



គណៈកម្មាធិការ
សហប្រតិបត្តិការដើម្បីកម្ពុជា
Cooperation Committee
for Cambodia
Comité de Coopération
Pour le Cambodge

ទស្សនវិស័យ: ការអភិវឌ្ឍប្រកបដោយនិរន្តរភាពសម្រាប់ប្រទេសកម្ពុជា

Vision: Sustainable development for Cambodia

Title: Assassination of Dr. Kem Ley, independent political and social development analyst in Cambodia.

Author: [Cooperation Committee for Cambodia \(CCC\)](#).

Dr. Kem Ley, the 46 year old independent analyst and human rights defender, was fatally shot on Sunday 10 July 2016 in central Phnom Penh while he sat drinking coffee with friends and associates. Dr. Kem Ley was laid to rest on Sunday 24 July, following a funeral procession of 80 kilometers, from Phnom Penh to his homeland in Takeo Province. More than 1 million Cambodians joined the procession and lined the streets to pay their respect.

Dr. Kem Ley, while an outspoken and independent analyst, was highly regarded for his evidence-based research and opinions. His focus was on development issues, particularly HIV/AIDS, human rights, natural resource management, good governance, democratic and fair elections, and related social justice issues.

His recommendations for greater transparency, accountability and respect for the rights of all Cambodian citizens, and the country's natural resources, did not always endear him to the ruling government, political parties, or other development actors, including the private sector.

A few days before his death, Dr. Kem Lay commented on the Global Witness report, Hostile Takeover, which exposes the close ties between Cambodia's ruling family and the private sector. A relationship which Global Witness claims has secured vast wealth for the family, and contributed to business practices that do not always protect or respect human rights or the natural environment.

A group of United Nations human rights experts, many local ambassadors, civil society organizations and citizens have condemned the murder of Cambodian political and social activist Dr. Kem Ley, known for his struggle for justice and human rights in Cambodia. They called for an impartial investigation by an independent body with no ties to the government.

The UN has called on the government to urgently implement effective protection measures to ensure the safety of activists exercising their right to free speech. "This shooting exemplifies an alarming negative trend in Cambodia whereby political activists and human rights defenders are facing increasing restrictions to exercise human rights and fundamental freedoms," the experts said.

Cambodian civil society and citizens are deeply shocked, saddened and angered by the death of Dr. Kem Ley, a tragic loss for the nation and democracy. Dr. Kem Ley is survived by his pregnant wife, Bou Rachana, and four children.

For further information please contact the [Cooperation Committee for Cambodia](#)

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