

Press Conference Invitation

CSOs and Communities Concern on Illegal Logging and Natural Resource Destruction in Cambodia

Media Contact:

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What:

CSOs/NGOs and Community representatives from Monduliri, Ratanakiri, Preah Vihear, Kampong Thom, Kampong Speu, Stung Treng and Kratie Provinces will assemble for a press conference organized by The NGO Forum on Cambodia to express their concerns about an increase in illegal logging and natural resource destruction as a result of Economic Land Concessions (ELCs). They are also calling and urging decision makers to pay attention to the problem and seek solutions with recommendations, which they believe will help strengthen law enforcement and ensure the sustainable management of Cambodia's remaining forests.

From 2012 to October 2014 there were 812 illegal logging and wood smuggling cases posted in various media. In 2013, forest cover was found to have decreased up to 46%. Plus, since early 2012, the government gave Try Pheap companies a contract to collect confiscated timber from the Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Environment without specifying how long he would be allowed to do this. In addition the license failed to detail the quantity of timber to be collected and where it could be collected from. According to recent news from the local newspaper that was recently published, Try Pheap's company alone, allegedly made more than \$220 million in unreported profit by illegally logging rosewood over a three-year period in the Cardamom Mountains. Based on finding, Pheap's MDS Import Export Company, owned by his wife, Mao Mom, used permits for clearing timber within the Stung Atay hydropower dam reservoir and three concessions in the 330,000-hectare Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary as cover to move protected rosewood felled outside those areas.¹

When:

- **Wednesday, October 22, 2014; 09:00 am to 11:00 am**

¹ Phnom Penh Post Newspaper, October 10, 2014 <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/calculus-logging>



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The NGO Forum on Cambodia

Who:

- Mr. Tek Vannara, NGOF's Executive Director 012 793 489
- Dr. Kem Ley, Independent consultant 012 787 084
- Mr. Em Sopheak, Community Legal Education Center (CLEC) 012 978 935
- Mr. Chhut Chanra, Community representative from Mondulkiri 096 410 4176
- Ms. Mum Sakin, Community Peace Network, Kratie 089 942 159
- Mr. Svay Phoeun, Community Peace Network, Preah Vihear 097 801 0422

Where:

- PP Meta House located in # 37, Samdach Sothearos Blvd, Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Phnom Penh
Map <http://bit.ly/1sL1CNx>

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