freefall, it is increasingly important that advocates extend messages from Cambodia as far and as fast as possible amongst the wider national and international community. So LICADHO and LC are beefing up our on-line advocacy efforts.

Check out the re-designed, more user friendly LICADHO [website](#). Each post will now be shared on Facebook or via Twitter. As of July, LICADHO also started a Facebook page (Licadho), so look for us and click ‘like’ to receive the most up-to-date information as soon as it’s posted. LC is aiming to be up and running in the Twitter world by the end of this year.

We Need Your Help!

- ✚ **Educate** yourself and others about Cambodia’s resistance to its current freefall from democracy
- ✚ **Advocate** on behalf of Cambodians, including signing petitions and joint letters.
- ✚ **Donate** to groups that work directly with this people power to provide legal, medical, advocacy, protection, humanitarian and monitoring support. **DONATE TODAY!**

www.licadho-cambodia.org

www.licadhocanada.com



Anguish after the clashing

The Cambodian government has used bluster and intimidation to push the UN and donors into silence about abuses. [...] The international community needs to advocacy more forcefully for the human rights of the Cambodian people.”

Phil Robertson [Human Rights Watch](#)



New LICADHO website

LC’s recommended viewing:

- [This Magazine](#): Postcard from Cambodia
- [RFA video](#) of violent clashes in Kompong Speu

