A report issued in March 2015

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA
LICADHO CANADA ANNUAL REPORT

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LICADHO Canada (LC) is a Canadian human rights organisation working in Cambodia. LC works on the front lines to expose the national and international community to Cambodia's land grabbing and human rights crisis, while protecting and supporting threatened communities and human rights defenders. LC’s small multinational team is committed to flexibility and adapts its services to meet the emerging needs of the Cambodian people's movements.

Vision: For all people in Cambodia to live in a peaceful society that respects human rights, democracy, and social justice.

LICADHO CANADA (LC)

MONITORING & PROTECTION

Observe and Document
Observe and document evictions, trials, and other events as per request of LICADHO, partners, and/or community/group leaders. The digitally documented events are shared with relevant partners, media, campaigns, lawyers, and community/group leaders, and archived as an important part of Cambodia's history.

Protection and Security
Respond and protect human rights defenders and provide protective accompaniment when required. Provide support and fill gaps in client protection services, and identify services for victims of human rights abuses.

Social and Emotional Support
Support first and second tier leaders of communities and grassroots groups to maintain strong people's movements and resilience against state-sponsored human rights abuses. Support includes community visits, meetings with family members of imprisoned activists and prison visits.

Capacity Building and Training
Facilitate leadership training workshops and seminars on topics of Conflict Coaching, Active Non-Violence, and physical and digital security.

PROMOTION & ADVOCACY

Advocacy
Produce multimedia advocacy materials, including video production for communities, partners, campaigns, media, and as evidence, to stimulate systematic change on local and international levels. Raise profiles of human rights defenders threatened or unlawfully detained. Live tweeting during actions and events.

Creative Workshops
Facilitate creative advocacy workshops to support communities and partners to produce/edit their own music CDs, multimedia advocacy materials and videos, to aid rehabilitation and build people-led movements.

Human Rights Defender Apparel
Design and market Human Rights Defender Apparel, a range of clothing, bags and other items with human rights messages printed on fair production products. Profits are used to support Cambodian human rights defenders and their families.

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Cover photo: Community members gather in front of Correctional Center 2, November 2014
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LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

LC has now been operating in Cambodia for more than eight years. In that time, we have become a respected part of the main housing rights and human rights partners in Cambodia, particularly in the areas of emergency response, use of video advocacy, and other creative tools and methods. Our achievements have a lot to do with learning and growing on the frontlines alongside inspiring leaders of communities resisting forced eviction, and the support of committed and effective partners.

When LC reflects on 2014, we first and foremost remember, and pay our respects to, the grave losses suffered by civil society. Whereas contested national elections and large and spontaneous people’s movements and strikes characterized 2013, 2014 was stained with death, injuries, and arrests during the violent suppression of those movements and strikes. It was the year of the worst state violence and crackdowns in Cambodia since 1998, a year, which left large numbers of the population traumatized, and victims without justice.

LC was very much affected by attacks on political and democratic space. Some of our closest partners were unlawfully beaten and/or arrested, and LC faced our own threats and intimidation as we bore witness to severe and brutal attacks on innocent people. There is no doubt that this year has left deep emotional and physical scars.

Despite setbacks, a ban on assembly and the real fear of being murdered, injured, disappeared, or sentenced to unbearable prison conditions, activists continued to stand up and speak out. It was this remarkable resilience of the Cambodian people that motivated the LC team all throughout 2014, giving us courage, inspiration and the will to persevere.

In the latter half of 2013, LC started implementing structural changes, which included expanding our land-grabbing focus to include other human rights issues, such as the suppression of freedom of assembly and expression. Under these changes, LC began to consider union, monk and informal group partners as potential beneficiaries, as these groups have come under increasing government pressure in the aftermath of the contested national elections. This strategy prepared LC to jump directly into emergency response during the deadly crackdowns on unions, workers and activists in the first days of 2014.

Throughout 2014, LC continued redefining our services to adapt to the rapidly evolving human rights situation, and to fill new gaps in our partners’ services. We tightened up our security strategies so that our services were relevant to activists, both for the increasing risks they had to face, as well as to meet the needs of their movements.

Off the front lines, we strengthened our Internet security and boosted our ICT knowledge to protect sensitive data from online attacks. We also strengthened our online presence as a way to share Cambodian voices to a wider audience. Of equal importance, LC archived and shared footage of this critical time in Cambodia’s history.

Cambodians have never been so united across sectors and provinces for the common goal of change – change of regime, change from poverty wages, and change from development that is non-inclusive and destructive to environmental and human rights.

With the only relevant opposition party surrendering to the regime’s chokehold in 2014, and with the courts under firm and now legalized control of the regime, the only way forward towards rights and justice is through people-driven movements. As long as brave activists continue to stand up non-violently, LC will continue to stand next to them.

Lee Robinson
LICADHO Canada Founder
The ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) set the stage for a year of deteriorating human rights in 2014 with a vicious crackdown on workers and opposition party members from January 2-4.

The crackdown left at least four people dead and 38 hospitalised. One minor, last seen with a bullet wound to his chest, remains missing. Twenty-three workers, bystanders, and human rights defenders were beaten and arrested during the crackdown. Among the arrested men were three LICADHO Canada (LC) partners and human rights defenders: Vorn Pao, President of the Independent Democracy of Informal Economic Association (IDEA); Chan Puthisak, community leader from Boeung Kak Community; and Theng Savoeun, Coordinator of Coalition of Cambodia Farmers Community (CCFC).

The three days of violent crackdowns, in a sense, represented the culmination of the government’s growing apprehension toward the increasing number of garment worker and Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) protests. After the National Elections on July 28, 2013, which secured a 68-55 majority for the CPP in the National Assembly, both groups had repeatedly taken to the streets to protest what they believed to be a fraud-ridden election, and to demand a higher minimum wage. In December, nationwide strikes in Phnom Penh’s garment sectors converged with CNRP protests, prompting the Ministry of Labour (MoL) to announce on December 24 that garment factory worker salaries would be raised to $95. This was still well below the workers’ demand of $160. Unions thus called a weeklong strike and on December 31, the MoL announced another $5 increase. Six non-government aligned unions again rejected the offer. Two days later the, crackdowns began.

The brutal crackdown on workers, bystanders and human rights defenders on January 2 and 3 was followed by a ban on public assembly on January 4 when police, military police and security guards broke up a peaceful occupation of Freedom Park by the CNRP. The ban on assembly was enforced with varying degrees of violence as opposition protesters and human rights defenders repeatedly attempted to defy the ban. The ban was officially lifted in February but even assigned places for gatherings remained heavily barricaded and the authorities continued to restrict marches, rallies and protests.

Despite intimidation and harassment from authorities, communities and civil society displayed remarkable resilience by continuing to demand investigations into alleged election fraud and for increased wages. They also mobilised for an intensive campaign to demand the release of the detained 23 workers and human rights defenders. The campaign began on January 6 outside the French Embassy led by the Boeung Kak community. Authorities violently detained five female representatives from Boeung Kak, although they were later released.
On January 24, despite the ban on public protests and demonstrations, representatives from Dey Krahorm, Boeung Kak, Borei Keila and Thmor Kol communities, unions, and civil society groups met outside of the former Dey Krahorm land to mark six years since one of the most violent forced evictions in Phnom Penh’s recent history. During the memorial, community representatives shared experiences and pledged to keep struggling peacefully against forced evictions. The community representatives also called for the release of the 23 workers and human rights defenders imprisoned in early January.

Notwithstanding civil society’s resolve, the government was just as intent on suppressing dissenting voices. In late January, the Vice President of IDEA, Sok Chhun, was arrested when unions and community representatives gathered to pray and call for the release of the 23 workers and rights defenders detained in the crackdowns. As organisers and human rights observers linked hands and sang the national anthem and peace songs, authorities singled out Oeung, dragged him to a police vehicle and took him to a police station. He was released the following day.

A few days later, a new FreeThe23 event was organised outside the American embassy in Phnom Penh. Eleven people were detained, including association, union, and NGO and community members. All detainees were released later the same day.

Apart from arrests, authorities frequently used violence to disperse protests. Towards the end of January, nine unions who had gathered at Freedom Park to call for the release of the 23 were hounded by hundreds of military police and riot police who targeted union supporters, journalists, and human rights observers. At least nine people were injured when security forces clashed with union supporters.

The following day, independent radio station owner, Mam Sonando, and around 1,000 of his supporters were prevented from entering Freedom Park. They then marched to the Ministry of Information to demand an independent TV station for Sonando’s Beehive broadcasting company. More than 1,000 state security forces advanced in formation through the courts. Venerable Loun Sovath, the award-

In September, civil society suffered further setbacks when a new wave of arrests targeted not only opposition party members and supporters and land rights activists, but also monks and NGO staff. On three separate incidents during September and October, authorities harassed and/or detained Equitable Cambodia staff while they attempted to conduct research on forced evictions in Oddar Meanchey province. Additional five CNRP members and supporters were also arrested within a two-month period in relation to the July 15 violence near Freedom Park. Until today, all five remain in pre-trial detention awaiting their court dates.

The rapid succession of detainments, arrests and violent dispersals of civil society in January were clear indicators of the government’s attempt to silence rights groups and leaders.

In the months following January, the FreeThe23 campaign rapidly gained local and international attention. It was, in many ways, the campaign that unified the attention, resources, and lobbying of communities, civil society, and rights NGOs. By the time of the trial of the 23 began in late April the campaign had captured the attention of global unions, multinational brands, and international media. On May 30, the Phnom Penh Municipal Court handed suspended conviction sentences to the 23 men, and they were joyfully reunited with relatives, friends and supporters.

Unfortunately, the euphoria of the 23 men’s release did little to change the government’s concerted effort to further restrict civil society. Freedom Park, for example, remained on lockdown. Groups made several attempts to assemble at the Park, including CNRP Member of Parliament-elect Mu Sochua and her supporters. After almost a year-long boycott of the National Assembly by the CNRP, and in response to blatant restrictions on freedom of assembly, a Free the Freedom Park protest was organized on July 15. However, during this event, security guards began beating protesters, who responded equally towards security guards, leaving many people injured. During the protest, two CNRP Members of Parliament-elect were arrested allegedly for inciting the violence on July 15. Over the following days, an additional five CNRP Members of Parliament-elect and one CNRP youth activist would be detained.

The arrests of CNRP MPs and activists forced CNRP President, Sam Rainsy, to return to the country. During ensuing high-level negotiations, the CPP used the detained CNRP members as bargaining tools to coerce the CNRP to end its boycott of the National Assembly. The eight were provisionally released on July 22 as the political deadlock ended with a highly questionable deal between CNRP and CPP, in which the CNRP seemed to have capitulated to bullying by the CPP, and reneged on certain promises they made to their supporters. Amidst further negotiations between CNRP and CPP regarding constitutional amendments, three additional CNRP members and supporters were arrested. Whereas all 11 are released from prison, six remain charged and are still awaiting their trial.

In 2014, authorities and government officials exhibited appalling disrespect, if not contempt, to the pleas for help of urban and rural communities affected by the country’s plague of land grabbing and land eviction. In August, villagers from Lor Peang community, Kampong Chhnang province, began a 60km march to Phnom Penh to seek a resolution to their long-standing land dispute. The peaceful march was violently broken up by state security forces as the marchers approached Kandal province. A total of eight villagers were injured and three arrested. Notwithstanding, the Lor Peang community remains resilient and, with help from Boeung Kak community, has been able to stay in Phnom Penh to continue their struggle for justice.

The government’s troubling penchant for arrests took an arbitrary turn when authorities arrested seven female Boeung Kak representatives on November 10. The seven women were arrested and detained while legally protesting against deliberate drainage problems for families around the former lake. The women, five of whom were previously convicted in 2012 for non-violent activism, had gathered peacefully outside Phnom Penh City Hall. They placed a bed frame on the street to show that severe flooding around the lake area had caused their beds to go under water. The following day, all seven Boeung Kak representatives were quickly convicted with obstructing public traffic and sentenced to one year in prison and a fine of $500 per person.

Three additional land rights activities, that had come to support the seven women outside the court, were also arrested and detained for obstructing a public official with aggravating circumstances. The three were convicted on November 12, receiving the same sentence and fines as the seven Boeung Kak representatives sentenced on November 11. All ten female land rights activists remain in prison.

An additional land rights activist, Ly Seav Minh, was arrested on November 18 as she was visiting her father at the Phnom Penh Municipal Court following his arrest earlier the same day. Whilst the daughter remains in prison, her father was released from pre-trial detention on December 4 for unclear reasons. The family has been fighting eviction since 2010 when the politically connected tycoon Khun Sreng claimed ownership of the land on which the family has lived since 1979.

A number of monks have also been arrested and defrocked. Venerable Seung Hai from Stung Meanchey pagoda was violently arrested on November 11 as he was leaving Phnom Penh Municipal Court during the trial of seven female Boeung Kak community representatives. He, too, was convicted for obstructing a public official with aggravating circumstances and sentenced to one year in prison. He also faces additional charges. Two other monks, Venerable Khet Vannak and Venerable Thach Sang, also from Stung Meanchey pagoda, were arrested and defrocked on November 12 and charged with joining a “criminal association” because they were carrying Buddhist flags to Samaki Rainsy pagoda. Venerable Vannak and Venerable Sang remain in pre-trial detention.

Monk activists have also suffered harassment primarily through the courts. Venerable Loun Sovath, the award-
winning multi-media monk, was summonsed to appear before the Phnom Penh Municipal Court on November 25 in a flawed and protracted judicial process that clearly was intended to intimidate him. Venerable Sovath calmly walked out of the courthouse just after 10am after the Prosecutor stated that there had been some ‘confusion’ and the case against Venerable Sovath had several errors in the case file. The President of the Judges’ Panel then declared that a separate case file for Venerable Sovath had, unbeknownst to all parties involved, actually been issued over two years ago. The status of the case file and the nature of the charges against Venerable Sovath remain unclear as the defence lawyers have not yet been granted access to the new case file.

Presently, 19 opposition party members and supporters, monks and land rights activists remain detained in prison. Like the FreeThe23 campaign earlier in 2014, The FreeThe19 campaign has become a unifying campaign for civil society groups, networks and community members. During International Human Rights Day celebrations in December, over 700 participants marched for peace and justice for five consecutive days. In spite of harassment and intimidation from authorities along the way, the marchers congregated in Phnom Penh on December 10. When the groups convened in front of the National Assembly to submit petitions, the crowd had grown to 1,000 participants, including indigenous groups from as far as Ratanakiri province in the northeast. The petitions included recommendations to the government to take immediate measures to ensure that the Law on Demonstrations is properly implemented, the independence of the judicial system, an end to the use of violent force against activists and human rights defenders, and an end to forced evictions.

Adding to the government’s potent arsenal of tactics to suppress and silence civil society was the passage of three new laws on the judiciary in the middle of 2014. The laws blatantly breach international standards and Cambodia’s constitution by legalising the government’s control over the court and judges. The laws were passed by the National Assembly without debate during the CNRP’s Assembly boycott, and then passed by the ruling party regime-dominated Senate.

As 2014 ends, it is very clear that the government and the ruling party refuse to reform in any way that will lead to a broadening of civil society freedoms and respect for basic human rights. As we speak, a draft cyber-crime law, a draft law on associations and NGOs, and a draft trade union law are being fast-tracked for passage in the National Assembly. Once these laws are enacted, Cambodian society will suffer further setbacks, as the government will have the law to legitimize broad and systematic repression of free speech and assembly. This will only compound the stifling environment of fear in which so many marginalised and underrepresented Cambodians live. As such, the government will leave the people with no choice but to struggle for justice through non-violent peaceful civil disobedience.
LC responds, supports and protects communities and groups who are peacefully resisting forced eviction and/or other human rights abuses. Observing actions and events organised by communities and other groups decreases the threat and use of violence, and builds strong solidarity between different civil society actors. Human rights monitors also work to non-violently widen the democratic space and document human rights abuses. When the situation requires, LC provides protective accompaniment, protection of activists, and first aid. In 2014, LC observed and documented 84 actions undertaken by communities, associations, unions and other grassroots groups. The actions included protests, marches, submission of petitions, national and international celebrations, memorial ceremonies, and campaign events near courts related to trials, bail hearings, and appeals.

Due to the tension arising from the contested 2013 national elections, and the corresponding January crackdown, 2014 saw high numbers of state security forces present at a majority of actions and events in Phnom Penh. Out of the monitoring requests that LC received and attended, 79 per cent had security forces present, and people were injured during 18 of the 84 days LC monitored. Eleven of the documented actions were observed inside and/or outside courts for verdicts, trials or bail-hearings. LC provided first aid to demonstrators and participants during 60 per cent of the documented days. First aid includes aid given to victims of tear gas or security force brutality and/or exposure, such as extensive marching/campaigning causing fatigue, dehydration and/or insolation.
FREETHE23 CAMPAIGN

The brutal crackdown on workers and human rights defenders in early January left at least four dead, 38 hospitalised and 23 men arrested. One minor, last seen with a bullet wound to his chest, remains missing.

On January 2, Military Special Command Unit 911 suppressed demonstrations in front of Yak Jin factory by savagely beating protesters and arresting 10 activists and striking workers. Many of those beaten suffered severe trauma afterward. Military police and police forces also entered Canada Industrial Park and violently dispersed and beat striking workers who were dancing and giving speeches through loudspeakers. The striking workers were pushed onto Veng Sreng road where they staged a roadblock and burned tires.

In the early morning hours of January 3, mixed security forces started arbitrarily firing live ammunition and tear gas in the direction of striking workers and bystanders along Veng Sreng road. Many of the 38 people rushed to hospitals suffered bullet wounds. Thirteen more men were arrested during the crackdown on this day. LC responded by joining LICADHO monitors to locate and document the injured and dead, including one dead man authorities left at a pagoda to be cremated before he was properly identified. LC monitored the entire day at the Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital identifying victims and providing emotional support to families of victims.

Following the bloody start to 2014, an intensive campaign was established to find justice and freedom for the 23. The Boeung Kak community took on a leading role campaigning for the freedom of the 23. During the FreeThe23 campaign, LC monitored 18 actions undertaken by different groups, including bail hearings, demonstrations and marches. LC also provided security support to organisers, for example removal of people threatened by arrest, and technical support so that the organisers were able to access funds for their campaign.

The 23 were initially kept incomunicado for more than one week in Correctional Center 3 (CC3) in Kampong Cham province, which is notorious for its isolation, poor infrastructure and disregard for the welfare of prisoners. LICADHO’s medical team were eventually allowed strictly supervised visits in CC1 prison. LC joined this team to provide translation and emotional support for the 23, and to assist the LICADHO’s medical team with small tasks during treatments. The same LC and LICADHO teams also accompanied injured victims from the January crackdowns and their families on a series of trips to Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand to ensure that proper medical attention was given to the victims, and to provide social and logistical support for the families.

The FreeThe23 campaign lasted until May 30 when the 23 were convicted, but then subsequently had their sentences suspended, by the Phnom Penh Municipal Court after a non-consecutive 5-day trial. During the trial, LC translated for international observers and helped a larger team organise and relay food and emotional support during lunches and breaks to defendants and their families. LC mobilised another team outside the court to observe and document the civil society actions, as well as the presence of police, which included roadblocks and heavily armed personnel.

Communities, civil society, NGOs, partners, international observers, diplomats, and the international media celebrated the release of the 23 men. From the court, the LC team was especially relieved and overjoyed since three of the released men have been close friends for several years. The LC team travelled with over 500 supporters to meet the released men outside Prey Sar prison where they had been kept during the trial. The procession maintained a lively atmosphere all the way into Phnom Penh, where several celebrations were organised to mark the freedom of the 23 men.

FREETHE19 CAMPAIGN

The most recent wave of arrests, which started in September 2014 has left 19 people detained. Eleven were tried, convicted and sentenced within days of their arrest. Ten off those 11 are well-known land rights activists from, or formerly from, Boeung Kak community, while the other is a UK citizen who was brought in from Phnom Penh prison. The 19 detained individuals also include two monks also from Steung Meanchey pagoda, five CNRP members/supporters, and one land rights activist from Boeung Kak 1, Toul Kork District. All are in pre-trial detention on various spurious charges.

The detainees were initially denied access by anyone except lawyers. In December 2014, LC managed to visit the detainees in Prey Sar’s CC1 and CC2 prison on four occasions. LC has been present for trials and bail hearing for the detained community members, primarily to translate for international court transcribers, and to provide emotional support to the detainees. LC will continue to visit the 19 in prison, provide support to their families and observe and document the campaign for their freedom.

The FreeThe19 campaign began as a smaller campaign to free the 10 female Boeung Kak community members and one monk activist but has come to include all victims from the recent wave of arrests. During the last quarter of 2014, communities and civil society groups organised 12 public protests/actions demanding the release of the 19. Despite many of their most outspoken leaders being imprisoned, Boeung Kak community organisers were once again at the forefront of the multi-sector actions. LC observed and documented eight of the 12 campaign actions, and regularly participated in Sunday actions outside Prey Sar prison where communities gathered to pray, sing and call for the release of their fellow community members.

Particularly affected by the arrests are the children and grandchildren of some of the detained activists. Having lost the stability provided by the presence of a guardian, the home and school lives of the children have been disrupted. They nonetheless took it upon themselves to join civil society actions outside Prey Sar prison, and speak out against the arrests of their mothers and grandmothers.

INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATIONS

LC also monitored and documented important public events, such as International Workers’ Day, World Habitat Day and International Human Rights Day (IHRD). In December 2014, over 700 celebrants marched from various locations across the country toward Phnom Penh over five consecutive days to celebrate IHRD. The marchers included citizens and civil society groups, youths, people affected by land conflicts, and, for the first time, indigenous communities. They were led by monks on seven different National Roads for a total distance of 600km. On December 10, IHRD marchers convened in front of the National Assembly to submit petitions.

LC and LICADHO jointly organised multi-media teams to document the march on multiple National Roads. Besides documentation, LC also stayed overnight with the marchers to provide protection against police harassment, to build trust and solidarity, and to participate in Buddhist teachings and listen to stories from villagers along the way.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

LC recognises the traumatic impact and emotional draining of long-term activism and continuously provides holistic support to first and second tier leaders of communities and grassroots groups to help maintain strong social justice movements and resilience against state-perpetrated human rights abuses. LC’s support includes community visits, meetings with family members of imprisoned activists, prison visits, referrals, and keeping LC office an open space where partners and clients can come in and talk, rest or be assisted on their own terms and conditions.

During the FreeThe23 campaign, LICADHO provided detainees with medical assistance, legal advice and representation, and food and material assistance. Meanwhile LC regularly met with family members of the imprisoned, both in the office and in their homes, to listen to their stories and assist them to find information or access services. During the FreeThe23 campaign, LC staff met with each detainee’s family member(s) at least once. Equally important was emotional stability and morale of the 23 men, which LC addressed by passing on messages to and from families and friends as per request by the imprisoned 23. The familiar faces of LC during prison visits allowed the men to relax and to sometimes even make jokes and laugh with LC. During the trial of the 23, LC also ensured that at least one LC staff was present inside the courtroom to support them during their testimonies.

Photo 5: Marchers walk more than 600Km to highlight International Human Rights Day, December 2014

CAMBODIAN hospitals do not offer quality attendance to patients and have repeatedly misdiagnosed and mistreated patients. 

FreeThe19 campaign and FreeThe23 campaign, see Promotion & Advocacy section.
LC is providing the same services to meet the holistic needs of the Freethe19 detainees. Access to political detainees is typically restricted to lawyers and family members. On December 9, LC and LICADHO were granted permission to visit the 19 once a week, to provide medical attendance, and to follow up on their physical and mental health. Frustation, anger and fear are high among the detainees and LC recognises the importance and therapeutic benefit of allowing detainees to freely express themselves to someone who will simply listen.

Many of the families of the 19 are also worried about their imprisoned family members and the situation of their family. One example is Ly Seav Minh and her family. Minh is a 23-year-old woman from Boeung Kak 1, Toul Kork district, Phnom Penh. Her family has lived on their land since 1979. Despite evidence of lengthy occupation of the land, the Ly family has been involved in a long-running land dispute with the municipality and Khun Sea Company, to which the municipality unlawfully sold the Ly family’s land in 2010.

The Ly family has been victims of repeated attacks over the years, including attempted arson, having venomous snakes thrown into their house, poisoning of their animals and physical assaults. Minh was arrested on November 18, 2014 while seeking information about her father at the Phnom Penh Municipal Court following his arrest earlier that same day. Both Minh and her father remain charged, but her father was released on bail in December for unknown reasons.

Minh is still waiting trial and remains in high spirits. However, the family has suffered from the land dispute for years and are terrified about a negative outcome, specifically of additional family members being arrested. LC is aware of their fears, and has met with Minh’s brother to debrief and gather information about the family in case of arrest. LC has also assured the family that they can contact LC with any questions or concerns. LC will maintain contact with Minh’s family to provide emotional support and encourage the family to be strong while Minh is in prison.

PROTECTION & SECURITY

LC has taken a leading role in the field among its partners regarding security strategies. LC’s security strategy implemented after the elections in 2013 proved equally relevant in 2014. Specifically, LC teams always monitor in pairs. Staying in close proximity to a monitoring partner increases the awareness, security and confidence of LC monitors. LC monitoring teams always have one person filming events or interviewing activists, while the other person keeps an eye out for potential sources of danger and reports back to the office of key developments. With more confidence and a better security approach, LC can be more efficient and better assist and protect other people in need.

On occasion, LC’s monitoring presence and camera equipment has helped reduce the likelihood of state violence perpetrated against communities and civil society. On January 26, unions, associations and other civil society representatives gathered near Freedom Park at the Dragon Bridge to demand the release of the 23, an increase of minimum wage, and an end to state violence. Hundreds of police and military police were stationed around Freedom Park and security guards arrived to push people out of the area, including media and monitors. Some community activists refused to leave the Dragon Bridge area so LC monitors also resisted being removed. LC monitors followed the activists who were being shoved and carried out to a side road by highly intoxicated security guards. Fortunately, no one was beaten during these forced removals. LC itself was pushed out of the area a few times and a security guard grabbed one LC team member but LC team members kept calm and reminded guards of human rights including the right to assemble. In the latter incident, a prominent Borei Keila leader and partner helped LC team member to educate the guards about human rights and rights to assembly.

LC’s security strategy was also relevant when riot police aggressively advanced on peaceful protestors from the Association of Democrats/Beehive Radio on January 27 and fixed smoke grenades into the crowds. LC used security goggles and tear gas neutralising/alkaline sprays to ensure that LC team members, and partner staff from LICADHO, could keep breathing, before helping journalists and protestors who were also affected by the smoke.

LC’s monitoring and security training and protocols again proved crucial on July 15, when violence erupted between security guards and CNRP supporters at Freedom Park. Early in the morning, LC stationed two monitoring teams on location to observe the around 300 CNRP supporters that had gathered for the event. As the violence erupted, LC responded with first aid to injured security guards and protesters, and helped evacuate injured people from the area. LC and LICADHO, together with a few civilians, protected security guards from further beatings.

When state security forces fired smoke grenades into the crowd of protestors, LC quickly assisted protestors and journalists with wet clothes and liquid to ease breathing. Because of training on how to counteract tear gas, and previous experience with smoke grenades, LC remained calm throughout the situation, and were able to respond to the needs of people. Several times, the LC team used the panic button application on their smartphones to rapidly grab the attention of those in the office, as the situation became more chaotic. By the end of the day, LC and LICADHO monitored confirmed that at least ten security guards and six CNRP supporters had been injured.

SUCCESS STORY

LC continues to provide various forms of support to a young boy from the Borei Keila community. He is an orphan living with relatives who are land rights activists. He suffers from Thalassemia and is undertreated. The adoptive parents and their extremely impoverished community have previously donated blood for his transfusions because they could not afford to purchase blood from the blood bank.

LC staff worked hard to find proper medical treatment, and at times donated their own blood to maintain the boy's health. LC took up this case in November 2013, and in 2014 was able to initiate a NGO programme that helps children with Thalassemia. Thalassemia is often accompanied by the destruction of a large number of red blood cells. As a result of the body fighting old or damaged blood cells, the spleen enlarges. In 2014, the boy’s spleen grew to a point where it worsened his anaemia and consequently reduced the life of transfused red blood cells. Up until the boy entered the NGO programme, no one had realised that his blood transfusion routine had been way too infrequent rendering him too weakened to undergo surgery to repair the spleen. By November 2014 he was finally healthy enough to be accepted for surgery to remove parts of his enlarged spleen. The surgery went well and he left hospital without complications. LC maintains contact with his adoptive family and helps them get access to support from various NGOs.

CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING

LC continues to build capacity among its partners by various means, including assistance in the field and in the office. Additionally, LC continues to improve its own capacity through participation in relevant trainings.

After the violent crackdowns in January and the imprisonment of 23 human rights defenders and workers, many people lost their source of income. Some workers were blacklisted from factories, whereas others were too badly traumatised, physically or mentally, to return to work. LC responded by offering a short term learning contract to one of the activists. After providing a safe space to learn new skills, build confidence, and slowly reintegrate to the work force, LC is proud to see that the man has now been able to purchase a tuktuok and works as a tuktuok driver in Phnom Penh.

In April 2014, LC’s Technical & Outreach Coordinator took part in a workshop in Advanced Digital Security organised by Civil Rights Defenders. The Technical & Outreach Coordinator learned how to encrypt data and set up secure communications, including end-to-end encrypted messaging. The workshop demonstrated the importance of using end-to-end encrypted messaging when communicating with activists in case of arrest or confiscation of their equipment. The use of smartphones by LC, LICADHO and other civil society groups has enabled access to safer communications and more accurate and prompt information sharing between partners. Since the workshop, the LC Technical & Outreach Coordinator has systematically taught community members advanced protocols for digital security by setting up secure communications, securing data for threatened human rights activists, as well as ensuring that LC protects its own data.

In 2014, the Technical & Outreach Coordinator also learned how to use the Panic Button application and
Workers and human rights defenders were released from prison (FreeThe23 and additional two workers arrested in 2013).

60km
Distance walked by Lor Peang community to seek a resolution to their land dispute.

1000
Number of participants that submitted petitions to the National Assembly on December 10.

In May, the Technical & Outreach Coordinator was invited to the United States by the ISC Project as a part of Counterpart International to represent Cambodian activists’ need for ICT tools and applications. During his trip he met with activists from other regions in the world using ICT tools for social justice to share experiences and challenges. He also provided feedback and explained the needs of Cambodian activists to software developers (Yahoo, Google, Microsoft, and Facebook). The Technical & Outreach Coordinator informed them of the draft cyber crime law, which, if passed, will restrict Internet freedoms and expression, as well as the relevance and use of social media. The Technical & Outreach Coordinator’s exposure to security workshops, and networking with security software experts, has prompted LC switch to new software in a number of areas, including instant messaging. LC hopes that software developers will continue to develop more efficient and secure ways to communicate with the valuable input from activists from different regions.

While it was not discussed during the meeting with software developers, LC discovered that Google included Khmer Unicode as a standard language on Android smartphones in 2014. This will greatly benefit many activists in their communications as many of them do not read or write English.

In September 2014, LC’s Monitoring & Protection Coordinator participated in a 5-day training on active non-violence (ANV). The Monitoring & Protection Coordinator was invited to participate in this training as she works very close to community leaders, many of who are main organisers for campaigns and actions. LC learned important aspects of campaigning from this training, and was able to assess if it was relevant for Cambodian activists. In 2015, a large group of community leaders and other activists will be invited to participate in the same training. LC firmly believes that the ANV training will not only bring new momentum to activists’ campaigns and to maintain a non-violent stance, but will help them emotionally to deal with trauma, internal conflicts and other negative impacts of sustained activism.
LC dedicates its advocacy to raise awareness and stimulate systematic change on local and international levels. LC produces video advocacy materials in cooperation with LICADHO, WITNESS, and/or communities and other groups to be used for campaigns and trainings, by development partners, media, and as evidence.

Youth groups, land activists, membership groups and civil society groups are playing an increasingly important role in social justice movements. They are working more closely together and have become important actors for change. However, many of these groups are relatively small and lack necessary support, resources, skills and opportunities. LC continues to support and encourage these groups through training, encouragement and strategizing.
VIDEO ADVOCACY

Together with LICADHO, LC advocates both in Cambodia and internationally by producing a wide range of videos. In 2014, LC and LICADHO jointly produced 13 videos, and ten short clips for LICADHO’s livestream; an increase from 2013 when LC and LICADHO produced only eight videos. Additionally, LC/LICADHO also produced legal evidence for the trial of the 23 workers and human rights defenders represented by LICADHO’s lawyers. Most of the videos produced, except for legal evidence and livestream clips, were shared on YouTube. LC/LICADHO’s YouTube channel had 158,145 views in 2014 alone.

In November 2014, LC also started a Vimeo channel as Youtube is increasingly undermining LC/LICADHO’s rights under the Fair Use of Copyright Law. Two videos were uploaded on Vimeo and, as of December 31, 2014, had 5,427 views, bringing the total views of the two channels to 163,572 views.

More people, including activists, are now taking advantage of LC/LICADHO’s Creative Commons copyright clause. They download LC/LICADHO videos off of YouTube/Vimeo and upload them to their own social media pages such as Facebook. These views cannot be accounted for as there is no way to keep track of them. For example, Kem Sokha, CNRP, uploaded the Freedom of Assembly in Cambodia video to his Facebook account and received more than 54,000 views.

Another example is Engage Media website where several LC/LICADHO videos have been uploaded directly, and whose views cannot be accounted for. At the end of 2014, Engage Media had 18 of LC/LICADHO videos archived on their website.

Four videos were also uploaded directly to LICADHO’s Facebook, not linked to YouTube or Vimeo. These four videos had a total reach of 55,066 users, meaning that this many Facebook users’ feed listed LC/LICADHO’s videos (for various reasons: LICADHO Facebook follower, shares, or “Facebook friends” commenting on videos) without LC/LICADHO publishing them there nor paying for them to become visible on their feed. While LC/LICADHO received less views on its YouTube channel in 2014 compared to 2013, the videos published directly on Facebook, other social media outlets and third party websites makes the total number of views significantly higher than the views on LC/LICADHO’s YouTube and Vimeo channels.

Smartphones play an increasingly important role for gaining access to information and sharing it with relevant groups. In the last few years, LC staff and partner civil society groups have progressively increased our smartphone use. More activists use smartphones to document human rights abuses. In 2014, three activists that filmed evidence during crackdowns submitted their footage to LC to be used as evidence.

Ordinary Cambodians, too, are turning to smartphones and social media for information. The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications recently reported that about one third of the Cambodians were connected to Internet at the end of 2014. A Ministry member also said that 98.67% of Internet subscriptions were from mobile devices. Internet and digital communication has become a critical tool for expression, free speech, assembly organising, and as a watchdog of human rights. In Cambodia, where the government controls most media outlets except for a few radio channels and a couple of newspapers, social media is crucial to accessing and sharing politically sensitive information. Hence, LC and LICADHO’s use of social media for distribution of advocacy is essential for the Cambodian audience. While the number of views becomes more complicated to keep track of, social media has become crucial to reach the Cambodian audience.

In 2014, 63 per cent of LICADHO/LC’s YouTube channel views came from smartphones or tablets; an increase from 2013 when only 42 per cent of views came from smartphones and tablets. Moreover, among the views from smartphones and tablets, an increasing amount, 80%, of users are viewing LICADHO/LC’s videos on Android smartphones. LC will continue to develop its skills in smartphone use and digital security so that LC can train other activists in Cambodia. In 2015, LICADHO plans to increase its promotion of Android smartphone use in communities and other grassroots groups. Simultaneaously, LC will provide smartphone video advocacy training through workshops to strengthen the mobilisation of the social movements.

ADVOCATING ABROAD

Two videos LC produced, Freedom of Assembly in Cambodia and We Will Never Forget: Dey Krahorm memorial music video, were shown at conferences and events abroad. The Freedom of Assembly in Cambodia video was originally produced for the Regional Consultation on Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, in Kathmandu, Nepal on September 19, 2014, presented by the Cambodian Youth Network, LC’s long-term partner. The video, later released to highlight the International Day to End Impunity in November, shows footage of both state-sponsored abuses committed with impunity, and the resilience of Cambodian activists in the face of oppression spanning 14 months. The video was also shown at a Civil Rights Defenders’ side event: Fundamental Freedoms and Human Rights Defenders’ in Geneva, Switzerland on September 16–24, 2014.

We Will Never Forget: Dey Krahorm memorial music video was originally produced for the Youth Leadership and Empowerment in Myanmar to Enhance Youth Exchange of Experience meeting. LC’s Monitoring & Protection Coordinator presented the video in three different cities in Myanmar while sharing her own experience of forced eviction and civil resistance. After these meetings, the Monitoring & Protection Coordinator was invited to represent women activists at the upcoming 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

ADVOCACY FOR SAFETY

LC also works with LICADHO to raise profiles of human rights defenders threatened or unlawfully detained. By collecting information for LICADHO’s written advocacy materials and assisting LICADHO in their digital advocacy platforms, LC plays an important role in advocating for human rights defenders. LICADHO also shares information with international organisations, such as Amnesty International and the United Nations, media, and lobbies other stakeholders to influence decisions and outcomes.

As a result of LC’s relationships with many front-line communities, LC could access crucial information that allowed LC to amplify the voices of activists LICADHO and LC represent, and humanize their situation through advocacy. In 2014, LC worked hard to raise profiles of both the FreeTha23 and FreeThe19 imprisoned workers, bystanders, and activists. Another high profile case was Venerable Loun Sovath who was summoned to court in November 2014.

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**FREETHE23 & FREETHE19**

LC/LICADHO produced two videos to highlight the brutality of the January crackdown and oppression of the FreeThe23 campaign. The *Workers & Political Activists under Attack* video shows the brutal crackdown on January 2, 3 and 4, 2014. The video has received 13,157 views on YouTube alone. The video was shared to Facebook 2,845 times from LICADHO’s website, the highest number of shares from LICADHO’s website to Facebook of all LICADHO website publications. The other video, *When Prayers Meet Suppression*: Calling for the Release of the 23 shows a small crowd gathering near the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh to pray for the release of 23 workers and activists arrested. Security forces attempted to disperse the crowd by threats of violence and shoving the peaceful assembly near the Royal Palace. One association leader was detained overnight. The video received 4,731 views on YouTube.

With LC/LICADHO’s extensive footage of both the crackdown and the FreeThe23 campaign, LC received several requests of footage from organisations and filmmakers for their productions. An independent filmmaker, Karoline Morwitzke, requested footage of the violence and arrests of workers and activists from the January crackdown. She produced a campaign video for the release of the 23. An additional filmmaker, Garrett Atlatkon, also requested footage of the January crackdown on workers and activists. He will produce a documentary about forced evictions and resulting protest movements, to be finalised in 2015.

In 2014, LC/LICADHO produced six short clips for LICADHO’s livestream and one video to supplement the legal evidence for the 23. A total of three of these clips were used on the livestream. LICADHO’s livestream for the FreeThe23 trial covered five days and had a total of 3,793 unique visitors. In additional to visitors on LICADHO’s website, the content of the livestream reached several thousand people through Facebook and Twitter. International media also referred to LICADHO’s livestream, for example *Bloomberg Business*, as well as international campaigns, for example *Clean Clothes Campaign*.

The FreeThe19 campaign has yet to reach the same level of extensive coverage as FreeThe23. However, in 2014 LC started the production of a campaign video for the female community activists in prison. The video includes a song written by the women in prison to their children. The video will be finalised in 2015.

Besides video advocacy, LC also created profiles for LICADHO of the ten Boeung Kak community activists arrested in November 2014. The profiles are based on the families’ story about the imprisoned women, many of whom are mothers. The profiles were shared with media, embassies and published on LICADHO’s website.

**IMPACT STORY: VENERABLE LOU SOVATH**

Venerable Lou Sovath, also known as the multi-media monk, is one of LC’s most unique and inspirational partners. From 2010 to 2012 Venerable Sovath and LC worked side by side on the land grabbing case of his community in Chi Kong, Siem Reap. Over the past few years, LC has played a significant role in raising Venerable Sovath’s profile to keep him safe from arrest. Despite having tremendous international visibility and support, and being an award-winning human rights defender, Venerable Sovath was summarised to appear before Phnom Penh Municipal Court on November 25, 2014 in a flawed and protracted judicial process that clearly aimed to silence him. This was the first instance of a robed monk appearing in court; a deviation of the normal Buddhist process of having religious authorities defrock a monk before appearing in court.

When LC received notice about his summons, LC quickly mobilised partners and friends of Venerable Sovath, and informed them about the upcoming trial. The mobilisation resulted in a joint statement endorsed by 16 organisations, including Human Rights Watch and the Martin Ennals Foundation. Meanwhile, LC prepared Venerable Sovath emotionally by going over the possible outcomes and his options, and arranged for safe-housing the days before his trial. Venerable Sovath was confident throughout most of the preparations and was well informed that he might be arrested, defrocked and sentenced to prison. Preparations also included recording a video interview with Venerable Sovath and producing a video message from him to be used as advocacy material in case of detention. LC also helped secure his phone and data.

LC assisted Venerable Sovath’s old community, Chi Kong, Siem Reap province, and Banteay Srey community, Siem Reap province, to access funds to travel to Phnom Penh in support of Venerable Sovath at his trial. Over 400 people turned out to support Venerable Sovath outside the court. Supporters inside and outside the court house included monks and representatives from local and provincial communities, and representatives from United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), European Union, DanChurchAid, Amnesty International, and international embassies such as Sweden, Germany and Switzerland.

The support and backing from both Cambodia and abroad raised Venerable Sovath’s profile and brought much-needed attention to his case. The Prosecutor admitted that there had been some ‘confusion’ with his case. The President of the Judges’ Panel also declared that the case file had several errors. Venerable Sovath walked out of the courthouse just after 10am and received a powerful welcome by his supporters. Together they marched through the city and back to Venerable Sovath’s pagoda.

**RESOURCE SHARING**

The videos and photos that LC produces are increasingly being shared with partners, NGOs, filmmakers, and media. LC more frequently receives raw footage requests of both recent events and LC’s archives. During 2014, 11 international filmmakers, TV stations and groups requested LC raw footage. Footage was requested by a BBC documentary: *A Cabbie Abroad*, *International Center on Nonviolent Conflict*, Karoline Morwitzke, *Radio Free Asia*, *Engage Media* (to archive LC/LICADHO’s videos), *Simon Hervieux*, *International Accountability Project*, *Phnom Penh Post*, *UN Web TV*, and *OHCHR*.

LC, LICADHO and partners are also increasingly using LC/LICADHO’s videos for national and international meetings.

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1. The court refused to show the damning video evidence during the trial.
2. Photo 11: The ‘Workers & Political Activists under Attack’ video is available on LC/LICADHO’s YouTube channel.
3. Photo 12: Venerable Lou Sovath in front of Municipal Court, November 21

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**lobc20140829-20150101**

**lobc20140930-20150101**

**lobc20141031-20150101**

**lobc20141130-20150101**
LC supports communities and partners to produce their own creative advocacy materials, including music and songs, and videos. Creative advocacy promotes rehabilitation and builds solidarity when sharing advocacy materials from different sectors.

In 2014, LC entered a new phase of capacity building among its partners and prominent activists. With a new project initiated in 2014, LC, together with WITNESS, will train partners and activists in video advocacy and video evidence over three years. Throughout the latter half of 2014, LC began planning and preparing workshops and training programs for this project, with the first workshop scheduled in January 2015. The trainings will include mentoring, legal advice, story telling, group projects, and dissemination strategies. In 2014, three meetings were held where needs, ideas, responsibilities and expectations were explained and discussed between LC’s video partners. The meetings also functioned as mentoring sessions where LC video producers assisted partners in their productions.

The first planning meeting was held at the LC/LICADHO’s office on July 14, 2014. Here, LC identified the needs for partners in the video training workshops. LC invited six partners to attend the first meeting, and four attended. LC’s partners had many great ideas that were included into the training agenda. LC also evaluated the quality of previous partner productions, and provided constructive feedback.

The second meeting was held in Phnom Penh on August 22, 2014. LC and LICADHO jointly organised an event to launch the project, familiarise with the donor of the project, and gain inspiration for upcoming video productions. LC invited its video partners from previous workshops, in total 33 participants, to follow up on the last training that was held in 2013. During the event, selected videos by partners were presented to better assess what partners learned from previous LC trainings, where the project could help them improve, and also to inspire them to make more advocacy videos. Videos included inspirational videos about Malaysian street activism and peaceful assembly, a teambuilding video, and other human rights related videos made by partners (labour strikes, land rights, urban planning, beer promotion girls and FreeThe23 campaign). Venerable Loung Sovath also held a speech highlighting the importance of video documentation and advocacy.

On November 22, 2014, six partners(1) were represented at another meeting to follow up on their projects and provide technical assistance to one another. Partners shared their opinions of each other's projects and discussed how to overcome challenges in video production. One of the partners articulated severe problems with his video-editing program due to a lack of appropriate software licensing. LC was able to reassure partners that funding from this project will provide and distribute licensed video editing software. The partners agreed that these meetings, referred to as mentorship meetings, should continue throughout the project based on their needs.

LC’s long-term partner WITNESS previously articulated the need for LC to pass on their experience and knowledge in video production to its partners. Hence, LC hopes that these mentorship meetings will increase the number of videos produced by its partners, as well as the quality and reach of their videos.

ONLINE PRESENCE

LC has had its own website and a shared YouTube channel with LICADHO since 2007. However, 2014 was the year of improving LC’s online presence. Besides the new Vimeo channel started by LC in November 2014, LC launched its new website, in a more user-friendly format in August 2014. The new website highlights recent campaigns by human rights defender and activists, and features LC materials. By the end of 2014, the number of unique visitors had increased by 346%. In addition, since the new website was launched in August until December 2014, LC’s website had an average of 459 unique visitors per month compared to January-July when the average was only 218 unique visitors. LC’s new website has helped a number of filmmakers and other people interested in human rights issues in Cambodia contact LC.

In February 2014, LC also created its own Twitter account. Prior to having its own Twitter account, LC had been tweeting from private staff accounts. Towards the end of 2013, LC’s Community & Media Monitor was recognised by Phnom Penh Post as one of the top 20 current affairs tweeters in Cambodia. With the increased attention and thus the increased potential risk to the Community & Media Monitor, LC started a LC Twitter account. However, when the Community & Media Monitor left LC on short notice just after LC’s Twitter account was created, it was left unmanaged and LC lost most of its followers. LC has now trained new staff in the use of Twitter and is slowly regaining its reputation for timely accurate updates from the field.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER APPAREL

The Human Rights Defenders Apparel (HRDA) Project remains an important part of LC. The HRDA project distributes small grants for advocacy campaigns and support to activists. The HRDA grants are made to be easily accessible and quickly distributed to communities and networks for activities and needs that don’t usually meet donor criteria, often because activists’ work is done in a reactive fashion without adequate time to apply for traditional grants. Three grants were distributed in 2014, transport for communities to campaign locations, phone cards for community leaders to organise FreeThe19 campaign, and for the funeral ceremony of a famous human rights defender, Chan Saveth, who passed away in 2014.

The HRDA project saw unprecedented expansion in 2014. “The Whole World Is Watching” -t-shirt, originally produced for the 2013 national elections was purchased 497 times. While the t-shirt sold 771 items in 2013, 2014 is still seen as a year of success for HRDA. In 2013, LC sold a larger amount of items yet to only a few purchasers, including a huge stock for election observers. In 2014, LC sold items every month and to a wider demographic. The t-shirts are seen at most community events and actions and worn by many civil society groups in Cambodia. In 2014, the HRDA also introduced two new items; a cap and a bag. The caps were incredibly popular and LC continuously receives requests for new styles and additional items, and aims to add a few new styles in 2015.

WITNESS also bought 79 items from “The Whole World Is Watching” collection; initially to be donated to frontline activists from Boeung Kak, Thmor Kol, and Borei Keila communities. However, as villagers from Lor Peang community, Kampong Chhnang province reached Phnom Penh in August 2014 to find a solution to their land dispute, LC approached front-line community leaders, including Boeung Eak community, where Lor Peang community members resided, to ask what they wanted to do with the donation. The community leaders firmly agreed that their communities were better off than Lor Peang community, hence the t-shirts should be donated to Lor Peang, as the promising activists that they are.
During 2014, LC went through an overhaul of its administration, programmes, and staffing structure as per recommendations from the evaluation carried out in October 2013 and LC strategic planning meetings in May 2014. LC hired an Organisational Development Consultant to lead the implementation of the recommendations.

Changes included restructuring LC’s previous three programmes into two programmes, Monitoring & Protection, and Promotion & Advocacy, to match LC’s closest partner LICADHO. The changes allow LC to identify and fill gaps in LICADHO services. The two programmes also help LC mainstream its services without overlapping with LICADHO to boost efficiency.

LC also revised its mission statement, goal and objectives to include a more broad range of beneficiaries and partners, including unions, students, monks, and associations, and to focus on the larger human rights crisis, not only land grabbing. These changes were necessary to adapt to the changes in the political landscape and the human rights environment, and to align with the growing social movements that are supported by cross-sector groups.

At the end of 2014, LC employed five permanent staff, and one short-term consultant (six women and one man). Throughout 2014, LC also had one intern for three months. In December 2014, the LC Board of Directors held their annual meeting where a new Board of Directors was voted in to guide and advice LC for 2015. The new Board of Directors includes three women and three men.
LICADHO Canada's goal is for all people in Cambodia to live in a peaceful society that respects human rights, democracy, and social justice.

To fulfill this goal, LICADHO Canada will work:

- To promote a peaceful Cambodia that respects human rights, democracy, and social justice;
- To expose Cambodia's land grabbing and human rights crisis to the national and international community; and
- To support and protect threatened communities and human rights defenders.

MOVING INTO 2015

In 2015, LC will continue to respond, protect and support activists, and advocate for human rights. LC also hopes to extend its partnerships to include new groups in the growing people's movement, and work closer with Buddhist monks' networks, unions and youth groups. LC was proud to see new leaders emerge amid arrests of prominent leaders. LC will continue to encourage these new leaders in 2015 and support them to guide a new second tier leadership. Finally, LC will continue to identify gaps in activists' support and protection, and commits to continue growing and adapting our services to meet the emerging needs of Cambodian activists.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The main challenge LC faced in 2014 was the small size of the team, which made it difficult sometimes to fulfil both administrative work and field related objectives. This year, LC received more requests for monitoring but responded to less percentage of requests. This is largely due to LC's security guidelines that require LC to always work in pairs on the field. As a result, LC is less likely to mobilize on the field when staff travel abroad for lobbying, conferences or networking trips, take leave, or are occupied with training or administrative work.

Several times, LC did not have the minimum of two available monitors to respond to monitoring requests. In 2014, LC worked hard to build closer cooperation and security strategies with LICADHO monitors and video staff to share responsibilities of field presence. LC will continue to build on this relationship and hopes that LC and LICADHO can both benefit from a shared security strategy and a clearer division of labour.

Another challenge LC faced was that its programmes currently run primarily on project funds. Unfortunately, project funds cannot account for unexpected costs such as campaigning support for activists. Additionally, with increasing requirements from donors in project management and reporting, LC found itself overwhelmed balancing field presence and administrative work. In 2015, LC will revise its long-term funding strategy and seek flexible funding partners and resources suitable for Cambodia's human rights environment. A necessary step taken in 2014 was to employ the Organisational Development Consultant to ease the workload of staff working in the field. To overcome the challenge of responding to monitoring requests, LC is currently taking steps to hire new staff.

The ban on assembly, which was implemented after the lethal crackdown in January 2014, was another challenge. Although the ban was officially lifted in February, the government continued to prohibit people from gatherings and denied the rights to demonstrations, rallies and other events. Besides the ban on assembly, the National Assembly, for most of 2014 a single-party body, continued to draft and pass new laws. Public consultations were rare, or not influential. As a result of the almost year-long boycott of the National Assembly by the opposition, laws were not properly scrutinised.

The government's passage of three new laws on the judiciary in 2014 was particularly disconcerting for LC. The laws do not comply with Cambodia's constitution and legitimise the government's control of the courts and judges. This is particularly worrisome when cases of human rights violations are brought against individuals or companies with political connections to the ruling party. The regime is also considering other potentially repressive laws, including the draft cyber crime law, the draft law on associations and NGOs, and the draft trade unions law. LC continues to advocate against these draft laws both nationally and internationally, and supports the social movements peacefully protesting against them.

LC itself is, and will be, affected by these repressive laws, and by the violence and risk from the government's campaign to curtail freedom of speech and assembly. During the first half of 2014, Phnom Penh saw a spike in violence and intimidation from security forces towards NGOs and media. LC staff were among those slapped, shoved and intimidated at unprecedented levels. Media and NGOs partners were also tazed, beaten, hit with marble slingshots and had their property destroyed by security guards and police. LC continues to develop strong security strategies for fieldwork, and works closely with LICADHO and other partners to maintain both organisational security and staff security in case new laws restrict activities for LC and its partners.

LC also experienced some technical challenges. LC has long acknowledged that some partners’ video editing programmes often create problems during video production and video exports. This is largely due to the lack of licensed programmes available in Cambodia. As of mid-2014, LC was granted original Adobe Premiere Pro licenses for LC and its partners. Nevertheless, these licenses were not available in Cambodia during 2014. After months of consultation with the Adobe sales teams, LC learned that these licenses would only be available for Cambodia in early 2015. LC hopes that it can access these programmes and distribute them to its partners for increased quality and quantity of audio-visual advocacy materials in early 2015.
The two Freedom of Assembly videos (Khmer & English) on Vimeo received 5,427 views. From mobile phone and tablets 63% views From our videos embeded on other websites 26% views

1 Youtube 10 videos 171 new subscribers
2 Vimeo 2 videos

TOP VIDEO-SHARING CHANNELS

TOP CHANNEL VIEWS

NEW VIEWS

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

HERE TOOS STATISTICS 2014 PRODUCTIONS

13 advocacy videos
10 short clips produced for livestreams video evidence for the legal team for the 23 activists and workers

THE 13 FULL VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

Workers & Political Activists under Attack, Khmer and English (January 2014) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kip8GUG0UZ4

When Prayers Meet Suppression: Calling for the Release of the 23, Khmer and English (January 2014) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYhLMmQv5ck

Youth Beaten Bloody During Borei Keila Occupation, Khmer and English (February 2014) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFBNS-0nh00

Time-lapse: State-Involved Land Conflicts in Cambodia, English (April 2014) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3CWEqS6eAQ


Too Young to Work: The Life of a Former Shoe Factory Worker, Khmer and English (June 2014) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GthQG1V30E

Out of School and Working: The Story of an Evicted Girl, Khmer and English (June 2014) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dhf8f8A_g

Borei Keila Evictees: Justice Overdue, Khmer and English (October 2014) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1dQVXnul

Another Violent Dispersal of Land Protesters near the Prime Minister’s House, Khmer and English (October 2014) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6dQ2FhKxA

We Will Never Forget: Dey Krahorm memorial music video, English (October 2014) Video produced for presentation for the “Youth Leadership and Empowerment in Myanmar to Enhance Youth Exchange of Experience” meeting in Burma but only published to Vimeo in January 2015 https://vimeo.com/137459796

A Child’s Hope, Khmer and English (November 2014) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8dUSAxAX4


THE REQUESTED RAW FOOTAGE

LC/LICADHO raw videos files (and one request for pictures from video) were requested by 11 national and international filmmakers, TV stations and other groups as listed below:


Engage Media (“Social justice and environmental video from the Asia Pacific”) requested to archive LC/LICADHO video productions on their website. Eighteen of our video productions are now archived on their website http://www.engagemedia.org/Members/licadho/videos

Simon Hervieux/Filmmaker requested footage of monks involved in activism and violence against monks for a short video with the theme: “How to balance between religious commitment and politics, in a country where freedom of speech isn’t enough: Unknown production date.

BBC Current Affairs requested footage of Boeung Kak Lake protests and filling in of the lake to include in the July 2014 season premiere of Mason McQueen: A Cabbie Abroad. http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04855e9 (available in UK) This show was reviewed by The Guardian TV review http://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2014/jun/23/a-cabbie-abroad-tv-review

International Accountability Project requested pictures from video files of Boeung Kak Lake for their presentation at an international conference on Women and Human Rights.

Garret Attkason/Filmmaker requested footage of January 3 violence against workers for a documentary about forced evictions and resulting protest movements. To be produced in 2015


International Centre of Non-violent Conflict requested footage of community actions using musical advocacy for a video story about musical resistance across the world (production will be posted to http://freedombeat.org/ in 2015)

Bree Fitzgerald/Filmmaker for Evictions and the Effects on Women piece for UNTV requested footage from Dey Krahorm eviction (estimated 50 million audience base), to be published in 2015

UNOHCHR for a video on Freedom of Assembly and the Law on Peaceful Demonstrations, to be published in 2015
VIDEOS USED OR REFERENCED

Land sacrificed for Cambodia developers (Al Jazeera) August 2014

The Rights of Other (OMCT) October 2014
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjkPaD4YaCg

Suy Sophan denies contract breach (Phnom Penh Post) October 2014
http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/suy-sophan-denies-contract-breach

Cambodia’s Political Turmoil Deepens with Violent Clashes and Arrests of Opposition Leaders (Bloomberg) July 2014

VIDEOS USED FOR MEETINGS

LC/LICADHO Canada videos were also shared to partners for use in national and international meetings.

1 Example: ‘Freedom of Assembly in Cambodia’ video presented on September 19 by Cambodian Youth Network at the Regional Consultation on Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association in Kathmandu, Nepal. The video was also shown at Civil Rights Defenders’ side event during the United Nation Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva, Switzerland in September.

2 Example: ‘We Will Never Forget: Dey Krahorm memorial music video’ was produced for the “Youth Leadership and Empowerment in Myanmar to Enhance Youth Exchange of Experience” meeting in Burma. Presented by LC’s Monitoring & Protection Coordinator.

3 Example: EC, STT, and CCFC have requested videos to have on hand to share at various community meetings.

VIDE SHARING VIA FACEBOOK

1 Four LC/LICADHO video productions were posted directly on LICADHO’s Facebook page. Those videos have had a substantial ‘organic’ reach (‘organic’ meaning post was not boosted through payment and ‘reach’ meaning people who saw our post in their newsfeed or on LICADHO’s Facebook page)

‘When Prayers Meet Suppression: Calling for the Release of the 23’ had an organic reach of 12,728 people

‘Youth Beaten Bloody during Borei Keila Occupation’ had an organic reach of 29,744 people

‘Another Violent Dispersal of Land Protesters near the Prime Minister’s House’ had an organic reach of 7,524 people

‘A Child’s Hope’ had an organic reach of 5,070 people

‘Workers & Political Activists under Attack’ video was shared to Facebook 2,845 times from LICADHO’s website; the highest number of shares from LICADHO’s website to Facebook of all LICADHO’s website publications.

‘Freedom of Assembly in Cambodia’ video was shared to Facebook 1,929 times from LICADHO’s website; the third highest number of shares from LICADHO’s website to Facebook of all LICADHO’s website publication.

Land sacriﬁced for Cambodia developers (Al Jazeera) August 2014

The Rights of Other (OMCT) October 2014
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjkPaD4YaCg

Suy Sophan denies contract breach (Phnom Penh Post) October 2014
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Cambodia’s Political Turmoil Deepens with Violent Clashes and Arrests of Opposition Leaders (Bloomberg) July 2014