



American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

AFT Teachers
AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
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October 18, 2005

Samdech Hun Sen
Prime Minister
Phnom Penh
Kingdom of Cambodia

VIA FACSIMILE: 855 23 88 06 24

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I am writing on behalf of the 1.3 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, to express our grave concern regarding the arrest and imprisonment of Mr. Rong Chhun, president of the Cambodian Independent Teachers' Association, and to protest the continued intimidation of the independent trade union movement in Cambodia.

It is our understanding that Mr. Chhun was arrested and imprisoned last Saturday and charged with defamation for expressing his opinion regarding your government's decision to give Cambodian territory to Vietnam. News reports indicate that a prominent journalist was arrested last week in Cambodia and charged with a similar "offense."

It is an undemocratic abuse of power for your government to incarcerate journalists, union leaders or any citizen for holding and expressing opinions unfavorable to you. We are extremely troubled by your government's continuing assault on freedom of speech. Our concerns can be allayed only if Mr. Chhun is released immediately from custody and your government's campaign of intimidation is ended.

Sincerely,

Edward J. McElroy
President

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