



Cambodian Human Rights Committee

Statement of the Cambodian Human Rights Committee

“The Unilateral Closure of Border Constitutes Serious Human Rights Violations”

According to various news sources, residents living along Cambodia-Thailand border as well as travelers crossing between the two countries, the Cambodian Human Rights Committee deeply expresses concerns over the recent unilateral border closures by Thailand. These sudden and uncoordinated closures have severely impacted human rights and fundamental freedoms, including:

1. **Right to freedom of movement:** The unilateral border closures by Thailand have trapped individuals including workers, traders, travelers and families, from crossing borders for legitimate reasons. These closures have impeded the freedom of movement which is a fundamental freedom enshrined in international human rights instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 13) and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 12).
2. **Right to an adequate standard of living:** These sudden closures have profound negative effects on daily cross-border commuters, including traders and small vendors, who regularly cross borders for their livelihoods. They will lose their main source of income, causing financial hardship, food insecurity, housing and shelter challenges, and mental health challenges. This right is guaranteed by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Article 11).
3. **Right to work:** The unilateral border closures by Thailand have prevented daily cross-border workers from reaching their workplaces. This action has infringed the right to work stipulated in Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 23) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Article 6).
4. **Right to information:** Thousands of workers, traders and travelers with legitimate reasons have been stranded and were confused due to the unilateral border closure by Thailand's without advance notice or announcement. This right is protected by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 19).
5. **Right to health and education:** Even if students and patients are still allowed to cross the borders, there are challenges and difficulties accessing these services, especially for those with documentation issues. These rights are protected by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Articles 12, 13 and 14)
6. **Trafficking in Persons:** When legal and safe migration borders are closed, people especially desperate workers, are forced to use irregular migration routes. The limited

ability of officials to screen increases high risk of trafficking in persons and labor exploitation, especially among vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

For more information, please contact CHRC Spokespersons His Excellency **Pa Ponnarada** at 012 686 798 and His Excellency **Sreang Chenda** at 077 335 644. 

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