



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King

Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization
and other International Organizations at Geneva

Geneva, 28 August 2014

Excellencies,

I am pleased to refer to your joint allegation letter dated on 20 May 2014 in which you requested for the Royal Government of Cambodia's response on acts of intimidation and threats against Mr. Vann Sophath, Staff of the Cambodian Centre for Human Rights, committed by the security guards of the Khun Sear Company on 09 May 2014 over a land dispute case at Boeung Kok I Commune, Tuol Kork District, Phnom Penh.

In this connection, I would like to enclose herewith the investigation outcome of the said case (2 pages) made by the Ministry of Interior of Cambodia for your information.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration..

Ney Samol

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

-H.E. Mr. Surya Prasad Subedi,

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia

-H.E. Mr. Frank La Rue,

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

-H.E. Mr. Maina Kiai,

Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

-H.E. Ms. Margaret Sekaggya,

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Office of the United Nation High Commissioner for Human Rights

Palais des Nation

CH-1211 GENEVE 10

Investigation Outcome on

Acts of intimidation and threats against Mr. Vann Sophath, Staff of the Cambodian Centre for Human Rights, committed by the security guards of the Khun Sear Company, over a land dispute case at Boeung Kok I Commune, Tuol Kork District, Phnom Penh

1- Assertion of Mr. Vann Sophath, the complainant:

- *Mr. Vann Sophath stated that he has been in relations with Mr. Ly Seakheng due to Ly Searkheng's involvement in land dispute with the Khun Sear Company, which is located at Village 11, Boeung Kok I Commune, Tuol Kork District, Phnom Penh. On 09 May 2014 at 15: 00, he visited the site of a land dispute where Mr. Ly Seakheng told him that he has lived since 1979, but the company stated that the 8 m X 46 m belongs to the Office of Boeung Kok I Commune (the old location) which has been moved by the company to a new location. While Mr. Vann Sophath and his team was filming the land, the security guards of the company interrupted the filming. A security guard named Tren confiscated his camera and verbally attacked him with threats.*

2-Assertion of the company's representative:

- *Mr. Nguon Sovanara, the company's Assistant, stated that the Khun Sear company is located at Village 11, Boeung Kok I Commune, Tuol Kork District, Phnom Penh. The company has stationed in the area of the Office of Boeung Kok I (old location) after having moved the Office to a new location. There have been 7 families renting the land of the Office with \$300 a month and living temporarily since 1997. The company has provided each family with \$15, 000 and 5 out of 7 families accepted this offer. The two families of Mr. Ly Seangkheng and Mr. Sok Hong do not accept the offer but claim \$300,000 instead. The two families always gather a group of Boeung Kok residents and activists from the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) to allege and disrupt the company. For*

instance, on 09 May 2014 and 15 June 2014, Mr. Ly Seakheng invited the press and the human rights organizations to the company's land and took the pictures of the security guards. A security guard grabbed a camera to delete the pictures and forced the human rights officials to get out of the legal land of the company without threats or holding any knives.

3-Assertion of the company's security guards:

- Mr. Sao Sokra, working for the company about 7 or 8 months, said that a group of 6 -7 people walked into the land of the company and took the pictures of his team who were sleeping. The security guards banned the filming but pictures were still taken. Then, Mr. Sao Sokra grabbed a camera from a man to delete the pictures and returned it to the owner as well as pushed the shoulder of that man out of the legal land of the company. Mr. Phorn, an activist of CNRP threatened that he would buy acid to splash on them unless they get away from the land.*
- Mr. Khoeurn Rasmey said that he has worked as a security guard for the company for 5 months. At the incident in May 2014 at 15:00, a group of people got out of a car and walked into the land of the company and took the pictures of the sleeping security guards. Even though the filming was banned, but they still continued taking pictures. A security guard named Ra snatched a camera from a man to delete the pictures and then gave it back to him without threats or using any axes or knives. Following the incident, the group brought some Boeung Kok residents and CNRP activists totaling about 200 people and walked into the company land without any acts of violence.*

4- Conclusion

Referring to the investigation and responses from the complainant and the security guards of the company, a preliminary conclusion can be made that Mr. Sao Sokra and his team has really pushed the shoulder of Mr. Vann Sophath to oust him from the company land, while Mr. Vann Sophath and his group have really entered the company land and have taken pictures without any permission.